

Though India refused to sign RCEP but with the call of 'self reliance', it can still leverage its benefit without even formally joining it.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Agreement (RCEP) is the world's largest FTA which is led by china. But without india

RCEP has lost very much of its significance.

India refused to sign the agreement because

(i) Trade deficit - out of about \$100bn trade deficit with RCEP, around \$50bn is alone from china, and RCEP was perpetuating it, because it refused india's call of flexible tariffs, rule of origin.

strict IPR etc.

But recent steps by government

to boost exports can fill RCEP vacuum.

(i) Self Reliance call - under which govt.

is boosting manufacturing specially in -
Electronics - through mega electronic parks,
food parks and providing production
linked incentive scheme.

(ii) Labour Reforms - India has reformed
labour laws under four labour codes
to relieve industries from complex
and age old harassment.

(iii) Trade agreements - India is on way
to renegotiate unfavourable FTAs
like CECA with Korea, with Japan
and CEPA with ASEAN to reduce
trade deficit.

other agreements like BATIA
is under discussion.

(iv) Ease of doing business - signing Singapore
convention of investor dispute redress,

improving logistics by sampada yojna,
highways and freights through shaabmalq
and sagaemala which costs 15% of GDP.

however, RCEP is irreplacable
because it is in sink with various Indian
policies like

(i) ASEAN centrality in
Indo Pacific region, Act east
and development of North East.

(ii) Alternative to APEC which
excludes India, and India is trying to be
a part of it.

(iii) competition with similar
economies like Vietnam, Indonesia
etc to give boost to MSME which
is 90% in RCEP.