

In Association with



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

Organised by



INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

***Integrating BIMSTEC 2022***  
***Relooking BIMSTEC 2021 - Facilitating Cross Border Paperless Trade***  
***29<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 / Virtual Session***  
***Tentative Programme***

<b>INAUGURAL SESSION:</b> Importance of ‘Paperless Trade’ for economic integration of BIMSTEC countries in post-Covid scenario		
11:00 am – 11:05 am	Welcome Address	<b>Mr Pradeep Sureka</b> President, Indian Chamber of Commerce,
11:05 am – 11:15 am	Special Address	<b>Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, PhD</b> Chairman South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)
11:15 am – 11:25 am	Theme Address by	<b>Dr. Rupa Chanda</b> Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division , United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
11:25 am – 11:35 am	Address by “Special Guest”	<b>Dr. Prabir De</b> Professor, RIS and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
11:35 AM – 11:45 PM	Address by “Special Guest”	<b>Ms. Harsha Bangari</b> Managing Director Export-Import Bank of India
11:45 AM – 11:55 AM	Address by “Guest of Honour”	<b>Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja</b> Senior Research Associate at the Overseas Institute (ODI) in London Former Director of Research at the ADB Institute in Tokyo
11:55 AM – 12:05 PM	Address by “Chief Guest”	<b>Mr Sourabh Kumar</b> Secretary East), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India
12:05 PM – 12:10 PM	Vote of Thanks	<b>ICC</b>

**PLENARY SESSION: 12:10 PM – 12:50 PM (IST) (Panel discussion)**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12:10 PM – 12: 20 PM</b> Synchronizing legal framework to facilitate paperless trade in BIMSTEC countries</li> <li>• <b>12:20 PM – 12: 30 PM</b> - importance of synergizing legal framework in different jurisdictions to support transactions and communication processed via digital platforms</li> <li>• <b>12: 30 PM – 12:40 PM</b> - adopting legal frameworks to clarify the functional and legal equivalence of electronic and paper-based documents</li> <li>• <b>12:40 PM – 12: 50 PM</b> - considering adoption the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferrable Records</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury</b> Senior Fellow, ORF</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Achyut Bhandari</b>, Co-Founder, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society, Bhutan</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jayantha Fernando</b> Attorney at law in Sri Lanka, Founder Director of Sri Lanka, General Counsel - ICTA &amp; Director at Sri Lanka CERT CC</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sujeev Shakya</b>, Chair, Nepal Economic Forum</li> </ul> |
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**VALEDICTORY SESSION: Envisaging “Border Huts” in ‘New Normal’ – the role of paperless transactions for economic integration of BIMSTEC – 12:50 PM – 13: 45 PM (IST)**

12:50 PM – 13:00 PM	Introduction of paperless trade to speed up economic integration in pandemic hit BIMSTEC	<b>Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka</b> Senior Fellow, Research Programmes and Strategic Neighbourhood, Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi
13:00 PM – 13.10 PM	Address by Special Guest	<b>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath</b> Honorary Advisor Bolliger & Company Bangkok, Thailand
13:10 PM – 13:20 PM	Economic transactions in ‘Border Huts’, complying pandemic safety protocols in BIMSTEC	<b>Dr. Arpita Mukherjee</b> Professor – ICRIER, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi
13:20 PM – 13:30 PM	Can border huts become nodal points for electronic data sharing among trade partners in BIMSTEC?	<b>Ms. Shahtaj Mahmud</b> , Senior Coordinator, Projects & Programs, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) Dhaka, Bangladesh
13:30 PM – 13:40 PM	Can ‘Paperless Trade’ mitigate the security issues in border huts?	<b>Ms. Riya Sinha</b> Research Associate (Foreign Policy and Security Studies), Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi
13:40 PM – 13:45 PM	Vote of Thanks	<b>ICC</b>

**CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT**

\*\*\* Note – Names of the speakers are tentative and subject to final confirmation