



**Committee:** Asian Development Bank

**Agenda:** Fortifying Cross-Border Trade and Investment: Advancing Economic Integration Amid Regional Sovereignty and Security Concerns.

**Country:** Republic of India

***“Satyameva Jayate”***

Sanskrit for “*Truth Alone Triumphs*,” is more than just India’s national motto. it reflects a profound commitment to truth, integrity, and enduring righteousness. In the context of ADB’s agenda, this motto says, this guiding principle emphasizes the importance of transparency in trade, commitment to fair practices, and the pursuit of long-term stability through sustainable economic integration. As a developing nation and the fourth-largest shareholder of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India welcomes and promotes economic integration alongside regional cooperation, while firmly upholding the principles of national sovereignty and dignity.

India, the voice of the Global South and the member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), upholds regional collaboration for inclusive and sustainable economic integration. With the “Neighbourhood First” and “Act East” policies, India has significantly enhanced connectivity across South and Southeast Asia. India’s ADB backed \$250 million partnership with Shriram Finance Limited enables over 100,000 MSMEs, while infrastructure programs like Bharatmala (aiming to develop 34,800 km of highways) and Sagarmala (targeting 574 port modernization projects) collectively drive over \$130 billion in investment. India is in an agreement to development and operations of the Chabahar Port in Iran and co-developing the West Container Terminal at Colombo Port in Sri Lanka to boost trade across the Indian Ocean and Central Asia. The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement is expected to boost regional trade by up to 60%. India’s Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) have cut cargo clearance time by nearly half. Through these efforts and strong multilateral engagement, India advocates for a trade mechanism that is transparent, resilient, and promote respect toward sovereignty.

India supports regional efforts that promote cross-border trade while protecting national interests. As a founding member of the ADB’s South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program since 2001, India has helped mobilize over \$13.7 billion for more than 60 projects in transport, energy, and trade. India is also part of the ‘Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement’ (APTA), which encourages lower tariffs between developing nations and ensures economic integration. Through the ‘BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement’ Initiative, India works with neighbors to improve



transport and connectivity. India also supports the ‘UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific’ (UNESCAP) transport program, which helps construct secure and connected trade routes. Alongside this, India is involved in the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreements and the BIMSTEC Master Plan, aiming to link South and Southeast Asia. These actions show India’s strong role in building a fair and stable regional economy through trust and cooperation.

Finally, the Delegate of India respectfully proposes the following solutions;

1. encourages the reopening of Bangladesh’s closed land ports to facilitate the creation of an India-Bangladesh-Nepal-Bhutan Economic Corridor, which will enhance subregional trade, connectivity, and integration with support from ADB.
2. proposes the Sovereignty and Security Safeguard Framework (SSSF) under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to allow host nations to temporarily halt projects posing sovereignty risks, supported by independent monitoring, regional consultation, and transparent multilateral decision-making;
  - a) creation of a monitoring mechanism that will inspect the incident thoroughly and report back to ADB
3. Proposes a Regional Economic Stability and Dialogue Framework (RESF) under Asian Development Bank (ADB) to reduce political tensions and strengthen cross-border trade through cooperation, dialogue, and conflict-sensitive planning.

#### *References:*

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