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In association with



INDO-PACIFIC **ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2024**

on the occasion of BCC&I's 170th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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

26th September -Theme: "Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Indo-Pacific Relations."

27th September -

Theme: "Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration."







Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group

Mr. Gautam Ray, Fellow of The Institution of Engineers, graduated in Electrical Engineering from Calcutta University (erstwhile Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur, presently IIEST) in 1981 and completed Post Graduation in Electrical Power System, from the same Institute in 1983. He was, till recently, Executive Director of CESC Limited, age-old power utility serving the city of Kolkata for more than 100 years and also President (HR), Power Group of RPSG. Presently, he is President- Corporate, RPSG Group Mr. Ray has an experience of close to 40 years of working in Power System operations and load dispatch, before he migrated to HR & Admin. He was instrumental in working on a collaborative project with Singapore Power for improvement in Distribution Sector. He also established AIPM (Asia Institute of Power Management) under CESC, which imparted training and consultancy services for many power utilities of India and neighbouring countries. He is currently the President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is the Chairman of National Safety Council - West Bengal Chapter, Former President - Calcutta Management Association for 2015-16 and 2016-17.







Dr. Prabir De
Professor
Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and
Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He has over three and half decades of full-time research and teaching experiences in India and abroad. He works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development issues. He has been conducting policy research for the Government of India and several national and international organisations including UN agencies and multilateral development banks. Graduated with honours in economics from the Scottish Church College in Kolkata, he did his Masters in economics from the Calcutta University and Ph.D. in economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI); Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP); and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent edited book includes "Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: Towards Indo-Pacific", published by the Routledge in 2024. He is also the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Asian Economic Integration*, published by Sage, and *Journal of Land Ports and Border Economy*, published by Routledge.







Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank) Government of West Bengal

Dr. Amit Mitra, a renowned economist, is now the Principal Chief Advisor to the Honourable Chief Minister and Finance Department, Government of West Bengal, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister of the State. He Chairs the State Level Banking Committee of the State. Dr. Amit Mitra is the Vice Chairperson of the State Public Policy and Planning Board. Dr. Amit Mitra joined Trinamool Congress and was appointed as the first Finance Minister in the Cabinet of Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, in 2011 and was re-elected in 2016, & he continued to hold the Finance Portfolio for the 2nd term. In addition to holding the portfolio of Finance, he was appointed as the Minister of Industry and Information Technology, along with Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. However, he decided not to contest the Assembly Election of 2021, but was appointed by Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee as her Principal Chief Advisor, with Cabinet Rank. Dr. Mitra had Chaired the highest body of Finance Ministers of all States of India, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, during the crucial inception of GST in India & became a Member of the National GST Council. Dr. Mitra also served on the Boards of GAIL (India) Ltd, the largest gas transmission and marketing company in India and also on the Board of IFCI, one of the largest financial institutes in the country. He was on the board of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) and the Advisory Board of Microsoft, India, as well. Dr. Mitra represented India in the India-China Eminent Persons' Group and India-EU Roundtable on Track II Diplomacy. He was also on the High Power Committee of India-USA, Defence Technology Transfer, at the Track II level. Dr. Mitra received his B.A (Hon.) from Presidency College, his Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics and his PhD (Eco.) from the Duke University, in the USA. The Government of India conferred its civilian award Padma Shree on him in 2008. He received the highest civilian honour from the Emperor of Japan, the "Order of the Rising Sun", in 2005 & was awarded the Highest Civilian Award from the President of Italy in 2007.







Ms. Paramita Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Mrs. Paramita Tripathi is heading the Oceania and the Indo-Pacific Divisions in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. Prior to her current assignment as Joint Secretary (Oceania & Indo-Pacific) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mrs. Paramita Tripathi was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Berlin from December 2017 to July 2021. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2001. She has served in Indian Missions/Posts in Brussels, Tokyo, Singapore, New York and Berlin. In Delhi, she has worked in Pakistan, United Nations and East Asia desks in the Ministry of External Affairs. Mrs. Tripathi holds a Bachelor's (Honours) Degree from Presidency College, Kolkata, and a Master's Degree in Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. She speaks English, Bengali, Hindi and French. She is married to a fellow civil servant, Mr. Praduymn Tripathi, belonging to the Indian Revenue Service. They have a son and a daughter







Mr. Nakagawa Koichi Consul General Consulate General of Japan Kolkata

Mr. Nakagawa Koichi, currently the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, has had an illustrious career in diplomacy since joining Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1987. Born in Kyoto Prefecture on July 26, 1961, Mr. Nakagawa graduated from Kinki University's Faculty of Economics in 1985. Over the years, he has held several key positions in Japan's diplomatic service. His early career began as Vice-Consul at the Consulate General of Japan in Pretoria, South Africa. In 1991, he became an official in the Multilateral Economic Cooperation Division at MOFA. In 1995, he joined the Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters within Japan's Cabinet Office, reflecting his growing role in international affairs. By 1998, he was appointed Assistant Director of the First International Economic Division at MOFA, furthering Japan's global economic engagements. From 2006 to 2007, Mr. Nakagawa served as Deputy Director of MOFA's Osaka Liaison Office, followed by an assignment as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. In 2013, he took on the role of Deputy Director in the Economic Policy Division at MOFA. His diplomatic journey continued with his appointment as Principal Deputy Director of the Multilateral Cultural Cooperation Division in 2016, and later, Assistant Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Ceremony of Enthronement in 2018. In 2019, he was entrusted as Director of the Official Guests Division within MOFA's Protocol Office, before moving to Los Angeles in 2020 as Deputy Consul General. Since 2022, he has been serving as the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, where he continues to foster Japan's diplomatic and economic ties, especially within the Indo-Pacific region







Mr. Kevin Goh Deputy Consul General Australian Consulate General Kolkata

Mr. Kevin Goh is a career Australian diplomat with wide experience across different levels of Australian Government. Before taking up his position at the Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata in early 2023, he served at Australian diplomatic missions in Cairo, Dhaka and Bangkok. In Australia, he has worked across several areas and government agencies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's geographical desk for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, and in the office of the Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking. He has also worked on Pacific climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction programs, refugee and resettlement programs, and international student policy. Prior to joining the public service, Mr Goh worked in the education sector as a vocational education and training (VET) lecturer, secondary school teacher and teacher.







Mr. Arnab Basu President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd. Mr. Arnab Basu is a Partner in PwC India, spearheading the firm's Advisory business, including Consulting, Risk and Deals. He brings rich consulting experience in diverse fields like Business model reinvention, Business Transformation, Operating Model Design, Performance Management, Removing Complexity, and defining Digital Strategy leveraging Enterprise Applications. He sits on PwC's Global Advisory Leadership team and has worked with a range of top tier clients across multiple geographies and industries, including Industrial Manufacturing, Metals & Mining, Oil & Gas. Mr. Basu joined PwC in 2001 post his MBA from IIM Calcutta and specialized in strategy led business transformations using digital platforms and solutions and related Change programs. He is also an Enterprise Apps methodology expert within the global PwC network. Arnab is also responsible for PwC's investments in emerging areas like Climate, Cyber, Gen AI and the corresponding growth strategy and building high performance teams.







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

Prof Dr. Ajitava Raychaudhuri is a Ph.D from American University (USA) and former Head and Coordinator of Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He was a senior Fulbright Scholar at Economic Growth Center, Yale University and Reid Hall Scholar in Residence of Columbia University, Paris Campus. He was visiting faculty at Indian Statistical Institute (Calcutta), Calcutta University and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (Calcutta). He had undertaken several important projects from UNESCAP, ADB, World Bank, UNDP, PEP, GDN, IPPG, SANEI, Finance Commission, Planning Commission etc. He has also written numerous papers in international and national journals and edited books. Among his notable books are *India's Exports. An Analytical Study* (with Sugata Marjit) published by Oxford University Press and *International Trade in Services in India: Implications for Growth and Inequality in a Globalising World* (with Prabir De) also from Oxford University Press. He also authored two *District Human Development Reports* for West Bengal (with Sushil Haldar) published by UNDP and Planning Commission of India. His latest edited book (with Prabir De) is on *Myanmar's Integration with the World*, published as Palgrave Macmillan series by Springer.







Dr. Rupa Chanda
Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division,
UNESCAP (United Nation Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

Dr. Rupa Chanda is the Director of the Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok. She leads the Commission's work on trade policy and facilitation, foreign investment, and inclusive and sustainable business in the Asia-Pacific region. Before joining UNESCAP, she was a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore for over 25 years and RBI Chair Professor from 2016-2021. She held various administrative positions at IIM Bangalore, including Dean of Programmes, and taught courses on Macroeconomics and International Trade in the MBA and PhD programmes, respectively. Earlier, she has also worked as an Economist at the IMF in Washington, DC and briefly served as Head, UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia in New Delhi. Prof. Chanda obtained her PhD, MPhil and MA from Columbia University and BA in Economics from Harvard University. She has received several research grants, including from the British High Commission, the European Commission, and Govt of India's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce. She has over 200 publications in the form of journal articles, edited book chapters, reports and working papers, as well as popular media, covering the areas of services trade, globalization of health, the WTO, Free Trade Agreements, and mobility. She has also authored two seminal books on services in India and South Asia, and coauthored/edited 5 other books in her field. Prof. Chanda has professionally engaged with international organizations such as the WTO, World Bank, WHO, UNDP, ADB, ILO, OECD, among others and with several Indian policy research institutes. She is a recognized expert in services trade and has represented the Government of India in various international forums. Her contributions to trade policy have featured in India's trade negotiations and position papers. She has been a member of various committees of the Government of India and Indian industry chambers. She was selected by the WHO as an international expert for its International Health Regulations Review Committee. She has received teaching awards during her tenure at IIM Bangalore.







Dr. Pralok Gupta
Associate Professor
Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT New Delhi

Dr. Pralok Gupta is currently working as Associate Professor (Services and Investment) at the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Earlier, he has served in the UP State Government and Industrial Finance Corporation of India. Dr. Gupta has been actively engaged in policy making by Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance on various trade and macroeconomic issues. He is also an expert member of the India's delegation on services trade negotiations for various free trade agreements including India-Australia FTA, India-UK FTA, India-EU FTA, India Canada FTA, India-Sri Lanka, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and the India-EFTA agreement. Dr. Gupta also headed the PMU on Globalization Indices set up by the Government to drive economic reforms in India. Dr. Gupta has been actively engaged in providing training on various trade issues to the delegates and diplomats from developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Dr. Gupta is a prolific writer and his articles on contemporary trade issues get published in international journals, books and business newspapers, the Economic Times, Business Standard, Financial Express, LiveMint, Hindu BusinessLine, on a regular basis. He also regularly appears on various TV shows speaking on trade and economic issues. He has a number of books and book chapters to his credit and recently edited a book titled 'E-commerce in India: Economic and Legal Perspectives'.







Ambassador (retd.) Sumith Nakandala Former Secretary General BIMSTEC, Colombo

Ambassador Sumith Nakandala holds a B.Sc. [Agriculture] Degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and a master's degree in International Relations and Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands. Before entering the Sri Lankan Foreign Services, Ambassador Nakandala worked in the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka and the Central Environmental Authority as a Research Officer and Environmental Officer, respectively. Ambassador Nakandala, in 1988, having entered the Sri Lanka Foreign Service through an open competitive examination, had worked in different functional and territorial political Divisions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo. His overseas assignments include posting in Malé, Maldives, New Delhi and Chennai, India, London, and New York. Ambassador Nakandala was the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Nepal, Iraq, and the Netherlands. He also held the posts of Deputy High Commissioner at the Ambassadorial level in Chennai and London. Ambassador Nakandala was the First Director of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. He conducted 11 major training programmes in 2000-2001 for middle-level officers from Bhutan, Maldives, NepaApart from his South Asian bilateral experience spinning for more than 33 years, Ambassador Nakandala had also dealt extensively with regional organizations such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, ACD, G-15, ESCAP, AMED, and WIPO. I, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia.







Mr. Abhijit Banerjee Managing Director Linde India Ltd.

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee has a wealth of experience and expertise of over 35 years in manufacturing sector, encompassing various areas such as design engineering, project management, marketing, business development and strategic account management. He joined Linde India (previously known as BOC India) in 2009 and has been leading the company as its Managing Director since 2019. In addition to his professional career, Mr. Banerjee has also made significant contributions to industry organizations and associations. He is a member of the General Council of the Gas Industry Association and has served as its President for the period 2019-2021. During the Covid pandemic he was a member of CII's Task Force on the National Oxygen Action Plan. Currently, Mr. Banerjee is the Vice President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industries. Mr. Banerjee holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and has undergone a Leadership Development program conducted by the prestigious Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.







Mr. Jitendra Kumar President (Legal & Corporate Affairs) & Company Secretary Exide Industries Limited.

Mr. Jitendra Kumar is a qualified Company Secretary & Law graduate (LLB) with more than 30 years of rich experience in the Corporate domain. He is a Science Graduate with Physics Hons and Post-Graduate in Financial Management. Mr. Kumar is working with "Exide Industries Limited" for last 10 years and is designated as "President (Legal & Corporate Affairs) & Group Company Secretary". He heads several functions at Exide viz. ESG, Legal, Secretarial, CSR & Corporate Affairs. He is also in the Board of group companies and a member of Executive Committee at Exide. Mr. Kumar has overseen various strategic projects in capital market, business transformation, mergers & acquisition, divestment etc.. Under his leadership, Exide has won several awards in the field of Corporate Governance, Sustainability, ESG from various reputed bodies. Beside his official duties, Mr. Kumar is also actively engaged with few leading Industry Bodies. He is the currently the Chairman of Corporate Governance Committee and CSR Committee of Bengal Chambers of Commerce in India (BCC&I) and also serves as Chairman of "ESG Committee" of CII State Council. He is a sports enthusiast and have won many awards in the field of Cricket & Badminton, individually as well as representing his Company.







Dr. Priyadarshi Dash Associate Professor Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Dr. Priyadarshi Dash is Associate Professor at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, India. He contributes to RIS work programmes on G20, BIMSTEC, Indo-Pacific and Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. His research interests include services trade, regional financial cooperation, infrastructure finance, macroeconomic and development strategies, and blue economy. Dr. Dash has published two books titled "Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific" and "Universal Banking in India: Evolution, Trends and Performance" and several papers in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. He is member of Editorial Advisory Board of Cambridge Scholars Publishing, London; member of Editorial Board of Advances in Economics and Business, Member of Editorial Review Board of Virtual Economics; and Managing Editor of G20 Digest. He has visited Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), Seoul as a 'Visiting Fellow' in 2012 under a fellowship by the Asia Foundation. Dr. Dash holds PhD in Economics from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, India, and has received the "Award for Excellence in Thesis Work" by IIT Bombay.







Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Member, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I,
Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian
Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable
Development Goals, Government of Assam.

Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee holds a Ph.D. from Boston University and taught economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi; Boston University; and University of Massachusetts. In India as a member of the Indian Administrative Service, he worked in Assam; and at the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's Office. He joined the Asian Development Bank in 1994 and provided program support and policy advice to developing countries in Asia and the Pacific in various capacities including Country Economist, Philippines; Country Team Leader, Indonesia; Head of Poverty Unit; Advisor in the Strategy and Policy Department; and Regional Advisor on the MDGs. Currently he is engaged in advising development agencies intermittently at the state and Central levels; consulting for international agencies; and undertaking research and publications. Among the positions he holds is Senior Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi (ISID); and President of the Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD).







Mr. Indronil Sengupta
Co-founder and CEO
Invesify Company Limited
Chairman, Indian Business chamber, Hanoi

Mr. Indronil Sengupta is the Co-founder and CEO of Invesify Company Limited, a boutique advisory firm based in Vietnam. He is also serving his second term as Chairman of the Indian Business Chamber in Hanoi (2023-2024). With over 30 years of experience, Mr. Sengupta previously held a 26-year career with Tata Group, where he led multiple business divisions across metals, minerals, infrastructure and energy. During his tenure, he was based in India, Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, and served as CEO of Tata Sons Vietnam. Under his leadership, Tata significantly expanded its presence in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Mr. Sengupta is highly regarded for his expertise in investment advisory, EPC projects, market entry strategies and M&A. Since founding Invesify in 2018, he has guided the firm's growth across these sectors. Mr. Sengupta also sits on the Boards of VP Bank Securities and Operational Smile in Vietnam. Through his diverse and accomplished career, Mr. Sengupta has developed a strong network across Southeast Asia and India. He remains actively involved in supporting business and investment initiatives between the regions.







Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Malaysia and Chairman, Goldtex Group of Companies

Dato' Ramesh Kodammal is the Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, a company which he founded since 1973 specializing in import & export of garments and textiles, as well as manufacturing of home furnishings. Dato' Ramesh is the Founder and Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council Malaysian Chapter and the Co-Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC). He is currently a Council Member for the Malaysia Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MAICCI). He is also the Member of the Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (MANCPEC). Dato' Ramesh actively promotes the interests of the business community between ASEAN-India and he has been actively involved in the visits by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to Malaysia as part of this initiative. He has actively participated in various international forums and seminars representing Malaysia as a moderator and speaker. Among the posts which Dato' Ramesh has held previously include the Deputy President of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Indian Chambers of Commerce (KLSCCI), Vice President of Malaysia Associate Indian Chambers & Industries and Treasurer of National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Malaysia (NCCIM). He currently still holds various positions in other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).







Mr. Subhodip Ghosh Director General BCC&I

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh has 24 years of experience in Chambers of Commerce (with 22 of them in BCC&I). He is focused on expanding BCC&I's reach and work profile covering newer areas of focus which are relevant for the business ecosystem. He is also founder and mentor of BCC&I's Project and Research Division undertaking research based consulting and projects in the International and National spheres. He has published economic / management papers in peer reviewed journals and contributed articles in edited publications and newspapers. He is an alumnus of the US State Department's acclaimed International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). He is a Masters in Economics with Specialization in World Economy from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Staying fit is a major focus. A full Marathoner and Master Diver – long-distance running, open water diving and cycling are three passions.







Mr. Vivek Jalan Partner Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP

Mr. Vivek Jalan is a Chartered Accountant & a qualified L.LM & LL.B. He also completed MBA(International Trade) from NMIMS. He is the Founder & Partner of Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP. He is the Chairman of The Indirect Tax Core Group of The Confederation of Indian Industries – EAC(ER). He is the Chairperson of The National Fiscal Affairs & Taxation Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is a Member of The Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is a regular Columnist and guest expert in Economic Times, Business Standard, Times of India, Dalal Street Journal, Money Control, Live mint, CNBC, Hindustan Times, Zee Business, Financial Express, other dailies and business magazines like Business Today, etc. He is also a quest expert on Taxation matters in All India Radio and other media platforms. He is the Editor of Weekly Bulletin TAX CONNECT, a publication on Direct and Indirect Taxes which reaches more than 70000 professionals.He is also a visiting faculty in The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), The Institute Of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Indian Chamber of Commerce, The Merchant Chamber of Commerce and other Business Forums. He has also delivered Lectures at various Government Taxation Forums including the CGST & SGST Departments across the country. He has worked as a Finance Manager in ITC Ltd. and Chief Compliance Officer with IntraSoft Technologies Ltd. He has more than 18 years of experience in the field of Information Technology, Finance, Taxation and Logistcs. He was also an All India Rank holder in CA Final Examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.