

Why Should India 'Join or Not Join' the RCEP – Pros and Cons

09 December
2020
Wednesday
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
(Indian Standard Time)



Pradeep Mehta
Secretary General
CUTS International
Moderator



Gopal Krishna Agarwal
National Spokesperson of BJP
Economic Affairs



Amita Batra
Professor of Economics, JNU



Rajeev Gowda
Former Congress MP and
Professor on Public Policy



Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Former Dy Chairman Planning Commission



Ashwani Mahajan
Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch



Naushad Forbes
Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall

The signing of the landmark Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on November 15, 2020, signals the beginning of a new era in global trade. It is an era when Asian countries play a significant role in setting the standards that will enable the next round of global growth.

However, India chose to opt-out of this trade agreement signed among 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam — and their trade partners — Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand.

It took eight years and 31 rounds of negotiation for the 15 nations to reach an agreement on RCEP. Undoubtedly, some of the measures were softened to accommodate such a diverse group's concerns.

The signing cemented the RCEP as the largest trading bloc globally, covering a market of 2.2 billion people and USD 26.2 trillion of global output. That accounts for about 30 percent of the population worldwide, as well as the global economy.

In this backdrop CUTS International is organising a webinar on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 between 11.00am and 12.30pm. The focus of this webinar is to discuss the pros and cons of India's decision to not join RCEP, and if this decision needs to be changed, or not, in the future.

