

East -Asia Summit

Why in News?

Vice President of India addressed the **East-Asia Summit** during his visit to Cambodia.

Highlight

- **Issues of Indo-Pacific region:** India's Vice President emphasized the role of the EAS mechanism in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.
- **China's aggression:** The US, India and several other world powers have been discussing the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.
- **Issues:** China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.
 - Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.
 - China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.
- **Opposition by other groupings & nations:** The Quad grouping of India, Australia, Japan and the United States has strongly opposed any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo or increase tensions in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Vice President also talked about the **growing global concerns in the food and energy sector**.
- He also urged for the contribution of members of the East Asia Summit to the **International Year of Millets**.

Other Highlight

- **Hall of Dancers' in Ta Prohm Temple:** Vice President inaugurated the completed conservation work of 'Hall of Dancers' in Ta Prohm Temple.
 - It is located in the Angkor archaeological complex in the Cambodian city of Siem Reap.
- **Ta Prohm Temple:** The temple was built between the mid-12th century and early 13th century by the Khmer king Jayavarman VII.
 - Initially constructed as a Buddhist monastery, it was dedicated by King Jayavarman VII to his mother.
- **India - Cambodia collaboration Project:** The Hall of Dancers is part of a \$4-million collaborative project between India and Cambodia for the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Cambodia.
 - The restoration work at the sprawling and quiet Buddhist monastery of Ta Prohm has been completed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- **Angkor Heritage Park:** Angkor Heritage Park has several of the world's most renowned places such as the Angkor Wat temple, one of the 10 man-made wonders of the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

About East-Asia Summit (EAS)

- The East-Asia Summit is the **premier forum** of the Indo-Pacific for **strategic dialogue**. It is the only **leader-led forum** at which all key partners of the Indo-Pacific meet to discuss **political, security and economic challenges** facing the region.
 - The forum is led by the **ASEAN**, and the chair position **rotates between ASEAN Members** on an annual basis.
- **Origin:** The East-Asia summit began in **2005** between **10 ASEAN countries** and **6 partner countries** of the grouping
- **Participants:** **ASEAN** (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Philippines) along with **Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, India and China**.