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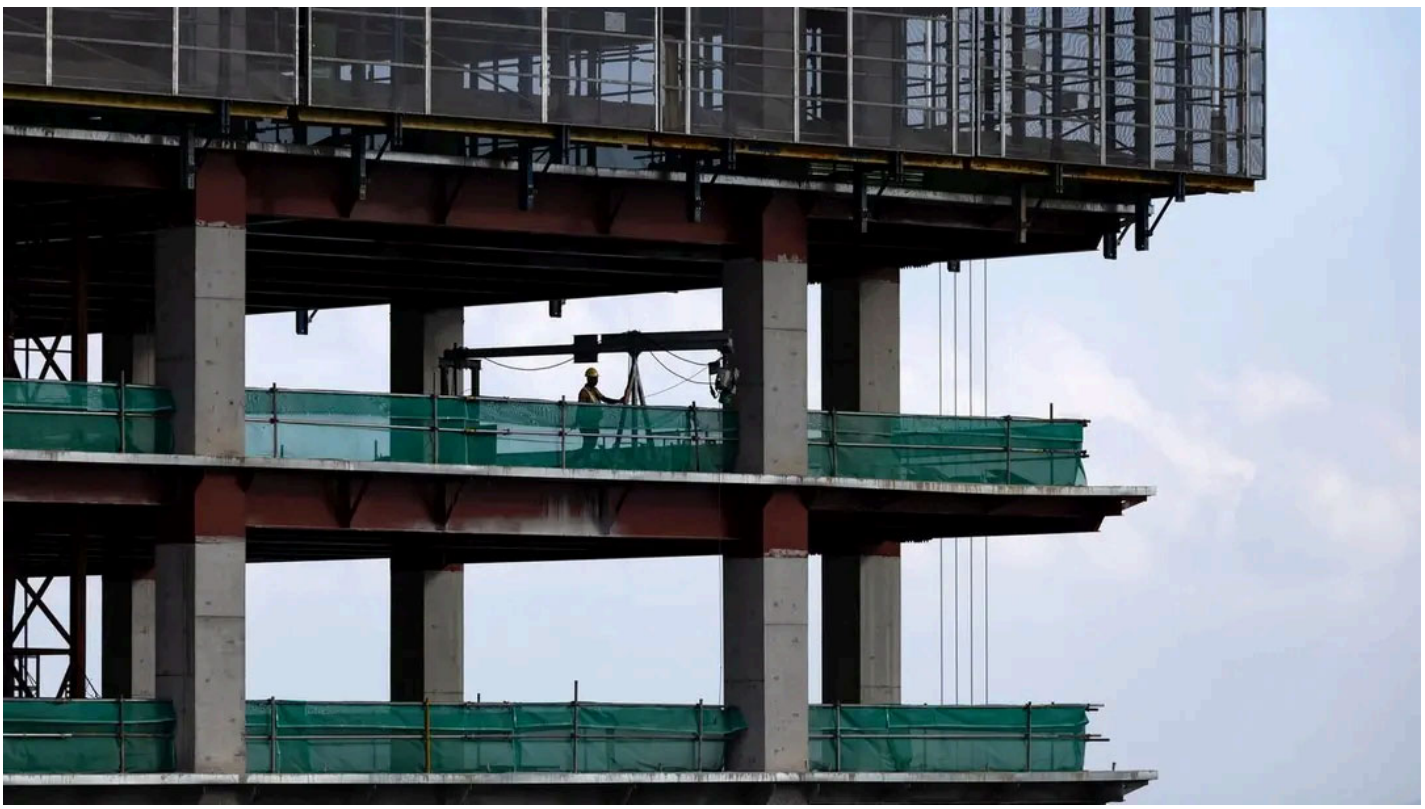
Trade & investment, explained.

# RCEP’s next test is whether it can keep investment in Asia

Asian trade has stabilised, but most of the region’s own capital is still flowing elsewhere.



RCEP’s geography clearly attracts firms, but exchange rates, subsidies, security concerns and supply-chain resilience are doing at least as much as its rules (SeongJoon Cho/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

Tran Thi Ngoc My, Banh Thi Hang 25 August 2026 4 min read

As global trade fractures along geopolitical lines and tariff uncertainty continues to rattle supply chains across the Asia–Pacific, the region’s biggest trade agreement faces a test more important