

Publications Digest 2022

CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders about its major publications in 2022.

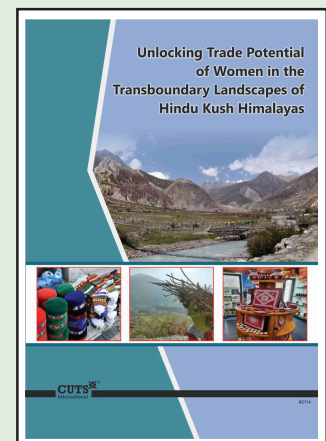
REPORTS

Unlocking Trade Potential of Women in the Transboundary Landscapes of Hindu Kush Himalayas

The Transboundary landscapes (TBLs) of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) shares ecological, cultural and socioeconomic characteristics across the transcending international borders of the member countries. People living in these fragile ecosystems mainly depend on farming, fishing, nature-based products, handicrafts, and tourism for their livelihoods. They are constantly exposed to disasters, calamities, and geopolitical tensions that enhance the vulnerability of marginalised people, particularly women.

However, their involvement in trade is usually limited to the informal sector. Women's workloads have heightened in the past without any equal increments in access to development, decision making, or land rights. The vulnerabilities of mountain women have been further aggravated due to COVID-19, which led to the closure of international borders, shutting down production units. A slash in the income has affected the business and the household expenses, which is of utmost importance.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/research-report-unlocking-trade-potential-of-women.pdf>



Webinars

In 2022, CUTS International successfully organised a series of webinars that provided a dynamic, engaging and informative platform for discussions and deliberations by experts on topical and thought-provoking issues.

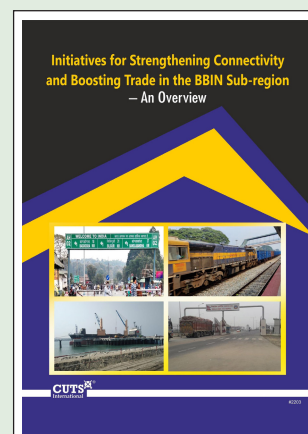
Initiatives for Strengthening Connectivity and Boosting Trade in the BBIN Sub-region: An Overview

Countries in the South Asian region like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal share not only a common history and rich heritage but also numerous socio-economic endowments along with other complementarities that can cater to the common benefit of the people in this sub-region.

Under the project titled ‘Enabling a political economy discourse for multi-modal connectivity in the BBIN sub-region (M-Connect),’ CUTS International, together with its project partners, Unnayan Shamannay in Bangladesh, Nepal Economic Forum (NEF) in Nepal and Bhutan Media and Communications Institute (BMCI) in Bhutan - had visited the identified trade corridors in an attempt to capture granular details of the problems and prospects of connectivity in the sub-region.

Major observations and experiences from these visits have been documented and summarised in the compendium.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/initiatives-for-strengthening-connectivity-and-boosting-trade-in-the-bbin-mconnect-an-overview.pdf>



Nadi Baithaks in India and Bangladesh Assam, West Bengal, Tripura (India) & Bangladesh

Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) is a five-year (2016-2021) regional programme supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and managed by Oxfam. The TROSA programme plays the role of a catalyst for community-led initiatives to ensure the most common of the most pressing concerns and foster partnerships with an aim to achieve inclusive and equitable solutions. The programme's ultimate goal (impact) is to reduce the poverty of marginalised and vulnerable river basin communities through increased access to and control over water resources.

Under the flagship of this work, Oxfam in Bangladesh in 2018 came out with the concept of conducting Nadi Baithaks or River Meetings (also known as ‘Nodi Boithok’ in Bengali), to raise and address the issues faced by the riparian communities.

Oxfam implemented these Nadi Baithaks with the support from two partners – Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) and Gana Unnayan Kendra in Brahmaputra and Meghna basins. Observing the success of the initiative in Bangladesh and understanding its importance in raising concerns of local indigenous communities, the concept of Nadi Baithak was adopted by CUTS International in 2020.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/nadi-baithaks-in-india-and-bangladesh.pdf>

A New Negotiating Agenda How India Could Address Issues of Sustainable Development in Trade Negotiations

India and many developing nations have maintained opposition to the development of enforceable norms on trade and sustainable development at the bilateral/regional or multilateral fora (WTO). However, new economic and political realities require India to reevaluate her stance.

This paper will first discuss why India may have to address the linkage of trade and sustainable development in Free Trade Agreement negotiations and how such an engagement could prove to be a winning proposition. Consequently, this paper will broach how India could negotiate TSD clauses that serve multiple purposes.

First, enable India to reach its ambitious sustainability objectives. Second, safeguard existing and future market access from protectionism. Third and finally, buffer the inevitable short-term losses that will be incurred during the period of adjustment.

https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/a_new_negotiating_agenda-how_india_could_address_issues_of_sustainable_development_in_trade_negotiations.pdf



Enhancing Multimodal Connectivity in the BBIN Sub-region Air Connectivity in Perspective

Multimodal connectivity is an important driver of regional integration. Countries in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) sub-region are working to tap regional growth and development through multimodal connectivity.

This Discussion Paper looks at the role of air connectivity in integrating the region and its contribution to making logistics more efficient, economical and seamless. Then the paper depicts the existing airborne intra-regional trade and

identifies two cross-border value chains likely to spur the demand for multimodal connectivity involving air transport. It also sheds some light on disruptions in global value chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the role of air connectivity during such difficulties.

Going forward, the paper argues that the growth of e-commerce in the BBIN sub-region will significantly boost air connectivity and positively impact intra-regional trade.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/dp-mconnect-in-the-bbin-sub-region-air-connectivity-in-perspective.pdf>

Cross-border Twin Towns in the BBIN Sub-region

Facilitating Intra-regional Trade and Cooperation

In recent years, enhanced cross-border cooperation and regional economic integration have gained global focus. Economic integration results in increased cross-border activities and networks, facilitating local and regional value chains and inter-linkages with national and global markets. An important way to create such a collaborative ambiance for cooperation and trade is by setting up joint and inter-connected economic zones at border points.

This Discussion Paper makes an attempt to understand the potential of twin towns in facilitating intra-regional trade and cooperation based on two cases – Tornio (Finland) and Haparanda (Sweden); and Nakhon Phanom (Thailand) and Thakhek (Lao PDR).

The paper further explores the possibility of setting up such towns at border points in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) sub-region, particularly at Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh); Raxaul (India) and Birgunj (Nepal); Jaigaon (India) and Phuentsholing (Bhutan).

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/dp-cross-border-twin-town-in-the-bbin-sub-region.pdf>



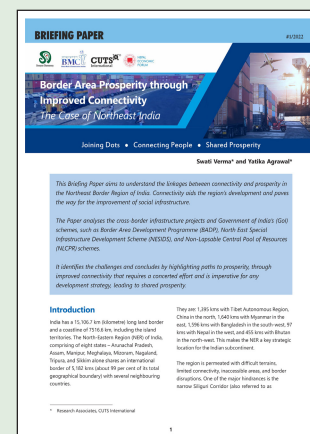
Border Area Prosperity through Improved Connectivity *The Case of Northeast India*

This Briefing Paper aims to understand the linkages between connectivity and prosperity in the Northeast Border Region of India. Connectivity aids the region's development and paves the way for the improvement of social infrastructure.

The Paper analyses the cross-border infrastructure projects and Government of India's schemes, such as Border Area Development Programme, North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme, and Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources schemes.

It identifies the challenges and concludes by highlighting paths to prosperity, through improved connectivity that requires a concerted effort and is imperative for any development strategy, leading to shared prosperity.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-border-area-prosperity-through-improved-connectivity.pdf>



Potential of Multi-modal Connectivity in India

The research team of CUTS International, under the “Enabling a Political Economy Discourse for Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal) Sub-region” (M-Connect) project, supported by the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office under its Asia Regional Trade and Connectivity Programme, has visited India’s major transport and connectivity hubs. These include land custom stations, integrated check posts, river ports and railway links which helped to understand the

opportunities and challenges of establishing an efficient multi-modal transport network in this sub-region.

In this context, the multi-modal transport system offers itself as a potential model to enhance connectivity in India and in the BBIN sub-region. This Policy Brief gives a glance at general and location-specific findings of this survey and our recommendations.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/india-potential-of-multimodal-connectivity.pdf>

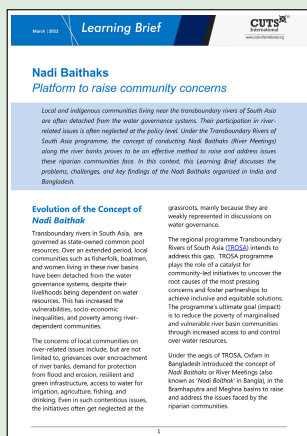
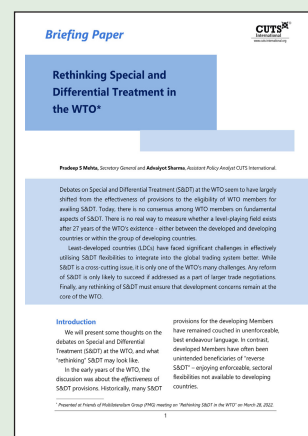
Rethinking Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO

Debates on Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) at the WTO seem to have largely shifted from the effectiveness of provisions to the eligibility of WTO members for availing S&DT. Today, there is no consensus among WTO members on fundamental aspects of S&DT.

There is no real way to measure whether a level-playing field exists after 27 years of the WTO's existence - either between the developed and developing countries or within the group of developing countries.

Any reform of S&DT is only likely to succeed if addressed as a part of larger trade negotiations. Finally, any rethinking of S&DT must ensure that development concerns remain at the core of the WTO.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/briefing-paper-rethinking-special-and-differential-treatment-in-the-wto.pdf>



Nadi Baithaks Platform to raise community concerns

Transboundary rivers in South Asia, are governed as state-owned common pool resources. Over an extended period, local communities such as fisherfolk, boatmen, and women living in these river basins have been detached from the water governance systems, despite their livelihoods being dependent on water resources. This has increased the vulnerabilities, socio-economic inequalities, and poverty among river dependent communities.

Under the Transboundary Rivers of South Asia programme, the concept of conducting Nadi Baithaks (River Meetings) along the river banks proves to be an effective method to raise and address issues these riparian communities face. In this context, this Learning Brief discusses the problems, challenges, and key findings of the Nadi Baithaks organised in India and Bangladesh.

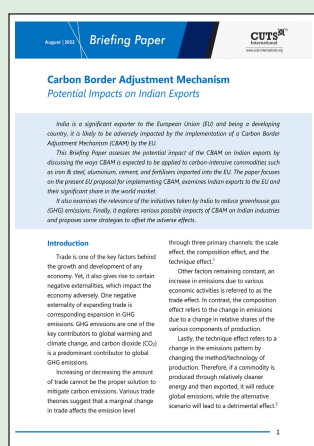
<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/nadi-baithaks-platform-to-raise-community-concerns.pdf>

Role of West Bengal in Shaping India's Logistics Performance

Logistics is a key service for the conduct of trade and a major contributor to the inclusive growth of all sections of society and business. The Union Government has framed the National Logistics Policy, 2019 to drive the country's economic growth and business competitiveness. A step ahead in providing a unified policy environment for logistics in India is the 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan', where Indian states and union territories play a central role.

This Briefing Paper examines the connectivity and logistics scenario in West Bengal to the latter's potential in terms of trade (both domestic and international). It attempts to identify bottlenecks towards improving logistical landscapes, discusses the initiatives in improving the logistic ecosystem and identifies the scope and opportunities to improve the logistic performance in West Bengal.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-role-of-west-bengal-in-shaping-indias-logistics-performance.pdf>



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Potential Impacts on Indian Exports

India is a significant exporter to the European Union (EU) and being a developing country, it is likely to be adversely impacted by the implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) by the EU.

The Briefing Paper assesses the potential impact of the CBAM on Indian exports by discussing the ways CBAM is expected to be applied to carbon-intensive commodities such as iron & steel, aluminium, cement, and fertilisers imported into the EU. The paper focuses on the present EU proposal for implementing CBAM, and examines Indian exports to the EU and their significant share in the world market.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism-potential-impacts-on-indian-exports.pdf>

Scope of Dovetailing Inland and Coastal Waterways between India and Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh are connected through both rivers and coastal waterways. They have also signed several agreements to enhance waterborne trade, which is more energy efficient, cheaper and environment friendly than other modes of transport. But, still, waterborne trade is minuscule compared to other modes.

This Briefing Paper attempts to analyse the scope and benefits of dovetailing riverine and coastal waterway transportation between India and Bangladesh to facilitate diverting traffic from other modes to waterways.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-scope-of-dovetailing-inland-and-coastal-waterways.pdf>

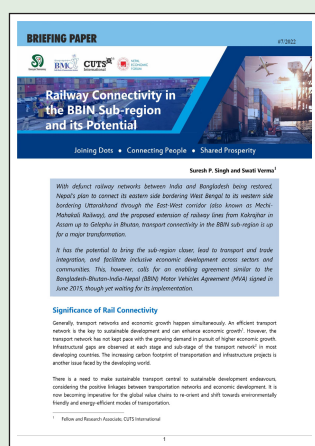


Railway Connectivity in the BBIN Sub-region and its Potential

With defunct railway networks between India and Bangladesh being restored, Nepal's plan to connect its eastern side bordering West Bengal to its western side bordering Uttarakhand through the East-West corridor (also known as Mechi-Mahakali Railway), and the proposed extension of railway lines from Kokrajhar in Assam up to Gelephu in Bhutan, transport connectivity in the BBIN sub-region is up for a major transformation.

The Briefing Paper calls for an enabling agreement similar to the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) signed in June 2015, though yet waiting for its implementation.

https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-railway_connectivity_in_the_BBIN_sub-region_and_its_potential.pdf

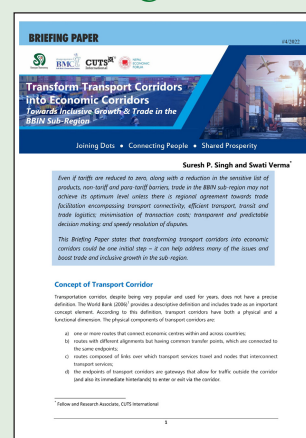


Transform Transport Corridors into Economic Corridors Towards Inclusive Growth & Trade in the BBIN Sub-region

Even if tariffs are reduced to zero, along with a reduction in the sensitive list of products, non-tariff and para-tariff barriers, trade in the BBIN sub-region may not achieve its optimum level; unless there is regional agreement towards trade facilitation encompassing transport connectivity, efficient transport, transit and trade logistics; minimisation of transaction costs; transparent and predictable decision making; and speedy resolution of disputes.

The Briefing Paper states that transforming transport into economic corridors could be one initial step – it can help address many issues and boost trade and inclusive growth in the sub-region.

https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-transforming_transport_corridors_into_economic_corridors_for_inclusive_growth_in_the_BBIN_countries.pdf



Promoting Inclusive Cross-border Trade and Sustainable River Cruise Tourism in Transboundary Rivers

With adequate investments, infrastructure and regulations, river cruise tourism will provide a win-win situation for the public and private sectors and the communities ensuring the sustainability of the economy and environment in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins.

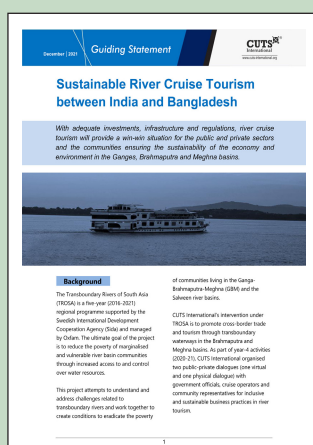
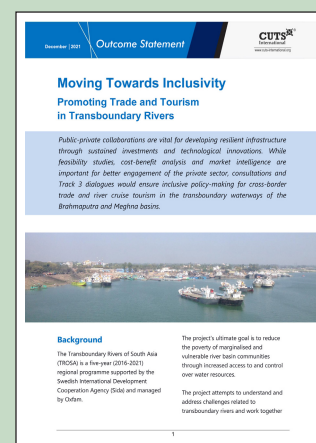
Capturing key messages from the multi-stakeholder dialogues and public-private dialogues organised under the regional programme TROSA, CUTS International has prepared two documents - an Outcome Statement with suggestions to promote cross-border trade and tourism in transboundary rivers and a Guiding Statement that proposes measures for sustainable river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh.

These statements underline the significance of public-private collaborations for developing resilient infrastructure through sustained investments and technological innovations to promote trade and tourism through transboundary waterways.

Moving Towards Inclusivity Promoting Trade and Tourism in Transboundary Rivers

Public-private collaborations are vital for developing resilient infrastructure through sustained investments and technological innovations. While feasibility studies, cost-benefit analysis and market intelligence are important for better engagement of the private sector, consultations and Track 3 dialogues would ensure inclusive policy-making for cross-border trade and river cruise tourism in the transboundary waterways of the Brahmaputra and Meghna basins.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/outcome-statement-trosa.pdf>



Sustainable River Cruise Tourism between India and Bangladesh

With adequate investments, infrastructure and regulations, river cruise tourism will provide a win-win situation for the public and private sectors and the communities ensuring the sustainability of the economy and environment in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/guiding-statement-trosa.pdf>

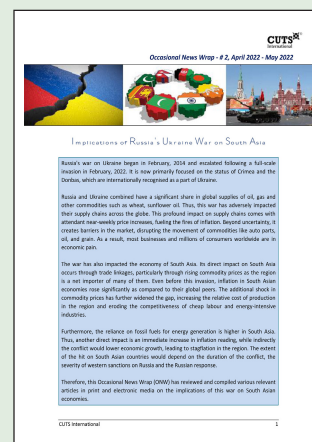
Implications of Russia's Ukraine War on South Asia

Russia's war on Ukraine began in February, 2014 and escalated following a full-scale invasion in February, 2022.

Russia and Ukraine combined have a significant share in global supplies of oil, gas and other commodities such as wheat, sunflower oil. Thus, this war has adversely impacted their supply chains across the globe. Its direct impact on South Asia occurs through trade linkages, particularly through rising commodity prices as the region is a net importer of many of them.

Therefore, this Occasional News Wrap (ONW) has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on the implications of this war on South Asian economies.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-2-2022.pdf>



International trade can address climate change

Expansion in global trade has beneficial effects on climate change as it promotes efficient use of scarce resources and avoids wastage. Also, global trade provides market access which opens paths for developing new products and services to mitigate climate change.

Various international bodies, such as the World Trade Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme and various multilateral environmental agreements have highlighted the role that trade can play in the transition to a global low-carbon economy and a greener, more sustainable society

Therefore, this ONW has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on international trade can address climate change.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/trade-onw-2.pdf>



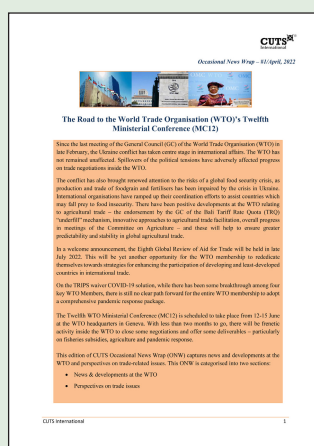
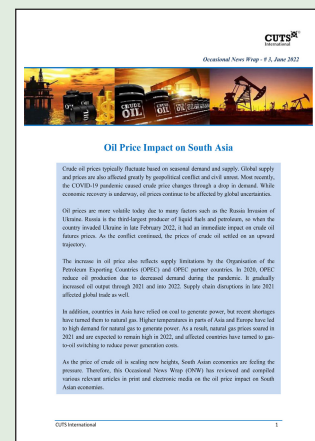
Oil Price Impact on South Asia

Crude oil prices typically fluctuate based on seasonal demand and supply. Global supply and prices are also affected greatly by geopolitical conflict and civil unrest. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic caused crude price changes through a drop in demand.

Oil prices are more volatile today due to many factors such as the Russia invasion of Ukraine, supply limitations by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and others.

As the price of crude oil is scaling new heights, South Asian economies are feeling the pressure. Therefore, this ONW has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on oil price impact on South Asian economies.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-3-2022.pdf>



The Road to the WTO's Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12)

Since the last meeting of the General Council of the WTO in late February, the Ukraine conflict has taken centre stage in international affairs. Spillovers of the political tensions have adversely affected progress on trade negotiations inside the WTO.

The conflict has also brought renewed attention to the risks of a global food security crisis, as production and trade of foodgrain and fertilisers have been impaired by the crisis in Ukraine.

The Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) is scheduled to take place from 12-15 June at the WTO headquarters in Geneva. There will be frenetic activity inside the WTO to close some negotiations and offer some deliverables – particularly on fisheries subsidies, agriculture and pandemic response.

This edition of ONW captures news and developments at the WTO and perspectives on trade-related issues.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-april-1-2022-the-road-to-the-wto-mc12.pdf>

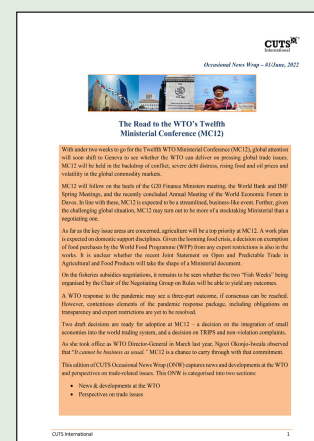
The Road to the WTO's Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12)

With under two weeks to go for the Twelfth WTO MC12, global attention will soon shift to Geneva to see whether the WTO can deliver on pressing global trade issues. MC12 will be held in the backdrop of conflict, severe debt distress, rising food and oil prices, and volatility in the global commodity markets.

MC12 is expected to be a streamlined, business-like event. Given the challenging global situation, MC12 may turn out to be more of a stocktaking Ministerial than a negotiating one.

This edition of ONW captures news and developments at the WTO and perspectives on trade-related issues.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-june-1-2022-the-road-to-the-wto-mc12.pdf>



India at the WTO's Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12)

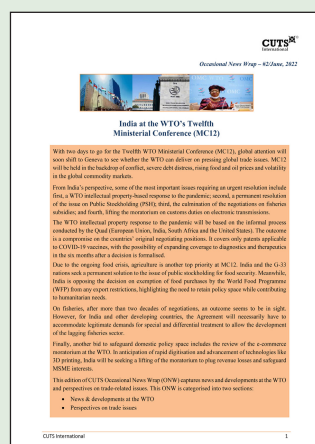
With two days to go for the Twelfth WTO MC12, global attention will soon shift to Geneva to see whether the WTO can deliver on pressing global trade issues. MC12 will be held in the backdrop of conflict, severe debt distress, rising food and oil prices and volatility in the global commodity markets.

From India's perspective, some of the most important issues requiring an urgent resolution include first, a WTO intellectual property-based response to the pandemic; second, a permanent resolution of the issue of Public

Stockholding (PSH); third, the culmination of the negotiations on fisheries subsidies; and fourth, lifting the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions.

This edition of ONW captures news and developments at the WTO and perspectives on trade-related issues.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-june-2-2022-twelfth-ministerial-conference.pdf>



BIMSTEC and Regional Cooperation

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional initiative that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration. It aims to accelerate shared growth and cooperation between and among littoral and adjacent countries in the Bay of Bengal region. The grouping is a bridge between South and Southeast Asia.

Recently, the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 30 March 2022. The leaders of the seven-member states attended the Summit virtually with the Ministers of External/Foreign Affairs present physically at the Summit venue. They adopted and signed the BIMSTEC Charter which will provide institutional support for furthering its objectives.

In this context, this ONW has reviewed various relevant articles in print and electronic media and has compiled them with respect to the BIMSTEC regional cooperation.

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Trade and Food Security

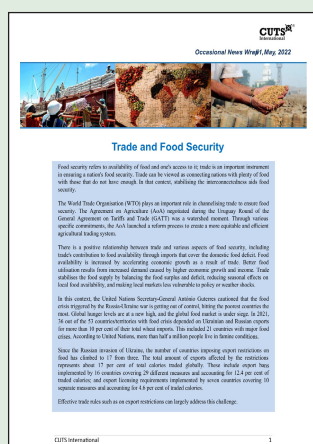
Food security refers to the availability of food and one's access to it; trade plays an important role in ensuring a nation's food security. Trade can be viewed as connecting nations with plenty of food with those that do not have enough. In that context, stabilising the interconnectedness aids food security.

In 2020, more than 800 million people were estimated to be suffering from hunger. Price hikes picked up steam in early 2022, even before the spillovers from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The impact of the war in Ukraine added risk to global food security, with food prices likely to remain high

for the foreseeable future and is expected to push millions of more people into acute food insecurity.

Therefore, this ONW has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on how trade instability is threatening global food security.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/trade-onw-1.pdf>



International Trade - A Blessing in Disguise

Trade has helped increase the number and quality of jobs in developing countries and stimulated economic growth. Trade integration is important not only because of the boost to growth that it can provide but also because there is room for it to be executed in ways that more effectively overcome the constraints faced by the extremely poor.

Trade works as an engine of economic growth and a critical tool for combating poverty. With appropriate trade reforms, governments can loosen constraints while lowering transaction costs, promoting competition, and setting clear rules for cross-border commerce.

Therefore, this ONW has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on the implications of trade on poverty specifically and on the economies in general.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/trade-onw-3.pdf>



The outcome of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Visit to India

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, was on a four-day visit to India and held bilateral talks with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review and strengthen the relationship between both nations.

After many informal talks held since 2018, Bangladesh finally agreed to start negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Programme (CEPA) soon. The primary purpose of the proposed CEPA would be to reduce the huge gap between India and Bangladesh and open up new opportunities.

Therefore, this ONW has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles on her visit and the corresponding outcomes in print and electronic media.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-1-september-2022.pdf>

The Overhaul of India's Trade Policy Administration

India's new Foreign Trade Policy, scheduled to be released by the end of September 2022, has been deferred till the next financial year.

The Department of Commerce has been restructured, establishing distinct verticals for different formats of trade negotiations. The two new broad divisions will now be a Trade Negotiations Bilateral (TNB) wing and a Trade Negotiations Multilateral wing. The policymaking role of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has also been modified.

Furthermore, the government has recently proposed setting up a new Trade Promotion Body to spearhead and lend coherence to India's overall export promotion strategy.

A new Development of Enterprise and Services Hub Bill is also in the works, which seeks to revamp India's Special Economic Zones landscape. This Bill is currently under revision and is expected to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.

Given these developments, this edition of ONW captures news and developments related to the recent overhaul and restructuring of India's trade policy administration.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/onw-1-october-2022.pdf>



DIGITAL STORIES

Connecting the Unconnected *How Connectivity Infrastructure affects the Marginalised Communities in India?*

Improved connectivity reduces logistics costs, creates jobs, and provides better access to services, leading to both ease of doing business and ease of living. An inclusive approach in their planning and timely implementation, by keeping in mind the needs of all stakeholders, particularly those from the marginalised communities, helps generate more and better benefits.

In this context, CUTS International is preparing a series of digital stories titled 'Connecting the Unconnected'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0rYdOCmzpU>



Voices of Women from the Meghna Basin

This digital story has been produced under the regional programme Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA), which aims to understand and address challenges related to transboundary rivers and reduce the poverty of communities.

To voice the concerns of the riverine communities alongside the

transboundary rivers of Tripura, CUTS International organised Nadi Baithoks (river meetings). The Nadi Baithoks are platforms which enable and equip communities to know more about their rights, identify issues that they need to be concerned about, and raise their collective voice to stand up for themselves and protect their livelihoods. These meetings also have women participants.

Women bear the responsibility of water management for household purposes in the riverine communities. They also endure the brunt of floods and erosion disproportionately. However, women's involvement in water governance and decision making is minimal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TBfyYab5jg>



Boating Towards Inclusivity

Trade and transit through inland waterways between India and Bangladesh are governed by the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) which is operational since 1972. CUTS study under the regional programme TROSA has

pointed out that short-haul trade through transboundary waterways would benefit the local producers, consumers and traders.

The study stresses engaging with local communities and youth so that they can harness the emerging opportunities in cross border trade through waterways.

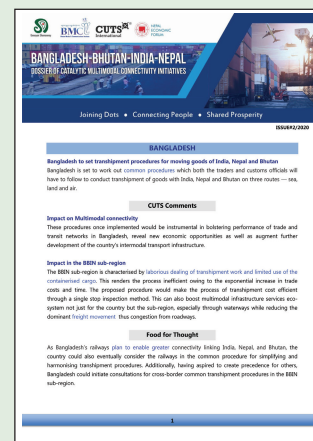
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uYxVg9BeOM>



Catalytic Multimodal Connectivity Initiatives in the BBIN Subregion

This Dossier on Catalytic Multimodal Connectivity Initiatives in the BBIN subregion reviews four stories, one each for the four countries. It aims to underscore the scale and impact of contemporary infrastructure connectivity initiatives. They reflect in-depth assessments in view of their national, cross-border, sub-regional and inter-regional dimensions of connectivity and include food for thought. This initiative is a part of the M-Connect Project.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/dossier-2-catalytic-multimodal-connectivity-initiatives.pdf>



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Preferential Trade Agreements

Since 2007, CUTS International has been producing a Quarterly Dossier on “Preferential Trade Agreements & India.” This Dossier does not cover PTAs that India has entered into or expected to enter in future. Selectively, it covers PTAs of other countries which can have implications on the Indian economy in general and trade in particular.

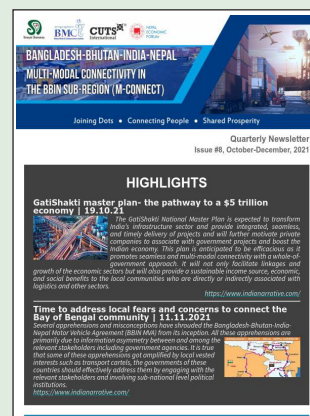
<https://cuts-citee.org/dossier-on-preferential-trade-agreements-ptas/>

M-Connect Quarterly Newsletter

With support from the UK's FCDO under its Asia Regional Trade and Connectivity Programme and in partnership with Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh, Bhutan Media and Communications Institute and Nepal Economic Forum, CUTS International together with its partners is implementing a project on Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN Sub-region.

The Asian Development Bank is a knowledge partner as this project will complement the work of its Transport Division in the SASEC (South Asian Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) region. As part of various activities under this project, this Newsletter, is published highlighting various developments and initiatives for promoting connectivity in this sub-region.

<https://cuts-citee.org/enabling-a-political-economy-discourse-for-multi-modal-connectivity-in-the-bbin-bangladesh-bhutan-india-nepal-sub-region/>



CUTS CITEE in Action

This quarterly report summarises major activities undertaken by the Centre during the period. It provides a quick overview of various operations of the Centre and corresponding outputs.

<https://cuts-citee.org/cuts-citee-in-action/>

E-FORUMS

CUTS Trade Forum

‘CUTS-TradeForum’ is an e-platform to exchange views and opinions on contemporary issues of international trade, trade-related regulations and economic development. It helps its stakeholders to share information and participate in regular discussions and debates.

<https://groups.google.com/u/1/a/cuts.org/g/CUTS-TradeForum>

CUTS South Asia E-Group

‘CUTS South Asia E-Group’ provides an e-platform to discuss, share views and opinions on trade and economics among relevant stakeholders from the South.

<https://groups.google.com/u/1/a/cuts.org/g/CUTS-SouthAsia>