

# Publications Digest 2023

*CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) produces this document for informing the relevant stakeholders about its major publications in 2023.*

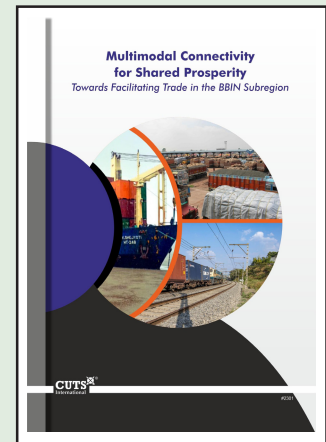
## REPORT

### Multimodal Connectivity for Shared Prosperity Towards Facilitating Trade in the BBIN Subregion

The ever-transitional dynamics of South Asia have always been responsive to multifarious geopolitical demands, in congruence with its ambitions of coping with the emerging global order. Over the past few decades, several cooperative mechanisms and theories have been formulated to strengthen the region's trade and economic integration pursuit. A remarkable instance of such mechanisms is BBIN collegial framework.

To benefit from the immense potential and shared prosperity through improved cooperation and economic integration, there is an urgent need to have a clear understanding of the potential benefits and challenges of infrastructure, policy, and regulatory gaps; and undertake a concerted initiative towards implementing seamless multimodal transport connectivity in the subregion.

[https://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/report\\_multimodal\\_connectivity\\_for\\_shared\\_prosperity.pdf](https://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/report_multimodal_connectivity_for_shared_prosperity.pdf)



## Webinars

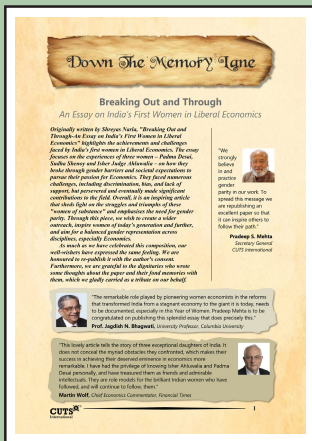
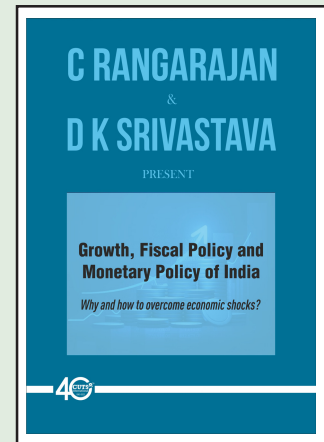
In 2023, CUTS International successfully organised a series of webinars that provided a dynamic, engaging and informative platform for discussions and deliberations by experts on topical and thought-provoking issues.

# Growth, Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy of India *Why and how to overcome economic shocks?*

CUTS organised a webinar entitled to launch a compendium entitled, ‘Growth, Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy of India: *Why and how to overcome economic shocks?*’ on September 26, 2023. This compendium covers a collection of insightful articles authored by C Rangarajan, former Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and D K Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India and former Director Madras School of Economics, since the onset of COVID-10 pandemic. They have been thoughtfully categorised into: Growth, Fiscal Policy, and Monetary Policy.

It serves as a valuable repository of expert insights, offering a nuanced understanding of critical economic facets of overcoming economic shocks from pandemic-induced challenges by fiscal prudence and balanced monetary policy. It is a testament to the authors’ dedication towards fostering an informed discourse of relevant economic policies.

<https://tinyurl.com/4735tbvz>



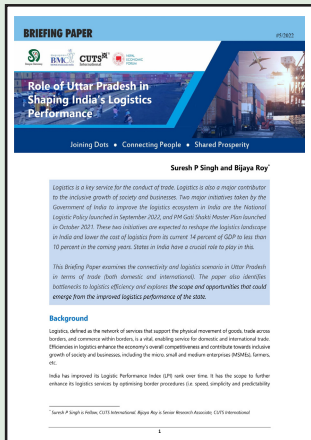
## Down the Memory Lane: Breaking Out and Through

CUTS International has republished the piece, “Breaking Out and Through - An Essay on India’s First Women in Liberal Economics”, originally written by Shreyas Narla, Consultant, Mercatus Centre, George Mason University, USA.

The author brilliantly narrates the story of three exemplary women in the field of Liberal Economics- Padma Desai, Sudha Shenoy and Isher Judge Ahluwalia; on how they broke through gender barriers and societal expectations to pursue their passion for the same. This piece will be greatly inspiring to the women of today’s generation and further, knowing that Economics as a discipline lacks balanced gender representation, even today.

<https://cuts-international.org/PDF/down-the-memory-lane-breaking-out-and-through.pdf>

## BRIEFS



# Role of Uttar Pradesh in Shaping India's Logistics Performance

Logistics is a key service for the conduct of trade. Logistics is also a major contributor to the inclusive growth of society and businesses. Two major initiatives taken by the Government of India to improve the logistics ecosystem in India are the National Logistic Policy launched in September 2022, and PM Gati Shakti Master Plan launched in October 2021.

This Briefing Paper examines the connectivity and logistics scenario in Uttar Pradesh in terms of trade

(both domestic and international). The paper also identifies bottlenecks to logistics efficiency and explores the scope and opportunities that could emerge from the improved logistics performance of the state.

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

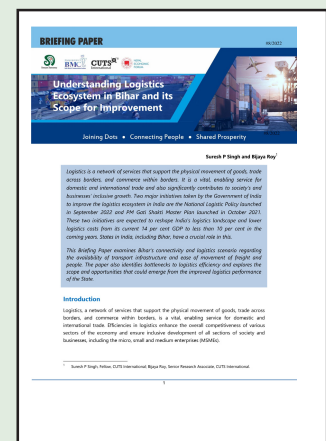
# Understanding Logistics Ecosystem in Bihar and its Scope for Improvement

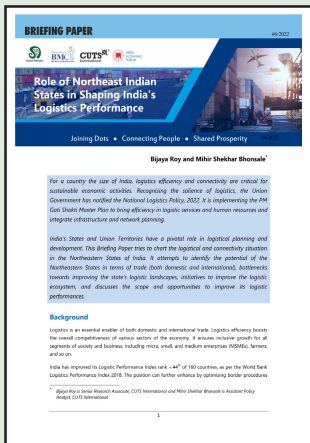
Two major initiatives taken by the Government of India to improve the logistics ecosystem in India are the National Logistic Policy launched in September 2022 and PM Gati Shakti Master Plan launched in October 2021. These two initiatives are expected to reshape India's logistics landscape and lower logistics costs from its current 14 per cent GDP to less than 10 per cent in the coming years. States in India, including Bihar, have a crucial role in this.

This Briefing Paper examines Bihar's connectivity and logistics scenario regarding the availability of transport infrastructure and ease of movement of freight and people.

The paper also identifies bottlenecks to logistics efficiency and explores the scope and opportunities that could emerge from the improved logistics performance of the State.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-understanding-logistics-ecosystem-in-bihar-and-its-scope-for-improvement.pdf>





## Role of Northeast Indian States in Shaping India's Logistics Performance

Recognising the salience of logistics, the Union Government has notified the National Logistics Policy, 2022. It is implementing the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan to bring efficiency in logistic services and human resources and integrate infrastructure and network planning. India's States and Union Territories have a pivotal role in logistical planning and development.

This Briefing Paper tries to chart the logistical and connectivity situation in the Northeastern States of India. It attempts to identify the potential of the Northeastern States in terms of trade (both domestic and international), bottlenecks towards improving the state's logistic landscapes, initiatives to improve the logistic ecosystem, and discusses the scope and opportunities to improve its logistic performances.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-role-of-northeast-indian-states-in-shaping-indias-logistics-performance.pdf>

## Scope and Potential for Multimodal ICPs in the Northeast Region of India

One major development that has significantly contributed to increased trade among the BBIN countries is the establishment of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at several border check posts, replacing the Land Customs Stations (LCS).

This Briefing Paper attempts to explore the possibility of connecting operational ICPs in the Northeast Region (NER) of India with multimodal transportation –railways, waterways, and airways. It identifies two ICPs at Sutarkandi in Assam and Sabroom in Tripura, which has the potential to be connected with other modes of transportation in addition to roadways.

Further, the paper also argues for making Dhubri river port in Assam a multimodal ICP based on its strategic location and its proximity to different modes of transportation.

[https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-scope\\_and\\_potential\\_for\\_multimodal\\_icps\\_in\\_the\\_northeast\\_region\\_of\\_india.pdf](https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-scope_and_potential_for_multimodal_icps_in_the_northeast_region_of_india.pdf)



# Strengthening Inter-State Connectivity in India's Bordering States for Trade and Inclusive Development



India's bordering states comprise states which share international land borders with countries in Eastern South and Southeast Asia, namely Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Despite their strategic importance, the economic progress of these states has remained sub-optimal both in terms of basic infrastructure and logistical performance, and their logistics remain in poor condition.

This may change now given two significant initiatives by the Government of India to improve India's logistics ecosystem- the National Logistics Policy launched in September 2022 and PM Gati Shakti Master Plan launched in October 2021.

This Briefing Paper attempts to understand transport connectivity and logistics preparedness of India's bordering states to fully contribute towards making India a global manufacturing and logistics hub. It also suggests measures to improve the logistics and trade ecosystem.

<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/bp-strengthening-inter-state-connectivity-in-indias-bordering-states.pdf>

# Establishing a Consensus on Development: On G20-Led WTO Reforms

The preamble to the agreement establishing the WTO recognises the need for developing countries to ensure they can “secure a share in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.” The WTO's built-in agenda was designed against this backdrop; however, its partial and unsatisfactory fulfilment has led to increasing frustration among developing countries.



There is a crucial need to undertake a comprehensive review of the systemic issues plaguing the WTO's rulemaking, implementation, and dispute-settlement functions to identify the issues that are stiling prospects of trade and development in developing countries.

This will offer evidence-based and pragmatic compromises to reinvigorate and possibly institutionalise a development-oriented approach to the WTO's functioning. India's G20 presidency offers an opportunity to drive reformatory interventions for a development-friendly WTO and enable further tangible benefits from the special and differential treatment provisions to which developing countries are entitled.

<https://t20ind.org/research/establishing-a-consensus-on-development/>

### Trade and Sustainability: Converging or diverging?

Responsible and sustainable trade practices can contribute significantly to the achievement of global sustainability goals such as poverty reduction, better access to new technologies, and climate action. By promoting responsible production and consumption, fostering economic development, encouraging innovation and collaboration, and enhancing resilience, international trade can play an intrinsic role in creating a more sustainable and prosperous world.

Therefore, the fourth edition of Trade and Environment Week of the World Trade Organisation, held in Geneva on June 12-16, 2023, focused on collaborative trade policies to tackle pressing environmental issues, such as climate change, related natural disasters, pollution and biodiversity loss.

With this background and context, this Occasional News Wrap has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on the global need for sustainable trade practices.



<https://cuts-citee.org/pdf/trade-onw-4.pdf>

## DIGITAL STORY

### Gender Inclusivity in Trade and Connectivity *A Collage of Stories from the BBIN Subregion*

CUTS International produced a digital story ‘Gender Inclusivity in Trade and Connectivity *A collage of stories from the BBIN sub-region*’ that captures women’s needs and priorities concerning transport connectivity, under the project “Enabling a Political Economy Discourse for Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan India, Nepal) Sub-region” (M-Connect),

The story highlights the need for gender-inclusive road transportation and suggests measures to be adopted while planning, designing and implementing infrastructure projects.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ek0AFVQRpY>

## NEWSLETTERS

### 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/>



### 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/>

### 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>

