



Unlocking Global Markets: New FTAs, CBAM Challenge & Digital Opportunities

1 August 2025 | 1000 – 1330 hrs | Ballroom, Hyatt Regency, Kolkata

Programme

0920 – 1000 hrs	Registration & Networking
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Inaugural Session	
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The Government of India has set an ambitious goal of achieving \$1 trillion in exports each from goods and services by 2030. However, the global trade environment remains increasingly fragile and uncertain. In this context, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have emerged as critical instruments for enhancing trade competitiveness and export performance. By reducing trade barriers, fostering market access, and lowering transaction costs, FTAs offer businesses legal certainty and opportunities to scale, diversify markets, and integrate with global value chains. As India actively pursue strategic FTAs, it also faces evolving challenges and opportunities at the intersection of trade, sustainability, and digital transformation.

This conference will highlight the strategic importance of upcoming FTAs in India's potential growth story and underscore the critical need for industry awareness. The conference will feature deeper discussions on India's recent FTA engagements, climate-related trade barriers like the EU's CBAM, and the evolving regime around digitally delivered services.

1000 – 1010 hrs	Welcome Remarks	Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Professor & Head, Centre for Trade & Investment Law (CTIL), IIFT
1010 – 1020 hrs	Context setting	Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri Principal Adviser – International Trade Policy, CII
1020 – 1030 hrs	Address	Dr K. Rangarajan Prof & Head, Kolkata Campus, IIFT
1030 – 1040 hrs	Address	Mr Aakash Shah Vice Chairman, EEPIC India
1040 – 1045 hrs	Special Address	Mr Debashis Dutta Chairman West Bengal State Council & Director BGS Group

Session I - India and the World: New FTAs, Negotiations & Strategic Opportunities

India is actively reshaping its trade objectives through a series of strategic FTAs aimed at boosting exports, attracting investment, and integrating more deeply into global value chains. With newly concluded FTAs such as those with the United Kingdom and EFTA, and ongoing negotiations with major partners like the European Union, and the United States, India's trade policy is at a pivotal moment.

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of India's current FTA engagements, highlighting key provisions, sectors of interest, and opportunities for Indian industry arising from the newly signed trade agreements. It will also explore how businesses can align with these agreements to gain preferential market access, address non-tariff barriers, and increase competitiveness globally.

1045- 1055 hrs	Context Setting Presentation	Dr Swati Singh, Director, Trade Policy, CII
1055 – 1145 hrs	Roundtable	<p>Moderator - Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri Principal Adviser – International Trade Policy CII</p> <p>Key Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Aditya Garodia, Chairman, Committee on Trade with West Europe & UK, EEPC India. • Mr Sumit Goyal, President – Operations, Patton International Limited • Mr Sohrab Bararia, Partner, CAPEX Growth Solution Leader, Grant Thornton • Mr Ramesh Juneja, Vice Chairman, CLE • Mr Pradip Arora, Managing Director, Cotton Casuals Ltd • Mr Ridhish Rajvanshi, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL)
1140 -1150	Tea Break	

Session II - The Future is Digital: Trade Rules for Digital Services and E-Commerce

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has transformed the way global trade is conducted, effectively reducing the traditional barriers of distance and time. This shift is evident in the case of services and products that can now be delivered digitally. At the same time, the growing shift in consumer preference from physical stores to online shopping has accelerated the growth of e-commerce, making it a vital component of international trade.

This evolving landscape has also raised important policy questions around customs duties on electronic transmissions, regulatory frameworks, and the treatment of digital trade under global trade rules, which are being discussed at multilateral platforms such as the WTO. Dedicated digital trade chapters too are now increasingly featuring in bilateral FTAs, with provisions covering cross-border data flows, data localization, personal data protection laws, electronic signatures and authentication etc.

The session will explore these developments, focusing on the opportunities, challenges, and the future of digitally delivered services and e-commerce in the global trade system.

1150 – 1245 hrs	Roundtable	<p>Moderator - Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri Principal Adviser – International Trade Policy CII</p> <p>Key Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr K. Rangarajan, Prof & Head, Kolkata Campus, IIFT • Ms. Monika, Legal Consultant, Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) • Mr Dipankar Chakrabarti, Director & COO, BDS Cube Technologies Pvt Ltd. • Mr Manojit Sengupta, Delivery Centre Head – Eastern Region, Tata Consultancy Services • Mr Ujjwal Mukherjee, East Zone Leader, Concentrix • Ms Shailaja Singh, Consultant (Associate Professor), Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL)
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Session III - Decoding CBAM: Industry Preparedness and India's Policy Response

The European Union (EU) is introducing several unilateral measures as part of its ambitious climate agenda, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). These measures are being viewed by India and many other developing countries as potential trade barriers.

India is among the most affected by the EU's CBAM, particularly in sectors such as iron & steel and aluminium. The mechanism has been strongly opposed by India at various international platforms including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UNFCCC COP meetings on the grounds that it violates the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), a core tenet of the global climate framework. India is also engaging with the EU and UK bilaterally to address concerns and explore possible concessions through Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

This session will explore the implications of CBAM for Indian industry, and India's ongoing diplomatic and policy responses. It will also seek inputs on the industry's level of preparedness to address the challenges posed by CBAM.

1245 – 1330 hrs	Roundtable	<p>Moderator - Dr. James J. Nedumpara, Professor & Head, Centre for Trade & Investment Law (CTIL)</p> <p>Key Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Suvendu Bose, Partner, Grant Thornton • Mr Debasish Ghosh, Advisor, Hindalco Industries Limited • Mr Ashish Kumar, Chief - Chartering & Maritime Sustainability, Tata Steel • Mr Pratik Ghosh, AVP, Sustainability, Jindal Steel & Power • Mr Keshav Beriwal, Director, Shyam Steel Industries Ltd • Mr Avijit Sasmal, CSO, Himadri Speciality Chemical Ltd • Mr Arun Nair, Senior Consultant, Trade Policy, CII • Virtual Interventions
1330 – 1335 hrs	Vote of thanks by CII Kolkata office	
1335 hrs Onwards	Lunch	