India hosts AITIGA Joint Committee Meeting

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Why in News?

Recently, India hosted the 13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee meeting in New Delhi.

- **AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement)** – A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 2009, effective from 2010.
- It removes or reduces tariffs on over 75% of goods traded between India and ASEAN's 10 countries.

ASEAN Member States – *Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam*

Key Highlights

- **Participation –** Delegations from all 10 ASEAN member states.
- **Objective –** Provide strategic guidance to sub-committees, expedite finalisation of outstanding chapters, and assign time-bound deliverables.
- **Sub-Committee on National Treatment and Market Access (SC-NTMA) –** Imported goods are treated like local ones, and trade barriers are reduced for smoother India-ASEAN market access.
- **Sub-Committee on Rules of Origin (SC-ROO) –** Makes sure products truly come from India or ASEAN, stopping 3rd-country goods from wrongly getting tariff benefits.
- **Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (SC-CPTF) –** Uses digital systems and faster clearances to cut costs and improve supply chains.

Reference

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