



विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

सत्यमेव जयते



भारत 2023 INDIA

BCC&i

THE BENGAL CHAMBER



INDO PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE



28TH - 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023, KOLKATA

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



DAY 1 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION TOWARDS COMMON GOALS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

India's goals in drivers of economic growth, as envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime Minister are reflected below:

1. Export is not just a part of our economy but a key part of our growth. As a nation, our aim is to integrate our economy with global value chains and increasing exports.
2. Manufacture and services-led export expansion, focusing on value addition and quality for global competitiveness.
3. Increasing the share of exports in India's GDP to well over 30% taking appropriate steps for creating conducive ecosystem for business growth
4. Expanding into newer markets and focusing on jobs-led export growth

In his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2021, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced that India had set an ambitious target to achieve \$400 billion in merchandise exports for the year 2021-22, which was achieved in March 2022.

Regarding India's export target for 2030, our Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for our Nation to reach a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 and a \$10 trillion economy by 2030 is guiding our economy forward, with one early objective being doubling our exports by 2025.

It is believed that our Country will achieve the export target for goods and services to \$2 trillion by 2030. By 2047, the Country should become a \$30 trillion economy with 25 per cent share in exports.



Source: Hon'ble Prime Ministers Twitter handle

Therefore, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on the verge of its 190th year of existence, puts forth the idea to create a cross border association of Chambers of Commerce from the major countries of the South East Asian and Indo Pacific region to foster a viable and sustainable ecosystem for

- **cross border income generation**
- **market access**
- **value chain integration**
- **employment generation**
- **tourism and cultural exchange and**
- **infrastructural development**

showcasing India's strategic strength while enabling the Act East policy and aiding greater cooperation of India with the entire Indo Pacific region.

The Concept

Our aim is to create a network of institutions by which different Chambers of Commerce from the major countries of the Indo Pacific – namely some of the ASEAN member nations like Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, Bangladesh, Australia, Republic of Korea and Japan can coordinate and facilitate a platform for interactions, creation of profitable partnerships, and come to solutions of issues faced by businesses looking for international interaction/expansion/exports (especially Indian exports to the Region).

It is imperative to recognize the potential of trade and economic cooperation that exists in the collaboration among the group of countries.

Each of the ASEAN and other Asia Pacific countries considered has a distinct and important relationship with India individually. A total population of 2.43 billion¹ resides in these countries which is 31.1% of the total world population today with a combined GDP of \$ 15.21 trillion². The prospect of increased collaboration and forging of new partnerships among these countries can pave the way for creation of self-sustaining and value-generating Group of Nations connected by Trade.

¹ World Bank

² World Bank

Table 1: GDP AND POPULATION FIGURES

	GDP (CURRENT US\$) (IN TRILLION)	POPULATION (IN BILLION)
WORLD	96.1	7.84
INDIA	3.17	1.3
ASEAN	3.34	0.67
ASEAN + BANGLADESH + AUSTRALIA + REPUBLIC OF KOREA + JAPAN	12.03	1.04
ASEAN + INDIA + BANGLADESH + AUSTRALIA + REPUBLIC OF KOREA + JAPAN	15.21	2.43
OECD	57.92	1.37
EU	17.09	0.0004

SOURCE: WORLD BANK

Table 2: GDP PER CAPITA in PURCHASING POWER PARITY TERMS (PPP)

	GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$)
WORLD	18,721.60
INDIA	7,333.50
ASEAN	
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	66,619.90
CAMBODIA	4,683.00
INDONESIA	12,904.30
LAO PDR	8,674.00
MALAYSIA	29,617.30
MYANMAR	4,344.90
PHILIPPINES	9,119.70
SINGAPORE	116,486.50
THAILAND	19,209.50
VEITNAM	11,553.10
AUSTRALIA	55,807.40
SOUTH KOREA	46,918.50
JAPAN	42,940.40
BANGLADESH	6,613.00
OECD MEMBERS	48,482.10
US	69,287.50
EU	48,436.30

SOURCE: WORLD BANK

Role of Proposed Association of Indo Pacific Chambers of Commerce

- The several ways in which business partnerships can be forged between entities of two nations – such as export-import, contract manufacturing, licensing and franchising, joint ventures, subsidiaries and foreign direct investments. There exists simultaneously a plethora of issues concerning these types of partnerships – logistic, legal, procedural, infrastructural, customs related and other issues. In such situations **the existence of a common forum which people can reach out to in order to figure out solutions to the impediments to business and trade becomes significant.**
- **The proposed Association of Indo Pacific Chambers of Commerce (with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry being the coordinator) could undertake a common thread of collaborative work on various issues like cargo shipment, infra and logistics issues, supply chain issues in the region, integration to regional value chains, visa rules, seamless movement of goods, services and labour, etc.**
- In each country, Chambers of Commerce have existed since time immemorial in order to aid businesses and provide fast and effective solutions to problems. They also provide **a platform for stakeholders to come together and engage in constructive dialogues to further the cause of trade and enterprise.**
- **The idea is to create a robust and efficient network for Chambers of Commerce which would be the common forum for all members to utilize and to promote Intra-Regional economic dialogue and business exchanges by creating strong business linkages amongst the industry at large.**
- This will catalyze the **growth and expansion of Trade, Services, Industries, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Agriculture, emanating from the business operations of member organizations of Partner Chambers and Industry Associations of the greater sub-region.**
- The creation of an association of Indo Pacific Chambers of Commerce would play a significant part in creating an integrated and globally competitive Indo Pacific region. **The Chambers part of this association and their member companies would help to identify relevant joint activities and capacity building across the network of Chambers. Such an association would play a central role in helping organizations interact, engage and forge partnerships within the Chamber of Commerce community.**

Rationale

In order to experience region-wide economic growth, Asian countries will need to gradually depend on internal (domestic and regional) demand and guarantee open integrated markets with neighboring countries and the rest of the world. This will necessitate the conception of a unified market for goods, services, and finance to permit the free flow of trade and investment across the region, with low obstacles to entry for the rest of the region and the world.

The Chamber believes that this is an opportune time to organize this forum on Day 1 with emphasis on “Intra-Regional Trade integration” bringing together Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Embassies & Consulates; Chambers of Commerce and Subject Matter Experts with exposure to East, South East and the broader Indo-Pacific in order to create a common charter.

The Vision

Our idea is to create a network of institutions by which different Chambers of Commerce internationally (part of this geographically and economically significant region of South East and East Asia) can facilitate a platform for interactions, creation of profitable partnerships, and come to solutions of issues faced by businesses looking for international interaction/expansion.

The proposed idea and forum is to create a cross border association of chambers of commerce which will foster a viable and sustainable ecosystem for

- Cross border income generation
- Market access
- Value chain integration
- Employment generation
- Tourism and cultural exchange

“INDIA LEADS – TOWARDS 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY”

The Concept

- India has set a target to become a \$10 trillion economy by 2030, which would make it one of the largest and most powerful economies in the world. This ambitious goal is being pursued through a series of economic reforms, infrastructure development, and investment in key sectors.
- India is also actively working to forge partnerships with various countries to achieve its goal of becoming a \$10 trillion economy. By collaborating with other countries, India hopes to boost trade, attract investments, and create new business opportunities in key sectors.
- One of the key drivers of India's economic growth has been its rapidly expanding middle class, which has fueled demand for consumer goods and services. In addition, the government has made significant investments in infrastructure, including highways, airports, and seaports, which has helped to reduce transportation costs and improve connectivity across the country.
- India is also focusing on developing a skilled workforce to support its growing economy. The government has launched several initiatives to promote education and vocational training, and to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Another key area of focus for India is the development of its manufacturing sector. The government has launched several initiatives to attract foreign investment and promote domestic manufacturing, with a particular focus on high-tech industries such as electronics, aerospace, and biotechnology.
- Overall, India's ambitious goal of becoming a \$10 trillion-dollar economy by 2030 represents a significant opportunity for investors and businesses looking to capitalize on the country's rapid economic growth and expanding consumer market.
- India's role in a changing global order has been a topic of discussion in various economic and geopolitical forums. India is emerging as an important player in the global economy, with a rapidly growing GDP, a large domestic market, and a growing middle class. India's strategic location, demographic advantage, and strong human capital are also contributing factors in its increasing significance on the global stage.

- India has been taking various steps to strengthen its position in the global economy. It has been pursuing economic reforms to attract foreign investment, enhance trade, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship. India has also been engaging in strategic partnerships with other countries to promote regional and global economic cooperation.
- India has been playing a leading role in global forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), G20, and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). India has been advocating for a more open, inclusive, and rules-based global economic system that benefits all countries, especially developing ones.
- In conclusion, India's leadership role in a changing global order is becoming increasingly important. As an economic power and a strategically located country, India will shape the future of the global economy and contribute to global economic growth and stability. This Conclave aims to deliberate on these lines.

Key Takeaways

- **Learn about post pandemic recovery**
- **Learn about potential of agriculture and the rural economy to drive growth**
- **Learn about Opportunities in Manufacturing**
- **Learning about the importance of infrastructure and digital transformation**
- **Taking stock of global economic outlook and India's role in the global economy, with discussions on issues such as international trade, global supply chains, and geopolitical risks.**
- **Understanding the importance of strengthening trade relations with other countries and regional blocks**
- **Understanding the need for need for job creation and skilling initiatives. Importance of promoting entrepreneurship and creating an environment that encourages startups.**
- **Learn about recent initiatives taken by the Government and how an enabling policy ecosystem will be instrumental for smoothening the process of export promotion**
- **A networking platform for all the relevant stakeholders across sectors**
- **Opportunities**