



India-Asean Expo and Summit

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Recently the Minister of Commerce & Industry inaugurated the **4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit 2019** in New Delhi.

It is organised by the **Department of Commerce** in collaboration with industry body **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

- FICCI is a **non-government, not-for-profit organisation established in 1927**.
- It is the **largest and oldest apex business organisation** in India whose history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.
- The Summit is a platform for the policy makers, industry captains and business leaders to come together and forge a common vision for India and ASEAN's mutual growth and progress.
- The exposition will showcase the best initiatives of the business and industry from India and ASEAN countries across various sectors of mutual cooperation such as Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Manufacturing & Engineering, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), healthcare, etc.
- The Summit is a testimony of India's dedicated efforts towards **Act East policy**.

India and ASEAN

- India-ASEAN trade and investment relations have been growing steadily, with **ASEAN being the second largest trading partner** of India, after China, with a total bilateral merchandise trade of USD 81.33 billion, i.e. **10.58% in India's overall trade**.
- India and ASEAN represent **fast moving economies**.
According to the recently published **United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2019**, India and ASEAN are set to **outpace the global growth (3.0 % in 2019)**.

- India continues to be the fastest growing major economy and is expected to grow at 7.2% in 2019 and ASEAN at 5.2%.
- This is a manifestation of the **new emerging world economic order**, wherein India and ASEAN have a significant place.
- India currently is working with ASEAN on **multiple connectivity projects, through land, water, and air. E.g.:**
 - India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway, Kaladan Multinational Transit Transport Project,
 - Project Development Fund for **CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam)**.
- ASEAN remains central to the economic integration of the Indo-Pacific region through **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**.

Challenges

- Both sides need to **explore opportunities through connectivity projects** in order to remove physical impediments to trade and further **integrate the two regions for better economic and trade relations**.
- Increasing the **rate of technology adoption and providing financing mechanisms** is another challenge to expand growth.