

East Asia Summit shows trajectory of India's productive engagement with ASEAN. Examine.

East Asia Summit is a strategic economic and political grouping between 10 ASEAN and 8 other democracies includes India, USA, China, Russia etc, that focus towards Indo-Pacific sustainable development.

Fig: ESA regions

Conflict in Hanoi Declaration:

1. Recent ESA Hanoi declaration focus towards regional stability with ASEAN centrality.
2. But Chinese draft statements were against the prime focus and shows Chinese centrality.
3. The opportunistic Chinese factor in draft statement is a pathway showing ASEAN engagement with India.



Chinese Aggression - Regional factor:

1. South China Sea Issue, fishing issues make ASEAN to have a strong neighbourhood backing.
2. East Asia Summit shows India's authority towards Anti China growth in Asia.

ESA - economic instability with USA:

1. The trade barriers by USA on ASEAN goods are reflected in East Asian Summit.
2. The 2015 summit has deals with Free Trade Agreement with India shows economic trajectory towards India.

ESA - ~~is~~ and ~~East~~ Act East Policy of India:

1. The benefit of 'Act East Policy' of India was found in draft statement at Hanoi.
2. The RCEP exemptions for India's agriculture produce favours India - ASEAN strategic trade; thereby shows foreign policy trajectory.

Concerns and Challenges:

1. Malabar Exercise and QUAD grouping has Anti-China factor has to be safely dealt with.
2. ESA with USA and ASEAN has FTA agreements which India has domestic trade policy issues. Hence revive in policy needs rethink.

Future Prospects:

1. Asian Centrality needs Asian plus in Malabar exercise (e.g) Vietnam Inclusion.
2. Soft Power diplomacy with powerful China is needed to have long lasting East Asia benefits.