

Kra Isthmus

By IASToppers | 2023-12-05 15:35:00



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The **Prime Minister of Thailand** has recently pitched a **land-bridge project** in the **Kra Isthmus** at the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit**.



[Ref – Times of India]

About Kra Isthmus:



[Ref - South China Morning Post]

- The **Kra Isthmus** located in Thailand is the **narrowest** part of the **Malay Peninsula**.
- The **western part** of the isthmus belongs to **Ranong Province** and the **eastern part** to **Chumphon Province**, both in **Southern Thailand**.

- It is bordered by the **Andaman Sea** (West) and the **Gulf of Thailand** (East).
- It marks the **boundary** between two sections of the mountain chain **from Tibet** through the **Malay peninsula**.
- The southern part is the **Phuket Range**, which is a continuation of the **Tenasserim Hills**, extending further northwards beyond the **Three Pagodas Pass**.
- It is in the **Tenasserim-South Thailand** semi-evergreen rain forests ecoregion.
 - **Dipterocarps** are the dominant trees in the ecoregion.

About Kra Canal:

- The **Kra Canal** or **Thai Canal** refers to the proposals for a canal that would **connect the Gulf of Thailand** with the **Andaman Sea** across the Kra Isthmus in **southern Thailand**.
- This would provide an **alternative** to transit through the **Straits of Malacca** and shorten transit for shipments of oil to **Japan and China**.