

# No re-consideration on joining RCEP: Goyal

India in 2019 decided not to join the mega free trade agreement Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as the pact was not addressing its concerns and since then there has been no change in that position, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

The RCEP agreement is being negotiated among 10 Asean members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and their six free-trade pact partners Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. In a reply to the Rajya Sabha, Goyal said that the structure of RCEP did not adequately address the ambitions and concerns of India's stakeholders. Due to that, India decided not to join the bloc, in its current form. During the third RCEP Leaders Summit in Bangkok, India conveyed its position that current structure of RCEP did not address the outstanding issues and concerns of the country. **PTI**

