



## ***Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order***

**14-15 November 2025: Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

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### **Concept Note**

#### **ECONOMIC BACKGROUND**

Despite global uncertainty, India remains a strong partner for governments, businesses, and individuals. According to the latest IMF World Economic Outlook, global growth is expected to be around 3.3% in 2025 and 2026. India is projected to outpace global growth at a rate of approximately 6.5 percent in 2025 as well as in 2026 and 2027. By 2028, India is expected to become the world's 3rd largest economy with a nominal GDP of over USD 5 trillion.

Over the last decade, the country has continued to implement several initiatives to attract and offer opportunities to global businesses looking to diversify their supply chains and increase their exposure to the Indian and broader Asian market. In the Union Budget 2025-26, Government of India identified Agriculture, MSME (Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises), and Investment as crucial engines to drive India towards *Viksit Bharat*, its aspiration of becoming a developed nation.

India's global merchandise trade has increased over the past five years at a rate of 7.19 percent CAGR, with total trade reaching approximately USD 1.12 trillion, consisting of USD 437 billion in exports and USD 678 billion in imports as of 2023-24. India has also become one of the largest consumers globally with approximately USD 2.14 trillion in annual household expenditure as of 2023. Consequently, India is not only becoming a hub for the manufacturing and assembly of upstream and midstream components of global value chains (GVC) but also a significant market for finished goods and services.

During this period of transition, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is set to organize the 30th edition of the Partnership Summit 2025. Since its inception in 1995, the CII Partnership Summit has been held annually in cooperation with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The previous summit, conducted in December 2024, attracted over 400 international delegates from 61 countries, along with 395 domestic delegates. The event featured 30 Global Speakers and 11 Overseas Ministers from Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Senegal, and South Africa.

This year's CII Partnership Summit which is being organised in association with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh, will address seven key areas: trade, the future of industrialization, sustainability and climate action, technology and innovation, growth, the geoeconomic framework, and inclusion. The summit will convene global experts to discuss a variety of topics and contribute to high-level discussions. It provides an excellent platform for the exchange of ideas and facilitates trade and business collaboration, aiming towards a prosperous and cooperative future.

## **TRACK I: TRADE**

The track on trade aims to create and develop resilient Global Value Chains (GVC) to influence the future of the global trading order. Geopolitical and geoeconomic changes have resulted in shifts in both regional and multilateral value chains towards diversification for goods and services products.

During this period of adjustment, discussions among leaders in the private and public sectors at this year's Partnership Summit 2025 will explain the direction of Trade 4.0 and the increasing role of technology in global trade.

As the Global South emerges as a rising economic power, the financing and support of development in these emerging markets remain critical points of discussion and attention. In this evolving global landscape, India has the potential to serve as an economic bridge by finalizing free trade agreements (FTAs). Such agreements would not only benefit Indian firms and consumers but also position the country as a pivotal element in the global economic ecosystem, making it a resilient partner for global firms to integrate into their trade frameworks.

## **TRACK II: FUTURE OF INDUSTRIALISATION**

The emergence of Industry 5.0, which centers around the incorporation of advanced technologies like automation and artificial intelligence to improve productivity, has significantly accelerated global economic progress. To capitalize on this technology-led economic transition, governments are implementing industrial reforms while private sector firms are simultaneously investing in developing these emerging and advanced technologies.

Therefore, to better position national economies in the Industry 5.0 era, the private and public sector of countries like India must work in tandem to cultivate a congruent environment for these Industry 5.0 technologies. At the same time, Industry 5.0 will disrupt global labour markets in the age of automation, which may lead to displacement and eventual need for reskilling in the global labour force.

Finally, to better increase the growth of regional and multilateral industrial connectivity, global and sub-national industrial corridors could be developed to improve efficiency in Industry 5.0 and better connect partners.

## **TRACK III: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION**

As climate change continues to pose a significant threat to the global economic system, financing climate action to mitigate and reverse its associated damages has become a critical topic for discussion. The transition to renewable and clean energy systems, along with the promotion of sustainable practices and green jobs, are essential initiatives that must be undertaken by the private sector with support from the public sector.

Additionally, encouraging recycling initiatives and implementing circular economy programs will reduce waste production and enhance the sustainability of global society.

While decarbonizing industries will improve global initiatives to promote climate action, it must be inclusive of the global south, which are significantly smaller carbon emitters than entities in the global north. Therefore, policies like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) need to be revised to address, incorporate, and form partnerships with businesses from the Global South and promote sustainable development, rather than weaponizing climate policy to weaken global markets.

## **TRACK IV: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

Innovative technologies like India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) are rapidly transforming financial accessibility and settlements within and between nation-states. India has become a global leader in DPI through the India Stack, an open Application Programming Interface (API), through frugally investing in inclusive platforms like the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

India could leverage its strength in DPI through expanding UPI to significant bilateral trading partners to increase cohesion in the global economy and increase permeance of financial technologies in the future global financial ecosystem.

Moreover, to compete globally in advanced and frontier technologies, India and its partners must invest significantly in enhancing capacity for research and development (R&D) initiatives to compete in global growth sectors like artificial intelligence and automation.

## **TRACK V: GROWTH**

The global economic outlook has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and regional conflicts in key areas. This situation has compelled governments, industries, and central banks worldwide to navigate a new growth trajectory within a high inflation and interest rate environment.

Furthermore, supply shocks caused by overreliance on specific trade partners have led the global community to make a deliberate effort to diversify and mitigate risks in global value chains. This shift has provided countries such as India and its partners with opportunities to enhance their competitiveness and participation in the Global South.

The current period of global geoeconomic rebalancing provides an opportunity for the global financial ecosystem as well as institutions to be reformed to become more inclusive of global economies, particularly those in the Global South. As a prominent emerging economy, India is significantly investing in building out the infrastructure to stimulate growth and increase its participation and shaping the future of global economic order alongside its multilateral partners.

## **TRACK VI: GEOECONOMIC FRAMEWORK**

As mentioned before, the global geoeconomic framework that governs commercial flows between nations is being reformed, which is spurring the development of new growth centers in a new multipolar world. In turn, this has significantly influenced the geoeconomic outlook for 2025 and beyond.

Defined as World 2.0, new multipolar dynamics will define the geoeconomic environment which may pose trade disruptions in the short run and divert and redirect global supply chains in the long term.

## **TRACK VII: INCLUSION**

Despite progress made over the past few decades, global leadership needs to promote intentional inclusive development to incorporate marginalized groups and increase their participation in the global economic system. Increasing the participation of women in the global economic system remains a significant priority of inclusive international development, which will shape the shape the future of employment, education, employability, and entrepreneurship.

Businesses play a significant role in promoting corporate actions to increase the inclusivity of their firms and their industries, which may be carried out through dedicated programs that increase mobility for underserved communities, particularly in countries like India. One potential path that industries and

governments that countries like India and their partners could take is promoting skill development to uplift and upskill workers into higher value industries. Moreover, by supporting startups, governments could provide new avenues and industries to employ people across backgrounds, which would increase the quality of livelihood for these people.

## CONCLUSION

The 30th CII Partnership Summit, themed ***Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order***, will focus on India's global partnerships. It aims to enhance India's global engagement through discussions on pivotal topics. The collaborations formed at the summit will be crucial in shaping the global economic trajectory.

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