

## **IMEC Conclave 2025**

# **Enhancing Connectivity and Economic Growth Across Continents**

**Wednesday, 16 April 2025**

**Kamal Mahal, ITC Maurya, New Delhi**



## **AGENDA**

<b>9:30-10:00 hrs</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>
<b>10:00-10:45hrs</b>	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Context Setting:</b> Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Opening Remarks:</b> Professor Ashwani Mahajan, Board Member, CIEU and Co-Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch</li> <li>• <b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, Board Member, CIEU and Former Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Inaugural Address:</b> Shri Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to PM, Prime Minister Office</li> </ul>
<b>10:45-12:15 hrs</b>	<b>IMEC &amp; Shifting Global Order</b>
<b>10:45-11:15hrs</b>	<b>Europe: A Win-Win Game</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Axel Berger</b>, Deputy Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Berlin (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Sergio Lugaresi</b>, Director, Observatory on India, CeSPI &amp; <b>Mr Giovanni Miraglia</b>, Associate, CeSPI (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri</b>, Former Ambassador of India to the EU and the UN</li> <li>• <b>Dr Stephan Hesselmann</b>, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Nicolas Buchoud, Advisor to Dean, ADBI</p>

<b>11:15-11:45 hrs</b>	<b>West Asia: The Mover and Shaker in the Region</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Kanwal Sibal</b>, Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Mr Fares Saeb</b>, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel to India</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Amar Sinha</b>, Former Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (<b>Online</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Professor Gulshan Sachdeva</b>, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, New Delhi</p>
<b>11:45-12:15 hrs</b>	<b>Big Gains: Getting Workforce Ready</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar</b>, Former Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ajai Chowdhry</b>, Co-Founder, HCL and Chairman, Mission Governing Board, National Quantum Mission of India</li> <li>• <b>Professor Arvind K. Nema</b>, Provost, IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi &amp; Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT, Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Commodore Sujeet Samaddar</b>, Visiting Fellow, RIS</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Professor Chintamani Mahapatra</b>, Founder &amp; Honorary Chairperson, Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies &amp; Editor, India Quarterly</p>
<b>12:15-12:30 hrs</b>	<b>High-Level Address</b>
	<b>Ms Meenakshi Lekhi</b> , Former Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India
<b>12:30-13:00 hrs</b>	<b>Big Conversation: India &amp; the IMEC play</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Shyam Saran</b>, Former Foreign Secretary, India</li> <li>• <b>Shri Ram Madhav</b>, President, India Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma</b>, Chairman, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Dr Sanjaya Baru</b>, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of India (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Ila Patnaik</b>, Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Shri Hemang Jani</b>, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director for South Asia, World Bank Group</p>
<b>13:00-13:30 hrs</b>	<b>Trade Talks: A New Dawn for Trade and Investment</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Dammu Ravi</b>, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Mr Rahul Mithal</b>, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Ltd.</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ashwani Gupta</b>, CEO, Adani Ports</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Auguste Tano Kouamé</b>, Country Director, World Bank India</li> <li>• <b>Dr S. K. Ahirwar</b>, Executive Director (Traffic Commercial), Ministry of Railways, Government of India</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi</b>, Director General, RIS</p>
<b>13:30-14:10 hrs</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:10-14:30 hrs</b>	<b>Envoys' Dialogue</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Aliko Koutsomitopoulou</b>, Ambassador of Greece to India</li> <li>• <b>Ms Ambre Eyoun</b>, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President Special Envoy for IMEC (<b>Online</b>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Anilesh Mahajan</b>, Deputy Editor, India Today</p>
<b>14:30-15:00 hrs</b>	<b>Money Talks: Finding Funds for Infrastructure Projects</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Rajkiran Rai G</b>, CEO and Managing Director, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)</li> <li>• <b>Mr N. S. Vishwanathan</b>, Non-Executive Chairperson, AXIS Bank and former Deputy Governor, RBI (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Shaurya Doval</b>, Managing Director, Torch Investments (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Sanjiv Aggarwal</b>, CEO and Managing Director, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Mr Rajnish Kumar</b>, Former Chairman, State Bank of India</p>
<b>15:00-15:20 hrs</b>	<b>Ministerial Address</b>
	<b>Dr Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya</b> , Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Labour and Employment & Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
<b>15:20-15:50 hrs</b>	<b>Role of MDBs in IMEC Project Funding</b>
	<p><b>Keynote Address: Mr N. K. Singh</b>, Former Chairperson, Fifteenth Finance Commission</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Pankaj Gupta</b>, Director, Infrastructure, World Bank Group</li> <li>• <b>Mr Micheal Steidl</b>, Head of Regional Representation to South Asia at European Investment Bank (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Amit Prothi</b>, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Shalabh Tondon</b>, South Asia Regional Head, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Deepak Mishra</b>, Director &amp; Chief Executive, ICRIER</p>

<b>15:50-16:30 hrs</b>	<b>Powerful Debate: Charting Path for Electricity and Cleantech Supply Chains</b>
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Bhupinder Singh Bhalla</b>, Former Secretary, MNRE (<i>Online</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr R.V. Shahi</b>, Chairman, South Asia Group on Energy, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Eng. Nawal Alhanaee</b>, Director, Future Energy Department, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Dubai (<i>Online</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ashish Khanna</b>, Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Mr Jagjeet Singh Sareen</b>, Partner &amp; Lead, Global Climate Practice, Dalberg, Advisors</p>
<b>16:30-17:15 hrs</b>	<b>Deepening Digital Connect</b>
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Shailendra Trivedi</b>, Chief General Manager, Department of Information Technology, RBI</li> <li>• <b>Mr Sridhar Vembu</b>, Founder and Former CEO, Zoho Corporation(<i>Online</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Sriram Balasubramanian</b>, Consulting Senior Economist, The World Bank (<i>Online</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Sanjiv Bikhchandani</b>, Founder &amp; Executive Vice-Chairman, Info Edge (<i>Online</i>)</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Mr Kunal Walia</b>, Partner &amp; Lead, Digital Global Practice, Dalberg Advisors</p>
<b>17:15-17:30 hrs</b>	<b>Ministerial Address</b>
	<b>Shri Sarbananda Sonowal</b> , Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India
<b>17:30-18.00 hrs</b>	<b>Policy Conversation: Bringing Harmonization and Cooperation</b>
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shri T. K. Ramachandran</b>, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare</b>, Chairman, Research Advisory Council &amp; Former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs</li> <li>• <b>Shri Ghanshyam Prasad</b>, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Ms Anita Prakash</b>, Director for Partnership, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Pritam Banerjee</b>, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Dr Sanjeev Ranjan</b>, Former Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways</p>

<b>18.00-18:30hrs</b>	<b>Tracing Roots: Connecting the Dots of Abraham Accords, I2U2, and IMEC</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Arvind Gupta</b>, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Dr Seshadri Chari</b>, Professor Emeritus, Savitribai Phule, Pune University and Member, Governing Board and Governing Council, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ashley J. Tellis</b>, Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA (<b>Online</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Kapil Sharma</b>, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council, USA</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee</b>, Former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands</p>
<b>18:30-19:00hrs</b>	<b>Gazing Future: Finding Joint Fortunes</b>
	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shri Amitabh Kant</b>, G20 Sherpa, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>Shri BVR Subrahmanyam</b>, CEO, NITI Aayog, Government of India*</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla</b>, Former Foreign Secretary, India</li> <li>• <b>Dr Vijay Chauthaiwale</b>, Head, Foreign Affairs, BJP</li> <li>• <b>Shri Ashok Malik</b>, Partner and India Head, The Asia Group</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr C. Raja Mohan</b>, Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore</p>
<b>19:00-19:45 hrs</b>	<b>Valedictory Session</b>
	<p><b>Valedictory Address:</b> <b>Shri Piyush Goyal</b>, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce &amp; Industry, Government of India</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Priyadarshi Dash</b>, Associate Professor, RIS</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Anilesh Mahajan</b>, Deputy Editor, India Today</li> </ul>
<b>20:00–21:30 hrs</b>	<b>Networking Dinner</b>