



at the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2025

Organized by: Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)

Venue: BCC&I, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

Dates: 18–19 September 2025

-A Report-

Submitted by:

Marshal Rathour

Director

Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI)
Ace Apartments, Narayanchaur, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: Tuesday, 23rd September 2025.

NICCI's Participation at the Indo-Pacific Conclave 2025
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1. Introduction

Nepal and India share a long-standing and exemplary relationship founded on open borders, cultural commonality, and deep-rooted people-to-people connections. These ties have only strengthened over the decades, fostering mutual trust and cooperation across economic, political, and strategic domains. As India ascends globally as the fourth-largest economy, Nepal stands to benefit significantly by aligning more closely with India's development trajectory, regional initiatives, and economic momentum.

In this context, the participation of the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI) in the **Indo-Pacific Conclave 2025**, organized by the **Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)**, marked an important opportunity to engage with regional stakeholders and deliberate on collaborative economic initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region.

2. About NICCI

Established in 1993 under the visionary leadership of Mr. Prabhakar SJB Rana and other prominent business leaders, NICCI operates as a bi-national chamber dedicated to promoting and facilitating Nepal-India trade, investment, tourism, infrastructure, energy, and service sectors.

NICCI has formal partnerships through MoUs with key Indian chambers and institutions, including:

- Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- Millennial India International Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (MIICCIA)
- North-East Federation of International Trade (NEFIT)
- Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI)
- ASSOCHAM-UP & UK

These partnerships enable NICCI to function as a dynamic facilitator of regional economic integration.

3. About the Indo-Pacific Conclave 2025

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2025, hosted by BCC&I on the occasion of its 171st Annual General Meeting, was held on **18–19 September 2025** at the Bengal Chamber premises in Kolkata, India.

The Conclave brought together regional experts, business leaders, and policymakers in the Special Session under the theme :

“Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific: Catalysing Business Connections in South Asia.”

NICCI was honored to be invited and represented at the Conclave by **Mr. Marshal Rathour, Director of NICCI**, who also participated as a speaker in a key thematic session.

4. Key Session Participation: “Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific”

Mr. Marshal Rathour participated as a panelist in the special session titled:

“Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific – Catalysing Business Connects in South Asia.”

Other notable panelists included:

- **Mr. Indronil Sengupta** (Vietnam)
- **Mr. Dato’ Ramesh Koddamal** (Malaysia)
- **Mr. Aung Aung Myho Thein**, Consulate-General of Myanmar
- **Mr. Johnny Chotrani** (Philippines)

The session was moderated by **Dr. Prabir De**, Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India.

Key Points Highlighted by NICCI:

- India’s rise as a **\$4 trillion economy** is a strategic milestone for the region.
- Nepal’s economic and infrastructural integration with India—through trade, tourism, and transport—is extensive and vital.
- Over **90% of Nepal’s international trade** flows through Indian routes, underscoring the importance of continued bilateral cooperation.
- India’s initiatives such as **PM Gati Shakti, UDAN, Make in India, and Neighbourhood First** are transforming regional connectivity and economic resilience.
- India’s leadership in fostering **inclusive regional development** can serve as a blueprint for broader Indo-Pacific engagement.

5. Strategic Themes Discussed

a) Economic Connectivity & Market Access

- Opportunities for South Asian countries to access Southeast Asian markets via India.
- Enhancement of **blue economy initiatives**, port development, and maritime trade.

b) Regional Stability & Strategic Balance

- Indo-Pacific cooperation allows smaller countries to **diversify partnerships**.
- Encourages multi-polar collaboration through platforms like **IORA, BIMSTEC, ASEAN**, and **the Quad**.

c) Nepal's Potential Role

- Nepal, while land-linked and smaller in size, is rich in natural resources and strategic in location.
- With strong people-to-people ties and infrastructural links, Nepal is well-positioned to benefit from India-led regional initiatives.

6. Networking and Bilateral Engagement

During the Conclave, Mr. Rathour had the opportunity to engage with several key dignitaries and stakeholders, including:

- Ambassador Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal
- Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal at Kolkata, India
- Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, BIMSTEC Secretary General
- Mr. Ravi Shankar Rajhans, Traffic Manager at Syama Prasad Mookherjee Port, Kolkata,
- Mr. Arnab Basu, President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI&I)
- Mr. Abhijit Roy, President Designate, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI&I)
- Mr. Deb Mukherjee, Former President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI&I)
- Mr. Subhodeep Ghosh, Director General, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI&I)
- Ms. Anjana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Asst. Director General, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI&I)

- Mr. Indronil Sengupta, CEO, Invesify Company Ltd., Vietnam
- Mr. Dato' Ramesh Koddamal, Chairman, Asian India Economic Council (AIEC), Malaysia,
- Mr. Aung Aung Myho Thein, Myanmar, Consulate-General in Kolkata,
- Mr. Johnny Chotrani, President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Co-Chairman, Asean India Economic Council.
- Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Co-chairperson, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I.
- Mr. B.B. Chatterjee, ITC India
- Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Member, Management Committee, BCC&I
- Mr. Debasis Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal State Council

7. Conclusion

NICCI's participation in the Indo-Pacific Conclave 2025 reinforced the importance of regional cooperation, economic diplomacy, and knowledge sharing. As India emerges as a global economic powerhouse, its leadership in catalyzing intra-regional trade, connectivity, and strategic balance is both timely and essential.

Nepal stands to gain significantly from such initiatives, provided that mutual trust, infrastructural integration, and inclusive dialogue remain central to regional cooperation.

The Conclave has inspired further engagements and NICCI looks forward to continued collaboration with its Indian and regional counterparts to unlock shared economic potential in the Indo-Pacific.

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Glimpses of the Conclave:



