



India's Engagement with Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): Opportunities and Challenges

State Governments and Industrialists have to more actively involve to ensure that the blocks and barriers are removed to make sure that great deal of access is ensured in the international market” remarked Dr. K.M. Chandrasekar, Vice Chairman, Planning Board, Government of Kerala.

“EximTrade has become so important for India. India has to revive multilateral trading system” commented Dr. K.M. Chandrasekar while inaugurating the Seminar on “India's Engagement with Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): Opportunities and Challenges.”

“Its also essential that industry take crucial role in fashioning the Government. The links with industry has grown considerably. Industry in Kerala is no longer looking inward. People have lost faith in WTO” he observed.

The seminar was jointly organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with affiliated Chambers of Commerce and trade bodies in Kochi.

Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Mr.Bipin Menon gave presentations on“Opportunities and Challenges in India's FTAs with Japan and Korea”, “Opportunities and Challenges in India's FTAs with Asean and Malaysia” and “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)”.

Assistant Secretary General, FICCI Mr.Manab Majumdar in his deliberations gave detailed inputs regarding Exim Trade and RCEP agreements.

Mr. David Mookan, former Chairman, FICCI Kerala State Council, Mr. A.A. Abdul Azeez, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. V.A Mohammed Ashraf, President, Kerala Merchants Union and Mr. Savio Mathew, Head- FICCI Kerala State Council also spoke.

A large number of participants mainly comprising of exporters/importers, Shipping lines, CHAs, Freight Forwarders, representatives of Commodity Boards and Export Promotion Councils and Trade Associations participated in the programme