

ASEAN India Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Cambodia

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Context - The 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, at a time of significant volatility and insecurity.

The Meeting had extensive discussions on recent regional and global developments, including the situation in Myanmar, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and cross-strait developments.

Key Highlights

- EAM S. Jaishankar stated that India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also have similar views on connectivity projects, dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and issues relating to cyber security.
- It is learnt that the India-ASEAN foreign ministers' dialogue focused on overall developments in the Indo-Pacific region and ways to further expand ties against the backdrop of geopolitical developments, including the crisis in Ukraine.
- The foreign ministers also discussed the situation in the South China Sea, a resource-rich region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese muscle-flexing.
- It is learnt also that the meeting also underlined the need to follow the principles of the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the South China Sea region.

India and ASEAN

- The ASEAN is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region. India and several other countries, including the U.S, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.
- ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a sectoral partnership in 1992. This graduated to full dialogue partnership in December 1995 and summit level partnership in 2002.
- The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2012. The ASEAN is central to India's Act East Policy and its vision for the wider Indo-Pacific.
- The ASEAN comprises Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar. In June, India hosted the Special ASEAN-India foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the grouping.