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News: ASEAN Denies Myanmar's Chairmanship for 2026

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders have decided to deny Myanmar the opportunity to assume the rotating leadership of their regional bloc in 2026.
- This decision comes as a setback to Myanmar's ruling generals, who have been seeking international recognition after seizing power violently in 2021.
- Philippines agreed to take over the regional bloc's chairmanship in 2026 at the ASEAN summit hosted by Indonesia.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is established under **Bangkok Declaration** or ASEAN Declaration 8th August 1967.
- ASEAN Secretariat is located in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- Members: **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**.
- Observers: Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.
- Demographic dividend – It constitutes **3rd largest population in the world**, of which more than **half is below thirty years of age**.

- Its official languages are English (working language), Burmese, Filipino, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, Thai, and Vietnamese.
- The **Year 2022 has been highlighted as India – ASEAN Friendship** by the leaders.

ASEAN Way

- Over the years the ASEAN member countries have developed a form of interaction that is **informal, non-confrontationist and cooperative called the ASEAN Way**. It is in sync with the modest ideas and goals of the ASEAN.

ADMM - Plus

- The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a **forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and eight partner nations including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States**.

Economic

- 3rd largest market in the world - larger than EU and North American markets.
- 6th largest economy in the world, 3rd in Asia.

ASEAN plus Three

- ASEAN plus Three is a forum that functions as a **coordinator of co-operation between the ASEAN and the three East Asian nations of China, South Korea, and Japan.**

ASEAN plus Six

- The group includes **ASEAN plus Three as well as India, Australia, and New Zealand.**

India and ASEAN

- India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of her foreign policy and the foundation of **Act East Policy.**
- India has a **separate Mission to ASEAN and the EAS in Jakarta.**
- India and ASEAN already has **25 years of Dialogue Partnership, 15 years of Summit Level interaction and 5 years of Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.**
- ASEAN is **India's fourth largest trading partner.**
- **India is ASEAN's seventh largest trading partner** and one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment.

- India's trade with ASEAN stands at approx. **10.6% of India's overall trade.**
- India's export to **ASEAN stands at 11.28% of our total exports.** The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area has been completed.
- **ASEAN India-Business Council (AIBC)** was set up in 2003 to bring key **private sector players** from India and the ASEAN countries on a single platform.
- Socio-Cultural Cooperation: **Programmes to boost People-to-People Interaction with ASEAN**, such as inviting ASEAN students to India, Special Training Course for ASEAN diplomats, Exchange of Parliamentarians, etc.
- Funds: Financial assistance has been provided to ASEAN countries from the following Funds: ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund, ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund and ASEAN-India Green Fund.
- **Delhi Declaration:** To **identify Cooperation in the Maritime Domain** as the key area of cooperation under the ASEAN-India strategic partnership.
- **Delhi Dialogue:** Annual Track 1.5 event for **discussing politico-security and economic issues** between ASEAN and India.
- **ASEAN-India Centre (AIC):** **To undertake policy research, advocacy and networking activities** with organizations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN.

- **Political Security Cooperation:** India places ASEAN at the centre of its **Indo-Pacific vision of Security** and Growth for All in the Region.
- The Delhi Declaration supports a **common approach to counter terrorism** and sought a “comprehensive approach to combat terrorism through close cooperation by disrupting and countering terrorists, terrorist groups and networks, including by countering cross border movement of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters and misuse of Internet including social media by terror entities.”
- The declaration urges countries to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in combating other transnational crimes, including people smuggling, trafficking in persons, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime, and piracy and armed robbery against ships.
- The Delhi Declaration also reaffirmed “the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and over flight in the region, and other lawful uses of the seas and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce and to promote peaceful resolutions of disputes, in accordance with UNCLOS”.

Five Point Consensus

A five point consensus was recently made by the ASEAN Members on the Myanmar regime issue. It says:

- An immediate end to violence in the country;
- Dialogue among all parties;
- The appointment of a special envoy;
- Humanitarian assistance by ASEAN; and
- The special envoy's visit to Myanmar to meet with all parties.