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INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2024

THEME: “THE INDIA VISION FOR ONE INDO-PACIFIC:
TECHNOLOGY IN CONNECTING TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS.”



26TH – 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2024, **KOLKATA**

The India Vision for One Indo-Pacific: Technology in Connecting Trade and Economic Progress

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- **Cross-Border E-commerce Platforms:** India's robust IT sector can spearhead the development of cross-border e-commerce platforms. By employing blockchain technology for secure transactions and supply chain transparency, India can facilitate smoother trade flows and enhance trust among trading partners in the region.
- **Smart Port and Logistics Solutions:** Leveraging IoT, AI and big data analytics, India can modernize port and logistics operations, optimizing cargo handling and supply chain management. Smart port initiatives can enhance efficiency, reduce costs and streamline trade facilitation across the Indo-Pacific.
- **Fintech Innovation and Collaboration:** India's thriving fintech ecosystem can drive innovation and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region. By sharing best practices and fostering partnerships, India can promote financial inclusion through mobile payments, digital wallets and blockchain-based remittance solutions, thereby catalysing economic growth.
- **Smart City Development:** India's experience in smart city initiatives can serve as a blueprint for collaborative urban development projects across the Indo-Pacific. By leveraging IoT and smart infrastructure, India can enhance sustainability and quality of life in urban centers, fostering economic prosperity and environmental resilience.
- **Technology Talent Exchange Programs:** India can initiate technology talent exchange programs to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building in emerging technologies. By exchanging skilled professionals, researchers and entrepreneurs, India can foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, driving technological advancement across the Indo-Pacific.
- **Unified Standards and Protocols:** Through collaborative initiatives, India can contribute to the establishment of unified standards and protocols for trade-related data exchange. By promoting standardization, India can simplify cross-border transactions and enhance trust among trading partners, facilitating smoother trade flows and economic growth.
- **Digital Trade Infrastructure:** India can play a pivotal role in the development of digital trade infrastructure, including secure payment systems and blockchain-based trade platforms. By investing in digital infrastructure, India can create a secure and efficient framework for cross-border trade, fostering economic development and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Data Sharing and Analytics:** India can promote advanced data sharing mechanisms and analytics tools to facilitate better decision-making and policy formulation in trade-related matters. By leveraging data-driven insights, India can enhance trade facilitation and economic integration, driving sustainable growth and prosperity across the region.

- **Collaborative Innovation Ecosystems:** India's vibrant innovation ecosystem can serve as a catalyst for collaborative initiatives in the Indo-Pacific. By fostering partnerships among governments, businesses and academia, India can drive the development and deployment of innovative solutions to trade-related challenges, promoting sustainable economic growth and prosperity.
- **UPI integration:** India's global expansion of digital payment systems like RuPay and UPI may enhance financial inclusion, fosters interoperability, and drive collaboration in the global digital payments landscape.

RATIONALE

India's vision for One-Indo Pacific emphasizes leveraging the region's booming digital economies and technological advancements to foster trade and economic progress. With a rapidly growing internet user base and significant investments in sectors like e-commerce, fintech and digital payments, India is poised to play a pivotal role in connecting the Indo-Pacific region digitally. The country's strong startup ecosystem, coupled with favourable regulatory policies and innovative initiatives like the Jan Dhan Yojana scheme and the United Payments Interface (UPI), showcase India's commitment to driving digital innovation and financial inclusion. As India continues to lead in fintech adoption and produce a substantial number of unicorns, it stands as a beacon for technological advancement in the region. By harnessing technology to bridge economic divides and promote digital connectivity, India envisions a unified Indo-Pacific where trade flourishes and economic prosperity is shared among nations.

VISION:

India's Vision for One-Indo Pacific envisions technology as the linchpin for connecting trade and propelling economic progress across the region. Recognizing the transformative potential of technology, India advocates for inclusivity and cooperation to foster a prosperous and interconnected Indo-Pacific community. The emergent Digital Indo-Pacific paradigm hinges on several factors, including the region's leadership in internet usage and the dynamic digital ecosystem fuelled by e-commerce and fintech innovation. Embracing the convergence of IoT, blockchain and AI/ML technologies, India aims to establish interoperable platforms, unified standards and digital trade infrastructure that facilitate seamless communication and collaboration among stakeholders. Advanced data sharing mechanisms and collaborative innovation ecosystems further drive sustainable economic growth and prosperity, paving the way towards realizing the vision of 'One Indo-Pacific' where connectivity, interoperability and collaboration thrive.



COOPERATION IN COMMERCE:

- **Advocating for Digital Infrastructure Development:** BCC&I can advocate governments and policymakers to prioritize investments in digital infrastructure projects, such as satellite networks and broadband connectivity, to improve digital access and connectivity within the region.
- **Facilitating Cross-Border eCommerce Platforms:** BCC&I can collaborate with stakeholders to develop cross-border e-commerce platforms that enable seamless trade and transactions between businesses and consumers across different economies in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Promoting Smart Port and Logistics Solutions:** BCC&I can encourage the adoption of smart port and logistics solutions that optimize cargo handling, transportation and supply chain management across the region, enhancing efficiency and reducing costs.
- **Supporting Fintech Innovation and Collaboration:** BCC&I can facilitate partnerships and knowledge-sharing initiatives to promote fintech innovation and collaboration in the Indo-Pacific, fostering financial inclusion and economic empowerment through the fledgling AIPCC platform.
- **Advancing Smart City Development:** BCC&I can facilitate collaboration between governments, businesses and technology providers to drive smart city initiatives, leveraging technology to improve urban infrastructure, sustainability and quality of life.
- **Facilitating Technology Talent Exchange Programs:** BCC&I can establish technology talent exchange programs that facilitate the exchange of skilled professionals, researchers and entrepreneurs between economies in the Indo-Pacific, promoting innovation and capacity building through the AIPCC platform.
- **Promoting Regional Data Sharing and Collaboration:** BCC&I can take lead through its AIPCC framework to advocate for regional data sharing and collaboration initiatives, promoting the adoption of common data standards and governance mechanisms to unlock new opportunities for innovation and economic growth.



INDIA'S VISION FOR ONE-INDO PACIFIC: TECHNOLOGY IN CONNECTING TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS



The emergent Digital Indo-Pacific concept is linked to four key factors⁴:

- **Internet Usage and Mobile Connectivity:** The region leads globally in internet usage, driven by a youthful and mobile population. This dynamic ecosystem fuels thriving e-commerce and fintech sectors, with over 90% of users accessing the internet through mobile devices.
- **Investment in Domestic Technological Capabilities:** Some countries prioritize bolstering domestic technological capabilities, investing in research, development and education. Initiatives like the Quad emphasize secure digital connectivity.
- **Impact of Trade War and Pandemic:** Recent events highlight the fragility of technology trade. Dependence on online methods underscores the significance of digital realms, services and products, prompting increased scrutiny of global supply chains.
- **Connectivity and Security:** The connectivity factor encompasses technology trade, access to online services and compatible systems like data protection and cybersecurity.

Digital Landscape in the Indo-Pacific Region⁵

- ✓ **Digital Economies in the Indo-Pacific:** The region hosts major digital economies including India, Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, with close to 1 billion online users and **a combined GDP of nearly USD 400 billion, led by India.**
- ✓ **Internet User Growth:** Southeast Asia (SEA) and India witness rapid internet user growth, notably Indonesia and Vietnam with over 40% annual growth rates. **India alone added over half a billion internet users since 2013, reaching 718.74 million** in December 2019.
- ✓ **5G Advancements in Japan:** Japan aims for 99% 5G coverage by 2030, with initiatives like the Beyond 5G Promotion Consortium (B5GPC) focusing on advanced technologies⁶.
- ✓ **Rising Consumerism:** Indo-Pacific's digital economies, particularly in India and SEA, experience significant growth driven by e-commerce, ride-hailing and food delivery, with **India attracting substantial funding, notably comprising 43% of total funds raised.**

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-digital-indo-pacific-regional-connectivity-and-resilience>

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-digital-indo-pacific-regional-connectivity-and-resilience>

<https://www.rcrwireless.com/20220429/5g/japan-aims-reach-almost-full-5g-coverage-end-fiscal-2030-report>

- ✓ **The Fintech Boom:** Rapid adoption of digital payments, led by countries like Australia, India and Singapore, with **India's fintech adoption at 87%**, supported by favourable policies like Jan Dhan Yojana and the United Payments Interface (UPI).
- ✓ **Start-up Ecosystems:** The region witnesses a surge in digital innovation, with **India leading at 72%**, followed by SEA at 24% and Australia at 4%, **ranking third globally** in start-up ecosystem, supported by a large consumer market and advanced R&D infrastructure⁷.

India's Technological Advancements in Foreign Trade⁸

- ✓ **The ICT sector and digital economy** contribute over **13% to India's GDP, aiming to reach \$1 trillion by 2025**, representing 20% of GDP.
- ✓ **India's technology industry exceeded \$245 billion in 2023**, with all subsectors experiencing double-digit growth.
- ✓ **Electronic goods exports reached \$1.9 billion**, driven by PLI schemes like Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing and Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES).
- ✓ With the integration of '**Assemble in India for the World**' into '**Make in India**,' India aims to raise its export market share to 3.5% by 2025 and 6% by 2030.
- ✓ **India hosts over 1.14 lakh recognized startups and 113 unicorns** with a combined valuation surpassing \$350 billion⁹.

Current Situations of Technology and Innovations in India¹⁰

- ✓ **R&D Centres in India:**
 - **India hosts over 1,100 R&D centres** by multinational companies like IBM, Google, Microsoft, etc., covering various sectors such as ICT, biotechnology, aerospace, automotive, chemicals and materials technology.
 - India's robust intellectual property regime supports its emergence as a major R&D hub.
- ✓ **Start-up Landscape:**
 - The government's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) aims to revolutionize the innovation and start-up ecosystem¹¹.
- ✓ **ICT Hubs and Telecommunications:**
 - Major ICT hubs in India include Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, New Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata, supported by a well-organized distribution system and global ICT distributors¹².
 - India's telecommunications sector ranks second globally by subscribers, with 1.2 billion wireless and fixed-line subscribers.
 - Deloitte predicts India to reach 1 billion smartphones by 2026, solidifying its position as the second-largest manufacturer globally.

<https://www.statista.com/topics/4780/startups-in-asia-pacific/>

<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/india-information-and-communication-technology>

<https://inc42.com/features/whats-next-for-indias-unicorn-club-in-2024/#:~:text=India%20is%20now%20home%20to,based%20on%20adjustments%20from%20investors.>

<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/india-information-and-communication-technology>

https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-01/Strategy_for_New_India_2.pdf

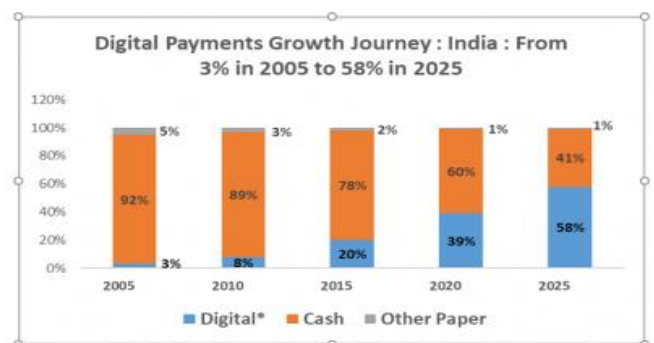
<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/india-information-and-communication-technology>

- ✓ **Digital Infrastructure and 5G Rollout:**
 - India has 856 million broadband subscribers and has improved its digital infrastructure, reflected in its enhanced ranking on the Portulans Institute's Network Readiness Index.
 - The Department of Telecommunications auctioned significant spectrum in July 2022 to propel India's 5G telecom infrastructure, facilitating its launch by the Prime Minister in October 2022, one of the fastest rollouts globally.

- ✓ **Electronics Manufacturing and Semiconductor Market:**
 - India aims to become a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, with an investment commitment of \$30 billion under the "Make in India" strategy.
 - The government allocated funds for electronics manufacturing, semiconductor ecosystem and allied sectors, with production projected to reach \$300 billion by 2026 and the semiconductor market to reach \$109 billion by 2030¹³.

- ✓ **Data Center Industry and Digital India Initiative:**
 - India launched a draft data center policy in November 2020, aspiring to become a global hub for the data center industry with a \$4.9 billion investment by 2025.
 - India seeks affordable 5G handsets for its Digital India initiative, offering opportunities for U.S. exporters in electronic components, data center hardware and cloud services.

- ✓ **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)¹⁴:**
 - **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and CBDC:**
 - RBI is developing its own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), the digital rupee, to reduce reliance on physical cash, improve payment system efficiency and address risks associated with private virtual currencies.
 - CBDC introduction aims to offer a regulated alternative to cryptocurrencies while harnessing blockchain technology benefits.



- ✓ **Blockchain Adoption Across Sectors:**
 - Organizations like TRAI and SEBI are exploring blockchain adoption.
 - Indian governments, both local and state, are embracing blockchain, with initiatives ranging from NFTs for land mutation to blockchain-based platforms for legal document issuance and grievance management systems like the "Firozabad Public Grievance Management System" in partnership with Polygon.



India's Technological Dominance: A Deep Dive into GenAI, Machine Learning, IoT and Blockchain

✓ **Generative AI Impact¹⁵:**

- Generative AI could boost India's economy by US\$ 1.2-1.5 trillion over the next seven years, fuelling the Gen AI revolution with disruptive innovations.
- Full adoption of Gen AI technology across sectors could add US\$ 359-438 billion to India's economy in fiscal year 2029-30, leading to a 5.9%-7.2% GDP increase compared to the baseline.

✓ **India's Tech Advancements¹⁶:**

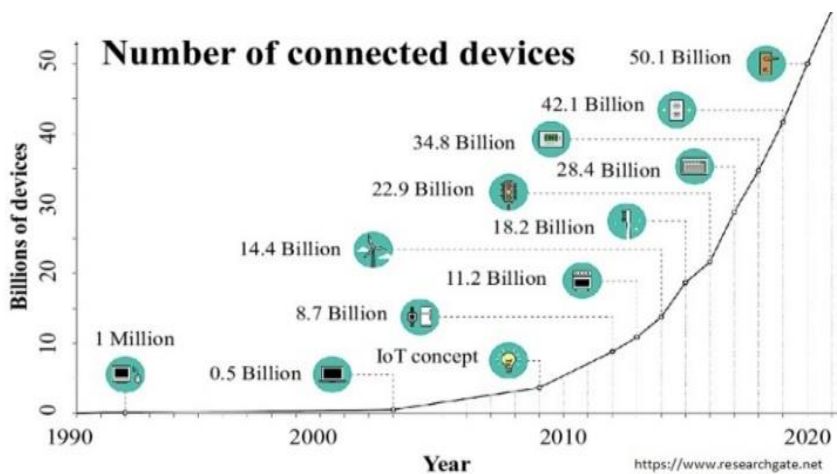
- **Experts have emphasized AI's pervasive nature and data privacy while discussing how leading Indian IT firms prioritize cutting-edge technologies like AI and ML.** They highlighted Infosys' investment in OpenAI and the industry's efforts to upgrade technology stacks, leverage cloud services, and automate software delivery for accelerated development. These initiatives are facilitated by hybrid cloud integration, enabling faster speed-to-market.
- Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) on AI and ML at IIT Kharagpur and ISI Kolkata aims to train and build capacity for next-generation professionals in Artificial Intelligence.

✓ **IoT Market Growth¹⁷:**

- India's IoT market is projected to reach US \$33.34 billion by 2024, with Industrial IoT expected to contribute US \$11.81 billion, indicating significant impact across sectors like automotive.
- The Future Skill PRIME project, supported by MeitY, aims to develop skills in emerging technologies, including IoT, with NIELIT Aurangabad designated as the co-lead resource center¹⁸.

✓ **National Strategy on Blockchain¹⁹:**

- MeitY's release of the "National Strategy on Blockchain" underscores the government's vision to adopt blockchain in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, finance and e-governance.
- The strategy targets establishing a "National Blockchain Framework" by 2027 to create infrastructure and promote "Made in India" blockchain technology globally, aiming for convergence with IoT, cloud and AI under the "BICA Stack."



- ✓ Over 900 IT companies employ approximately 145,000 professionals.

<https://indbiz.gov.in/gen-ai-can-bolster-indias-economy-by-us-1-2-1-5-trillion-report/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20analysis%2C%20India,GDP%20compared%20to%20the%20baseline.>

<https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-03/National-Strategy-for-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>

<https://www.statista.com/outlook/tmo/internet-of-things/india#:~:text=This%20indicates%20a%20strong%20presence,US%2460.01bn%20by%202028.>

<https://nielit.gov.in/aurangabad/node/17004/>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-growing-role-of-blockchain-in-indian-governance>

Techscape of West Bengal: A Comprehensive Overview of Technological Advancements

- ✓ The region hosts global software majors including IBM, TCS, Cognizant, Accenture, Tech Mahindra, LTI Mindtree, Infosys, ITC Infotech, Capgemini, PwC, Ericsson, British Telecom, HSBC Electronic Data Processing, Wipro, among others.
- ✓ Prominent domains within the IT sector encompass Software Development, Product Development & Consulting, Big Data and Analytics System Integration, IT infrastructure support, high-skilled KPO work in various sectors such as Building Architecture, Naval Architecture & Health, Banking and Insurance Sectors, Multimedia and Animation, Call Center & BPO Operations.
- ✓ Opportunities include 7 Brownfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and 2 Greenfield EMCs at Naihati and Falta under implementation with assistance from the Government of India.
- ✓ The establishment of 2 Hardware Parks at Sonarpur and Kalyani offers plots of land with ready infrastructure.
- ✓ Implementation of 15 IT Parks, each about 50,000 sq. ft. of built-up space with all infrastructure facilities, with 8 parks ready for occupancy, aims to boost the IT sector.
- ✓ IT education initiatives, including the development of a dedicated institute at Kalyani (IIIT), with courses already underway and the foundation stone laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, underline the commitment to nurturing talent in the field.

Tech-Driven Integration: India's Strategy for Indo-Pacific Economic Collaboration

- ✓ **Digital Infrastructure Development:** Invest in satellite networks and broadband infrastructure for enhanced regional digital connectivity.
- ✓ **Cross-Border E-commerce Platforms:** Pioneer blockchain-enabled e-commerce platforms to facilitate secure transactions and transparent supply chains for seamless trade.
- ✓ **Smart Port and Logistics Solutions:** Utilize IoT, AI and big data analytics for efficient cargo handling, transportation and supply chain management, optimizing trade processes.
- ✓ **Fintech Innovation and Collaboration:** Foster fintech innovation through partnerships and cross-border investments, promoting financial inclusion with mobile payments and blockchain-based remittance solutions.
- ✓ **Smart City Development:** Lead collaborative smart city initiatives leveraging IoT and urban mobility expertise to improve urban infrastructure and sustainability.
- ✓ **Technology Talent Exchange Programs:** Initiate talent exchange programs to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing and capacity building in emerging technologies across the region.
- ✓ **Digital Integration Strategy:** India's proactive expansion of its digital payment systems such as RuPay and UPI globally, alongside forging strategic partnerships and agreements, presents an opportunity to strategically integrate within the ASEAN region. By fostering cross-border transactions and promoting financial inclusion, India can leverage these efforts to enhance regional economic integration and cooperation. This approach not only strengthens India's position as a key player in the digital economy of the Indo-Pacific but also lays the groundwork for broader digital integration initiatives within the region.



Technology Future – How can the technology evolve in the Indo-Pacific ?

- ✓ **AI and IoT Adoption:** AI advancements in healthcare and finance, coupled with IoT expansion, optimize outcomes and resource utilization across sectors like agriculture, energy and transportation.
- ✓ **AR/VR and Blockchain Integration:** AR/VR technologies enhance education and training, while blockchain adoption in finance and supply chain sectors boosts transparency and security.
- ✓ **5G Networks and Quantum Computing:** 5G networks fuel innovation in autonomous vehicles and smart infrastructure, while quantum computing research promises breakthroughs in logistics and cryptography.
- ✓ **Biotechnology and Robotics Applications:** Biotechnological advancements address regional challenges in healthcare and agriculture, while robotics applications, including cobots and autonomous drones, enhance productivity and safety.
- ✓ **Digital Payments Integration in the Indo-Pacific:** India's strides in expanding its digital payment systems globally, such as RuPay and UPI, through strategic partnerships and agreements, are setting the stage for potential integration within the ASEAN region. Building on successful integrations like the one with Singapore, India can leverage similar agreements to extend UPI accessibility and adoption across ASEAN member countries. Initiatives like providing UPI access for NRIs and foreign travellers in select Indian airports can serve as models for facilitating cross-border payments and promoting financial inclusion within the ASEAN community. By fostering interoperability and collaboration in digital payments, India's efforts contribute to the broader goal of regional economic integration and cooperation within Indo-Pacific, paving the way for a more interconnected and prosperous digital economy across the region.
- ✓ **Startup Solutions in Supply Chain Management:** Startups like Locus, Far Eye, Rivigo, Ship rocket and Mobi Ocean leverage technology to enhance supply chain efficiency, transparency and collaboration, addressing regional supply chain issues.

Convergence

The convergence of IoT, blockchain and AI/ML technologies are driving digital transformation, offering new opportunities and enhanced operational efficiency for organizations across the Indo-Pacific. By integrating these technologies seamlessly, organizations can stay competitive and shape a future where connectivity, trust and intelligence are key drivers of success. This convergence enables the development of interoperable platforms, unified standards and protocols for trade-related data exchange, simplifying cross-border transactions and enhancing trust among trading partners. Robust digital trade infrastructure, including digital payment systems and blockchain-based platforms, overcomes previous barriers to transactional transparency, security and trust, facilitating efficient cross-border trade. Advanced data sharing mechanisms and analytics tools promote better decision-making and risk assessment, leading to enhanced trade facilitation and economic integration. Collaborative innovation ecosystems foster knowledge sharing and technology transfer, driving sustainable economic growth and prosperity across the region. In the context of India's negotiations and technological advancements, this convergence addresses longstanding trade issues, offering solutions that were previously unsolvable and contributing to the vision of 'One Indo-Pacific'.

Theme: The India Vision for One Indo-Pacific; Technology in Connecting Trade and Economic Progress

DAY 1: AGENDA

“Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Indo-Pacific Relations”

26TH SEPTEMBER, 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES, KOLKATA

Tentative Programme (with wishlist of speakers)

2.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Guests' arrival and Tea/Coffee	
3.00 pm – 3.05 pm	5 minutes video of BCC&I's the year that was....	
Inaugural Session		
3.05 pm – 3.10 pm	Opening Address	President, BCC&I
3.10 pm – 3.40 pm	Keynote Address by Chief Guest (Minister of State for External Affairs)	Hon'ble Minister of State from the Ministry of External Affairs.
		Session Moderator: IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
3.40 pm – 3.45 pm	Closing Remarks	President Designate, BCC&I



Changeover

SPECIAL SESSION I

India's Technology Vision for One Indo-Pacific

Session Chaired by:

Prof. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I

THEME: Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Indo-Pacific Relations

SUB-THEME: Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains

India's "One-Indo Pacific" vision revolves around leveraging technology as a central pillar to enhance trade connectivity and economic progress across the Indo-Pacific region. To realize this vision, a structured discussion at the Conclave should focus on integrating various sectors into global value chains (GVCs). The goal is to create an interconnected, prosperous Indo-Pacific community by harnessing technology to bridge distances, enhance trade, and foster collaboration.

Discussion points:

- * Sectoral Integration Strategies: How can each sector leverage technology to better integrate into GVCs?
- * Tech-Enabled Supply Chain Resilience: Best practices for building resilient supply chains using technology.
- * Regional Collaboration: Opportunities for technology-driven collaboration across the Indo-Pacific.
- * Policy Frameworks: What policies are needed to support technology adoption and integration?

3:50 PM – 5:45 PM

- Technology experts from India and Indo-Pacific countries
- Eminent scientists
- MEITY
- Policy expert on global taxation
- Technology infrastructure expert
- Speakers from the IPEF Countries

Changeover

Special Session II

3rd Meeting of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

3rd Meeting of the Association of Indo Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)

-  Bangladesh (Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and FBCCI)
-  Thailand (India Thai Chamber of Commerce)
-  Malaysia (AIBC)
-  Vietnam (INCHAM)
-  Japan (JETRO)
-  South Korea (KOTRA)
-  Australia (AICC)
-  Taiwan (TAITRA)
-  Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI)
-  Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)
-  UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
-  Digital trade expert from Singapore

7:00 PM – 7:10 PM

Closing remarks and vote of thanks

8:00 PM onwards

Networking Dinner and cocktails for Guests

DAY 2: AGENDA

“Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration ”

27TH SEPTEMBER, 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES, KOLKATA

Tentative Programme (with wishlist of speakers)

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Registration and Networking Tea / Coffee	
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	Guests to be Seated	
Opening Session		
THEME: Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration		
<p>Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration is pivotal in catalyzing regional progress and resilience. By fostering cross-border cooperation in technological innovation, nations within the Indo-Pacific can collectively address shared challenges and unlock new opportunities for growth. Through collaborative efforts in areas such as digital infrastructure development, data sharing frameworks, and joint research initiatives, countries can enhance connectivity, promote economic integration, and bolster regional stability. Moreover, technology collaboration serves as a catalyst for fostering trust and understanding among diverse stakeholders, laying the groundwork for deeper diplomatic ties and sustainable partnerships. Ultimately, by harnessing the power of technology to unite and empower nations across the Indo-Pacific, this collaborative endeavour holds the potential to drive inclusive and sustainable development across the region.</p>		
10:40 AM – 10:45 AM	Opening Address	President, BCC&I
10:45 AM – 11:05 AM	Keynote Address	Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
11:05 AM – 11:25 AM	Inaugural Address by Chief Guest	Shri Piyush Goyal , Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

11:25 AM – 11:45 AM	Conclave Commemorative Address	Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India and Hon. Member, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)
11:45 AM – 12:05 PM	Keynote Address on: "Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Catalysing Indo-Pacific Growth"	Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India
12:05 PM – 12:20 PM	Special Address Or Discussions ON the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and role of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in reducing cross-border transaction costs, and involve speakers on this topic. Or How crypto currency is intruding into futures trading.	Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog Or, Member, NITI Aayog Or, Other Ministers from Ministry of Communication and Ministry of commerce.
12:20 PM – 12:35 PM	Address on: Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development in the Indo-Pacific Region	Director General, NIC
12:35 PM – 12:50 PM	Address on: AI and Data Analytics: Leveraging for Regional Stability and Prosperity	India's AI experts
Session Moderator: Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India		
12:50 PM – 1:00 PM	Closing Remarks	President Designate, BCC&I

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM	Changeover
1:05 PM – 2:15 PM	<p>Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Economies</p> <p>Suggested topics for discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's vision for digital connectivity and technological innovation in the Indo-Pacific. • Initiatives to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive growth in the region. • Opportunities and challenges for Indo-Pacific economies in adopting digital technologies. • Policies and frameworks for enhancing cybersecurity and data governance in the digital era. • How tax harmonisation through technological/ digital innovations is possible ?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology • RBI • NPCI • EXIM BANK • SBI Chief Technology Officer. • Expert on Employment and Inequality • Tax experts <p>Session Moderator: President Designate, BCC&I</p>
CLOSING REMARKS	President Designate, BCC&I
2:15 PM onwards	Changeover to The Bengal Chamber AGM (For BCC&I Members)
2:15 PM onwards	Networking Lunch for Guests



BRIEF ABOUT OUR PAST CONCLAVE

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry's "India Economic Conclave" is an annual forum which focuses on pertinent economic issues by bringing together thought leaders, policymakers, economists, business leaders to discuss the roadmap for transforming India's economic Aspirations to Action. This will be the seventh edition of this Conclave on the occasion of the 170th AGM of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2023



Address by **Mr. Subir Chakraborty**,
President, BCC&I and Managing Director
& CEO, Exide Industries Ltd.

Address by **Shri Sanjeev Sanyal**,
Member, Economic Advisory Council to
the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)



Left: **Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade**, Ambassador, E/I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Center: **Smt. Neelam Rani**, IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of
External Affairs, Government of India
Right: **Shri Sanjeev Sanyal**, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
(EAC-PM)





Glimpses from the special session on "The East India's Act East & Common Charter Development"



Shri **Ajay Seth** during his special address on "India leads towards 3rd largest economy"

A glimpse from keynote address by **Shri T Rabi Sankar**



Inaugural Address by Chief Guest, **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar**

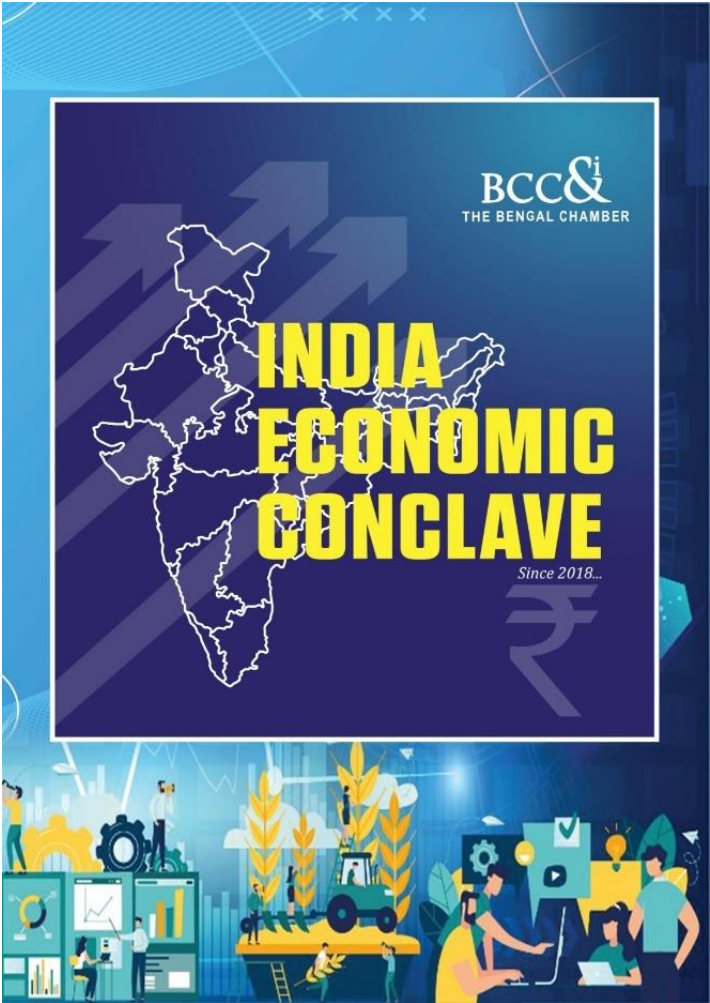
Virtual Address by **Shri Suneet Mehta**



A glimpse from **Shri Mayank Joshi's** virtual address



Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran speaking about India's growth story



In the past Conclaves, we have had luminaries of national stature joining this forum. Some of them are:



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India

BCC&I
THE BENGAL CHAMBER
INDIA ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2022

**DECODING \$5 TRILLION :
THE ROADMAP FOR INDIAN ECONOMY**

11th FEBRUARY, 2022

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Shri Tarun Bajaj, IAS, Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

BCC&ⁱ
THE BENGAL CHAMBER



Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

BCC&ⁱ
THE BENGAL CHAMBER



Mr. Sajjan Jindal

Mr. Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group





Dr. Sajjid Z. Chinoy, Chief Indian Economist, J P Morgan and Member of the Advisory Council to the 15th Finance Commission



Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Member, fifteenth Finance Commission, India



Mr. Sanjeev Krishan, Chairman, PwC in India



Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)



Mr. K V Kamath, Former Chief, New Development Bank of BRICS and Former Chairman, Infosys and Former Non-Executive Chairman, ICICI Bank

The conclave also provides an opportunity for participants to network and exchange ideas with other industry leaders and experts. The event is widely covered by the media and is attended by a diverse range of stakeholders from the local and national business community.

Who is the conclave for?

- ✓ Exporters
- ✓ Export Promotion Agencies
- ✓ Policy Makers
- ✓ Government officials
- ✓ Industry Associations/Chambers of Commerce
- ✓ Corporate Chief Executives
- ✓ Bankers
- ✓ Academia
- ✓ Agriculture/Manufacturing/Engineering/ Service Sector Companies
- ✓ MSMEs
- ✓ Start Ups

Speakers could be from :

- ✓ Notable Economists
- ✓ PM Economic Advisory Council
- ✓ Ministry of External Affairs
- ✓ Ministry of Finance
- ✓ Ministry of Commerce
- ✓ Niti Aayog
- ✓ MOSPI
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India
- ✓ MEITY
- ✓ Technology experts from India and Indo-Pacific countries
- ✓ Eminent Scientists
- ✓ India's AI Experts
- ✓ PSU and Pvt Sector Banks
- ✓ Top Corporates from Agriculture, Manufacturing, Engineering, IT Services companies, Prominent MSMEs and Unicorns



Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Recognize the opportunities in technology-driven trade and economic progress, emphasizing India's pivotal role in leveraging digital economies and technological advancements in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ Understand the importance of infrastructure and digital transformation in fostering connectivity and economic growth, aligning with India's vision for One-Indo Pacific.
- ✓ Discuss India's role in the global economy within the context of international trade, global supply chains, and geopolitical risks, emphasizing the need for strengthening trade relations with other countries and regional blocks.
- ✓ Highlight the significance of job creation, skilling initiatives, and entrepreneurship promotion in India's commitment to driving digital innovation and financial inclusion in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ Provide a networking platform for stakeholders across sectors to collaborate on promoting connectivity, trade, and security cooperation, in line with India's advocacy for a cooperative, inclusive, and rules-based framework in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ Recognize the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific region and India's efforts to leverage its geographical location, economic strength, and diplomatic relations to promote connectivity and trade cooperation.
- ✓ Emphasize the importance of freedom of navigation, sovereignty, adherence to international norms, and defence and security collaborations in fostering a unified Indo-Pacific where connectivity and collaboration thrive.
- ✓ Highlight the interconnectedness between the Indian and Pacific Oceans in the era of globalization, underscoring the importance of connectivity, people-to-people ties, and collaborative efforts for economic prosperity in the region.

