

ASEAN economies often called 'Asian Tigers' and India have multiple common interests, and East Asia summit is a platform to capitalise these interests.

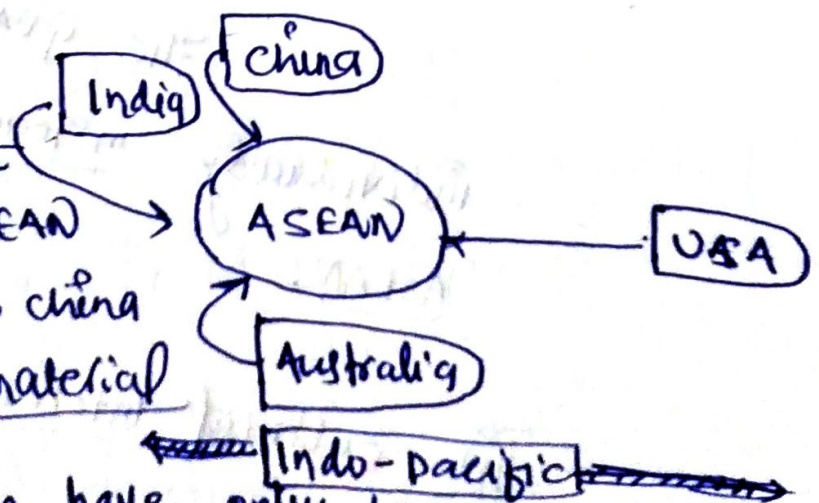
Though being ancient partners, India and ASEAN have new and more challenging tasks ahead from the pandemic, environment, slowdown etc. These interests can be understood under

(i) Economic interests -

India as a larger market is important for ASEAN, while ASEAN provide alternate to china to India for raw material

But both countries have only \$1 bn trade against \$700 bn china-ASEAN.

FTA between both largely favour



ASEAN economies and India kept itself out from new RCEP — world's largest FTA — mostly due to Indian weakness to challenge Chinese products.

(ii) Strategic Interest :- ASEAN is a key to success of Indo-Pacific policy of India. But largely perceived as a trading block and due to threat from China in South China, ASEAN shy to engage militarily with India.

The QOAD grouping also engage individually instead of as a block with ASEAN.

(iii) Cultural Interests — Hinduism — Islamism and Buddhism all three religion can help to develop P2P

engagement, tourism etc, which is mostly under performed sector.

(iv) environmental interest - Being oceanic states, both India & ASEAN have high climate risks such as - Tsunami, cyclone & sea level rise as seen in Jakarta.

India led - ISA - one - sun one grid, Disaster resilient infrastructure can play a role to achieve climate targets.

Thus, EAST ASIA summit should be
prioritise with highest official from country
to limit chinese threat, enhance Asean
centrality for Indian 'North east region'
development - such as Birsteek and
TMT - trilateral highway.

ASEAN is also prime in look east
to Act East policy of India, and the platform
of East Asia summit has crucial roll in it.
