



# AIR Discussions (November 2<sup>nd</sup> Week)

## ALL INDIA RADIO SUMMARY ( 8-15 NOVEMBER, 2020)

### SPOTLIGHT (14 NOVEMBER, 2020)

#### GS PAPER II-INTERNATIONAL RELATION

#### 15<sup>th</sup> EAST ASIA SUMMIT 2020

**Context:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on 14 November 2020.

#### Key highlights of the summit:

- **Chaired by:** Prime Minister of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc in his capacity as ASEAN Chair.
- All the eighteen EAS countries participated in the virtual Summit.
- It re-affirmed the importance of **adhering to international law, respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty, and promoting a rules-based global order.**
- EAS Leaders talks about India's response to pandemic and highlighted India's efforts to support the international community.
- India reiterated its commitment to help make **the COVID vaccine accessible and affordable to all nations.**

#### Indo-Pacific region

- EAS leaders noted the growing interest in the **Indo-Pacific as an integrated and organic maritime space, with ASEAN at its centre.**
- Need to generate synergy between the ASEAN Outlook and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- India was equally positive about the Indo-Pacific policies, harmonizing various perspectives and commitment to international cooperation.

#### On South China Sea

- EAS leaders expressed concern about actions and incidents that erode trust in the region.
- The **Code of Conduct negotiations** should not be prejudicial to legitimate interests of third parties and should be **fully consistent with UNCLOS.**
- It also underlined the **need for greater international cooperation** in the post-COVID world to tackle the challenges cutting across national boundaries such as terrorism, climate change, pandemics etc.

#### Ha Noi Declaration

- The Summit discussed ways to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary and adopted the Ha Noi Declaration.
- Ha Noi Declaration is **REAFFIRMING** the
  - **2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration** on the East Asia Summit in setting the broad vision, principles, objectives and modalities of the East Asia Summit



- Commitment in the **2010 Ha Noi Declaration** on the commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit to cooperate in priority areas of the EAS,
- 2011 **Bali Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations**, and
- the **2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration** on the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit outlining our efforts to strengthen our cooperation for promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region;
- The Leaders underlined the **importance of cooperation in ensuring safe, effective and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines**.
- They called for greater cooperation in keeping the global supply chains open for an expeditious and sustainable economic recovery.

#### Other leader's statements:

- Regional and international issues such as South China Sea, situation in Korean peninsula and Rakhine state were also discussed.
- It also adopted four other Leaders' Statements on **Marine Sustainability; Epidemics Prevention and Response; Women, Peace and Security; and Steady Growth of Regional Economy**.

#### EAST ASIA SUMMIT

- Established in **2005**, the EAS is a premier leaders-led forum for discussions on important strategic issues in the **Indo-Pacific**, and a leading confidence-building mechanism in the region.
- India strongly believes that the **ASEAN-led frameworks**, of which the EAS is an important part, are at the core of the regional security architecture and need to be strengthened further.



### East Asia Summit (EAS)

- It is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian and Oceania regions, based on the ASEAN plus Six mechanism.
- Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011.

### East Asia summit members



- It is a regional grouping of 18 participating countries –**10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)**, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the US.
- India is a **founding member** of the EAS.
- The 18 members of the EAS together represent 54% of the world population and account for 58% of the global GDP.



## ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia
- It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.



**Conclusion:** EAS plays a vital part of the regional security architecture. India attaches great importance to EAS as a premier leaders-led forum and sees it as a **logical platform to promote a free, open, inclusive, transparent, rules-based, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.**

Reference: [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33194/15th East Asia Summit](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33194/15th_East_Asia_Summit)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/at-15th-east-asia-summit-jaishankar-brings-up-territorial-integrity-sovereignty-again7051812/>

## OTHER NEWS:

### CAQM reviews air quality scenario in NCR & adjoining areas

**Context:** The Commission for Air Quality Management, CAQM in National Capital Region and adjoining Areas reviewed the air quality scenario in the region, actions taken by various agencies so far and further steps to be taken for improving the air quality.

- The Commission noted that future action will necessitate consultation with various stakeholders.



- However, at this stage the Commission stressed the need to strictly enforce existing laws, rules, guidelines, directions and standard operating procedures to minimize air pollution on an emergency basis
- It has identified major immediate measures like **minimizing use of personalized transport to the extent possible, restrict travel unless absolutely essential, encourage work from home, strict enforcement of laws and rules regarding dust control measures including at construction sites, strict enforcement to prevent burning of municipal solid waste and biomass.**
- It has also identified measures like intensifying water sprinkling particularly in dust prone areas, **use of anti-smog guns at pollution hotspots** specially at construction sites, strict implementation of extant rules, Courts and Tribunal orders regarding stubble burning and use of fire crackers, seek co-operation from civil society and public spirited citizens to report air pollution incidents on the Sameer App and encourage coal using industries in NCR to minimize the use of coal in the coming months.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=CAQM-reviews-air-quality-scenario-in-NCR-%26-adjoining-areas&id=403987>

### Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana of ESIC

**Context:** Ministry of Labour and Employment said that submitting claims through Affidavit Form is now no longer required under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) of Employees' State Insurance Corporation- ESIC.

- As the condition of submitting the claim in Affidavit Form is causing inconvenience to the claimants.
- Considering the difficulties faced by the beneficiaries, it has now been decided that the claimant who has submitted the claim under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana online and uploaded the scanned copies of the required documents need not submit the physical claim.

### Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- It is a welfare measure being **implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.**
- It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
- The Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01-07-2018.
- The scheme is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially. The scheme has been extended upto 20 June 2021.

### Benefits under the scheme

- The scheme provides relief to **the extent of 50% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods** (total earning during the four contribution period/730) to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the Insured Person.

### Duration of allowance

- The maximum duration, for which an IP shall be eligible to draw the Relief under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) will be **90 days once in life time after a minimum of two years of Insurable Employment** and subject to the contributory conditions specified above.
- The claim for relief under the Atal Beemit Kalyaan Yojana will be payable after the three months of his/her clear unemployment.
- The relief will be paid for clear month of unemployment. No prospective claim will be allowed.



### Eligibility

- Employees covered under Section 2(9) of the ESI Act 1948.
- The Insured Person (IP) should have been rendered unemployed during the period the relief is claimed.
- The Insured Person should have been in insurable employment for a minimum period of two years.
- The Insured Person should have contributed not less than 78 days during each of the preceding four contribution periods.
- The contribution in respect of him should have been paid or payable by the employer.
- The contingency of the unemployment should not have been as a result of any punishment for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.
- Aadhar and Bank Account of the Insured Person should be linked with insured person database.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Claims-through-Affidavit-Form-no-longer-required-now-under-Atal-Beemit-Vyakti-Kalyan-Yojana-of-ESIC&id=403908>

### Fifth Narrow Gauge locomotive on Kalka-Shimla route manufactured by Central Railway

**Context:** Maharashtra, the Central Railway workshop at Parel in Mumbai has manufactured a fifth Narrow Gauge locomotive, which will chug between Kalka to Shimla route.

- It is the fifth Narrow Gauge engine that has been manufactured by the Central Railway which will run between Kalka to Shimla, a **UNESCO World Heritage Railway**.
- The Kalka–Shimla railway is a narrow-gauge railway in North India which traverses a mostly-mountainous route from Kalka to Shimla.
- It is known for dramatic views of the hills and surrounding villages.
- The railway was built between 1898 and 1903 to connect Shimla, the summer capital of India during the British Raj, with the rest of the Indian rail system.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Fifth-Narrow-Gauge-locomotive-on-Kalka-Shimla-route-manufactured-by-Central-Railway&id=404011>