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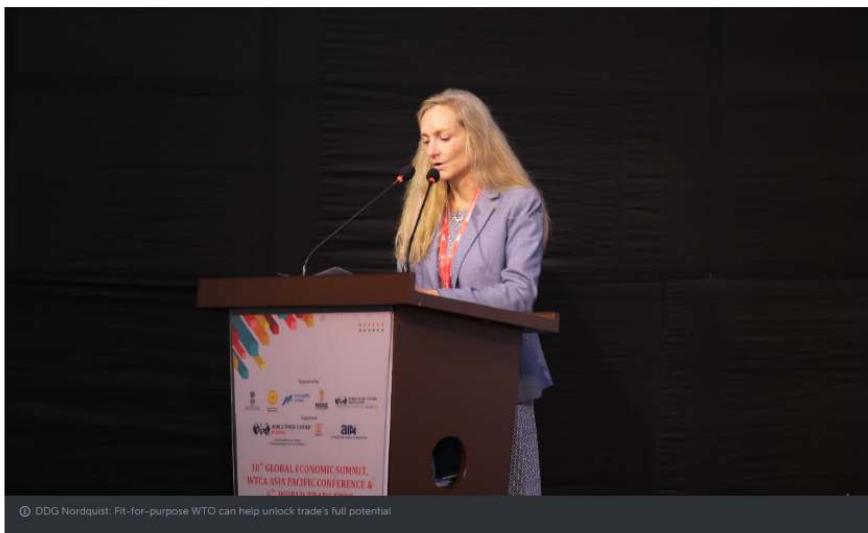
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL JENNIFER NORDQUIST

21 NOVEMBER 2025

DDG Nordquist: Fit-for-purpose WTO can help unlock trade's full potential

Deputy Director-General DJ Nordquist underscored the important role of the WTO in helping unlock India's full economic potential and supporting the country's development goals at the 10th Global Economic Summit (GES), organized by the World Trade Center Mumbai and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) on 21 November. She highlighted the need for a fit-for-purpose WTO capable of delivering tangible benefits for all members, including India, now the world's fourth largest economy. The full text of her remarks is below.



① DDG Nordquist: Fit-for-purpose WTO can help unlock trade's full potential

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Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, and distinguished guests,

Good morning, and thank you for the warm welcome. It is a privilege to address you today in Mumbai, the economic heart of India, whose vibrancy and entrepreneurial spirit are a testament to the talent and drive of your people. This is also my first trip ever to India - visiting has always been on my bucket list, so I really appreciate the invitation!

As many of you are aware, India is currently the fastest-growing G20 economy, set to become the world's fourth largest. You can feel that growth in the air - it's tangible. Since 1960, your GDP per capita has risen more than 600-fold, and your human capital index has nearly doubled.

Of course, trade has always been at the heart of any country's economy. India's own trade history is rich - from Indus Valley exchanges with Mesopotamia to your central role on the Silk Road and the Spice Routes. Thousands of years later, you continue to be a dynamic force in global commerce.

Your recent progress is especially notable in the digital economy, where exports of digitally delivered services have grown at double-digit rates, underscoring India's expanding role in global technology and innovation, which leads to job growth and higher income.

Looking ahead, India is embarking on an ambitious journey with your **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision. The World Trade Organization, where India has been actively involved since 1948 with its predecessor GATT, plays a crucial role on this journey. Stable market access, global partnerships, and a rules-based international trade framework - all key pillars of the WTO - are essential to unlocking India's full potential and enabling it to achieve the 2047 vision.