

## **India's Look East Policy – Some Aspects of Trade and Logistics**

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India's 'Look East Policy', formulated first during 1991-96, is an effort to forge extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of Asia-Pacific region. India's relation and trade with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have improved rapidly and dramatically in recent years . With host of bilateral agreements, India has established strong commercial, cultural and military ties with (ASEAN) member states. India has signed Comprehensive Economic and Cooperation Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the Governments of Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and Japan. A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in services and investment was signed with the ASEAN in September 2014. The establishment of ASEAN economic community (AEC) in 2015 was a great achievement towards greater regional integration of the economies. Currently ASEAN is India's 4<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner and India is ASEAN's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner.

On the other hand, logistics sector is now accepted as one of the core pillars of economic development and the logistics in international trade and domestic trade is central to the economic growth and competitiveness of an economy. India ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of Logistics Performance Index (LPI). East Asian economies have been performing well in terms of .LPI

The present paper attempts to find the status of India's international trade with the ASEAN economies. It also discusses the current situation of logistics in the ASEAN economies with particular reference to India.