



# BRIEF

## Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals

### Credentials



# We are a **Public Policy Research** organization empowering:

Economic Growth



Trade Facilitation

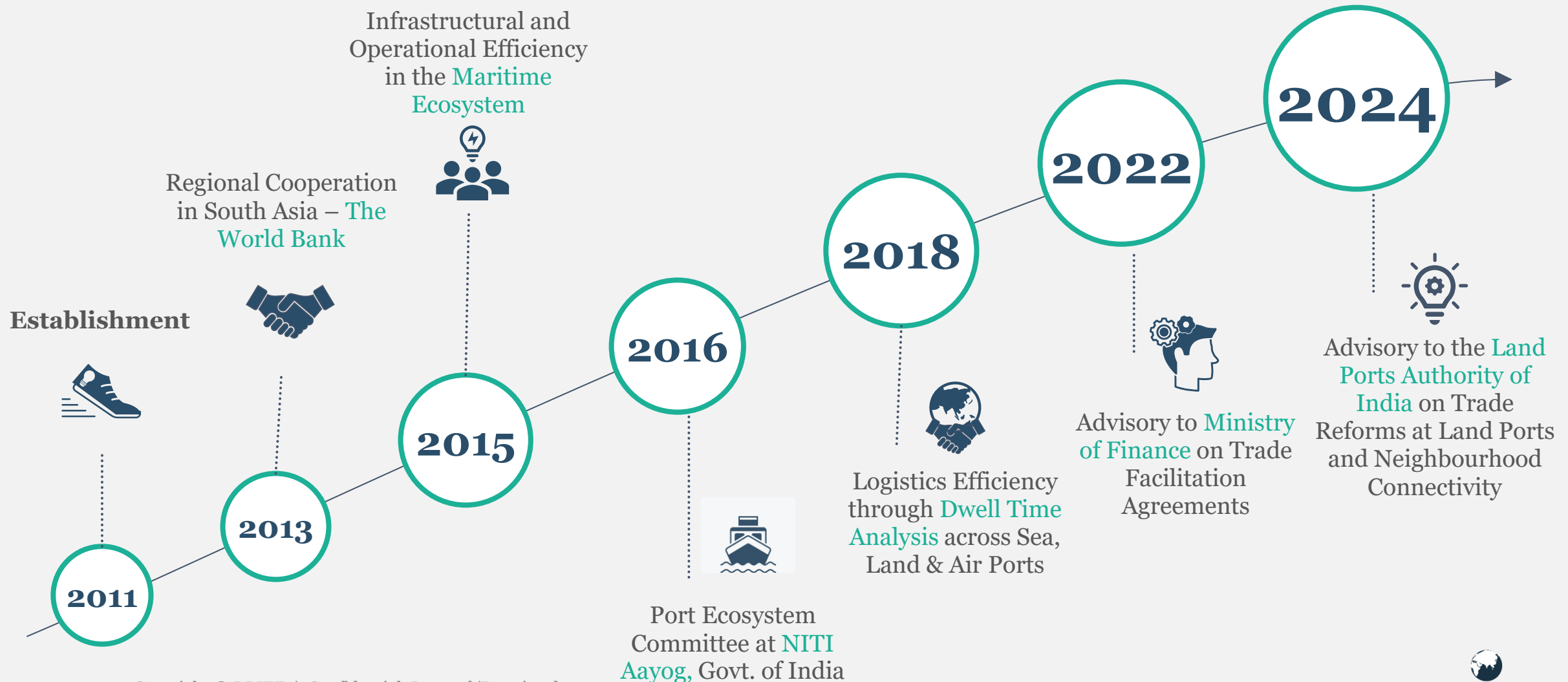


Good Governance

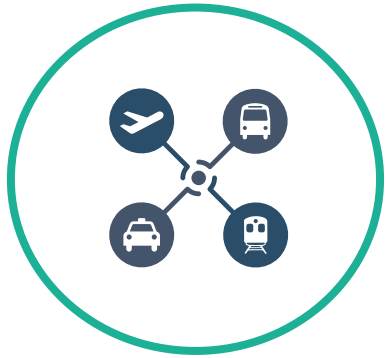
Regional Connectivity



# Our journey and growing role as an advisor within Policy Establishments



# We work across the Trade Ecosystem within the Country



Multi-modal  
Cargo Movement  
both EXIM &  
Domestic



Bilateral/Multi-  
lateral Trade  
Connectivity &  
Cooperation



Sustainability  
and Gender  
Inclusion within  
Trade



Training &  
Workshops with  
Academic &  
Trade  
Institutions

We are one of the leading  
knowledge partners on  
**Trade Facilitation** in India

## Trade Facilitation Intervention

**A** Time Release Studies on Cargo Movement

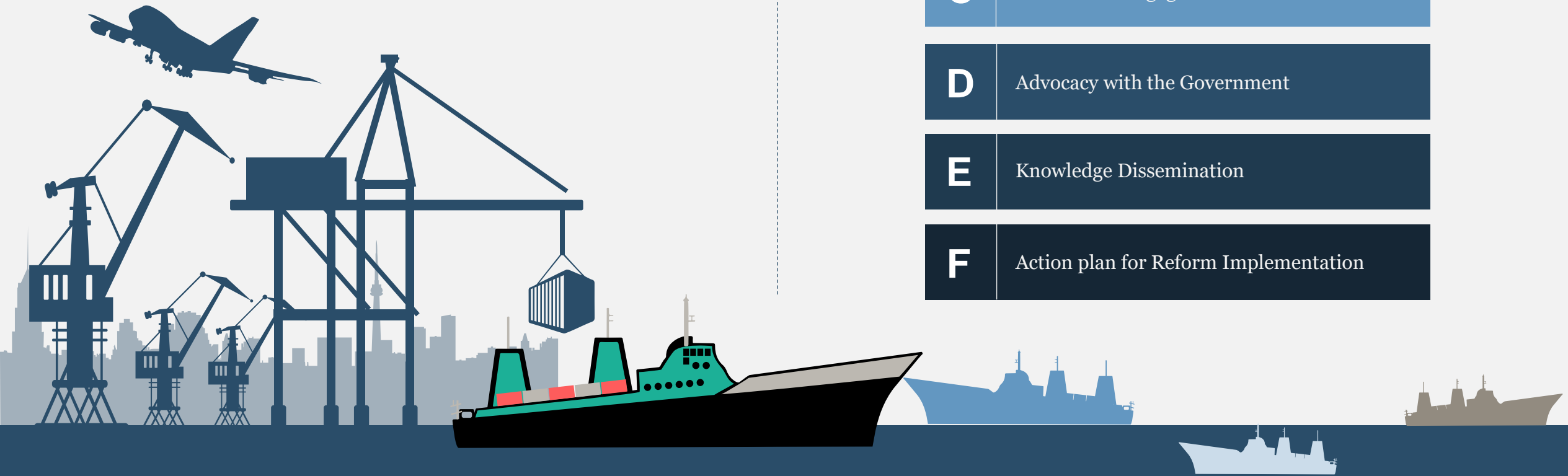
**B** Developing Literature on Trade Facilitation

**C** Continuous Engagement with Stakeholders

**D** Advocacy with the Government

**E** Knowledge Dissemination

**F** Action plan for Reform Implementation



# We work with an array of stakeholders within the Trade Ecosystem



# Our Diverse Work on Public Policy Reform on Trade

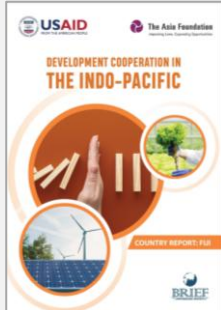
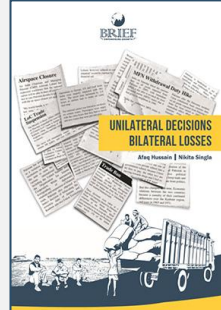
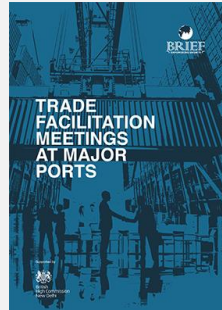
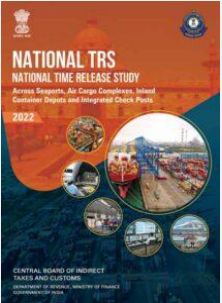
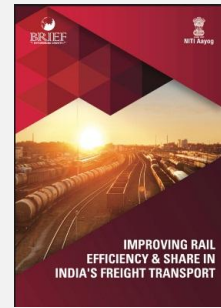
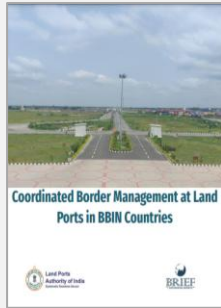
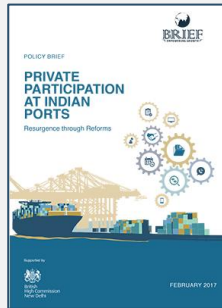
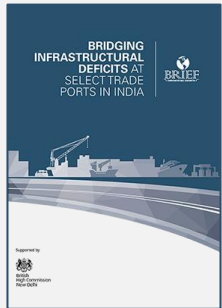


## Trade facilitation

## Regional Connectivity

## Sectoral Reports

## Policy Advocacy



# Why BRIEF?

## Experience

Experience of working on bilateral projects involving multiple countries on sectors including financial services, SME, apart from other joint strategic projects.

## Diversity

A diverse and dedicated team with experience of working in various economies of SAARC, South-East Asia and MENA regions

## Knowledge Partnership

Knowledge partners on Trade Facilitation in India with extensive work on WTO agreements and Ease of Doing Business



## Advisory

Worked with the highest office in the Government of India - Committee of the Prime Minister's Office on issues related to Trade Facilitation

## Networking

Strong network within the government and Industry to undertake policy reforms and advocacy related assignments

## Industry Collaboration

Knowledge Partnership with national level Industry chambers in India – FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, FIEO, etc.



We are scaling new heights every year

**250+**

**Delivered  
Projects**

**25+**

**Team  
Members**

**30+**

**Publications**



Stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing is at the core of our interventions

# Our Partners



# Our Leadership



**Mohammed Saqib**

- Over 30 years of experience on research and consulting with a focus on economics and international trade
- Secretary General at India China Economic and Cultural Council
- Served as an expert on key government committees on international trade
- Has lead international trade and economy related projects for organizations like The World Bank, European Union, ADB, WWF, UNDP, Government of India, etc.
- Advisor to CEO, Invest Abu Dhabi (2011-2013)



**Subrata Bandyopadhyay**

- Over 25 years of experience in international trade and logistics, MSME industry and in socio-economic research
- Primary focus on Industry and MSME sector with survey based primary research
- Undertaken multiple large scale surveys and initiated technology based surveys for clients
- Formerly associated with NCAER and NISTADS (a constituent establishment of CSIR)



**Afaq Hussain**

- Over 20 years of experience in international trade, logistics & market consulting focusing on trade facilitation, logistics, non-tariff barriers
- Advisor/Consultant at the World Bank, ADB & UNDP
- Leading various government assignments aimed at enhancing India's trading environment and improving efficiency at seaports
- Member of the working group of the Infrastructure Connectivity vertical, for preparing the Development Agenda for India@75, at NITI Aayog
- Authored multiple reports, papers, newspaper articles, focusing on trade facilitation and logistics



# Our Key Engagements

# Case I: Infrastructural, Operational & Regulatory Evaluation at Major Public Trade Ports in India

A benchmark report that initiated the discussions on trade facilitation at the highest level within the policy corridors



- **Infrastructural & operational appraisal:** capacity, equipment, mechanisation, cargo movement, connectivity, logistics, tariff, procedures, etc.
- **Policy Review:** existing regulations, WTO guidelines, bilateral agreements, Customs codes, Model Concession Agreements, Government plans
- **Global Benchmarking** on internationally accepted parameters of maritime efficiency

- **Stakeholder engagements:** Engagements with the port authorities, traders, shipping lines, port operators, industry associations, concerned ministries, etc.
- **Interactions with the Government:** Discussions with relevant ministries & departments of the government
- **Identifying challenges/issues:** Port-wise challenges of infra inadequacy, operational issues and policy shortcomings

- **Action Plan:** Develop a port-wise action plan to mitigate the challenges and improve efficiency
- **Policy recommendations:** Develop policy recommendations for various government ministries and departments and also devise mechanism to implement the reforms

Our intervention impacted 7 major trade ports handling around 70% of EXIM Cargo



# Case II: Improving Ease of Doing Business Environment through Optimization of Trading Across Borders



Ease of Doing Business

**65 Rank Leap**  
in 5 Years

## Started with identifying the challenges

- Static Ease of Doing Business ranking
- No Existing mechanism to map the cargo clearance procedures across four port categories, viz. seaport, inland container depot, air cargo complex and integrated check posts
- Multiple stakeholders working in silo



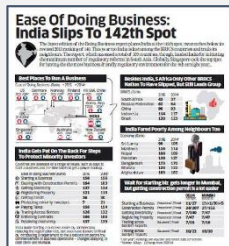
## Developed a process mapping framework

- End to end mapping of EXIM cargo movement
- Multi-stakeholder engagement: port, Customs, Freight carriers, Freight stations, Traders, Agents, Security agencies, etc.
- Calculating time and cost associated for each step in the entire process
- Develop a robust quantitative assessment tool that can be automated

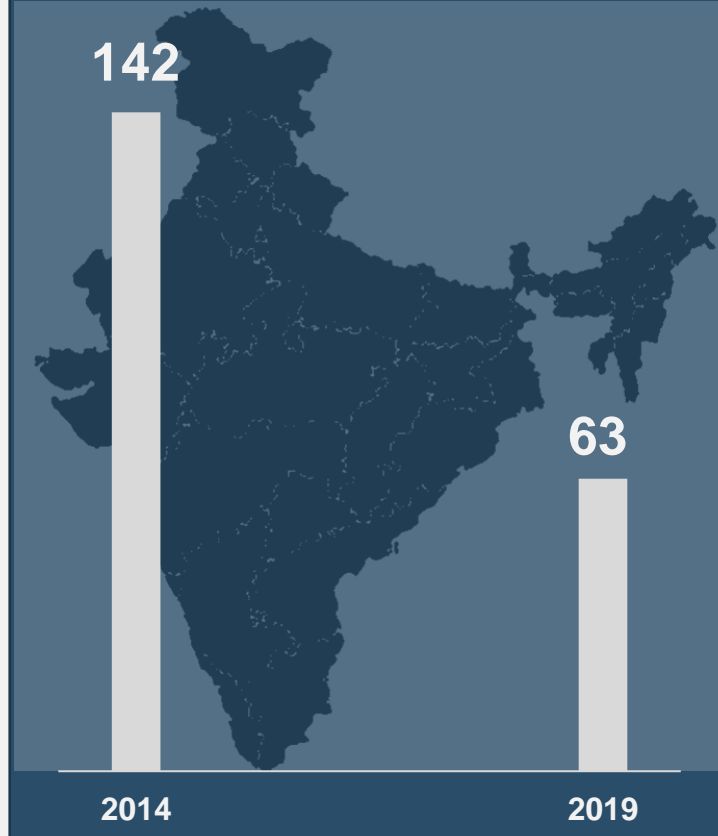
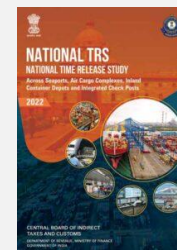


## Improved Trading Across Borders

- A quantitative tool that allows the government to track cargo clearance across the ports in the country
- A policy document outlining the reforms needed for improving Trading Across Borders
- A platform for multi-stakeholder engagement that allows and facilitates the reform implementation



Country	2021		2022		Excluded
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	
China	1	85.0	1	85.0	0
Denmark	2	84.0	2	84.0	0
Finland	3	83.0	3	83.0	0
France	4	82.0	4	82.0	0
Germany	5	81.0	5	81.0	0
India	142	58.0	142	58.0	0
Japan	143	57.0	143	57.0	0
South Korea	144	56.0	144	56.0	0
USA	145	55.0	145	55.0	0



# Case III: Development Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region

## Background

From the west coast of India to the western shores of the US, the Indo-Pacific is increasingly becoming an important geo-strategic space – a hub of global trade and energy, a crucial player in maintaining regional stability, and a rallying point for countries like the US, Australia, China, India and Japan to articulate their strategic postures

## Engagement

Ground level assessment with the relevant stakeholders during the course of the project, to gain detailed information on countries and organizations working in these sectors, programme launched as well as to identify the gaps and challenges with respect to aid.



Part of The Asia Foundation's 'Think tank engagement on Indo Pacific issues': Supported by US Embassy  
Opportunities for India's Participation in Global Value Chains



## Outcome

Country-level reports focusing on:

- Development Assistance in Disaster Risk Resilience
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Renewable Energy sectors
- Identification of development partners



# Case IV: India-Australia Partnership in Strengthening the Trade Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific



## Project Details

The programme explores how India and Australia can collaborate to promote bilateral and regional trade with focused attention on digital financial transactions and systems within the trade ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific. The research focuses on areas of shared interests, challenges, and opportunities in the trade ecosystem of the Indo-Pacific region, where Australia and India can jointly support the expansion of trade with the focused application of digital tools.



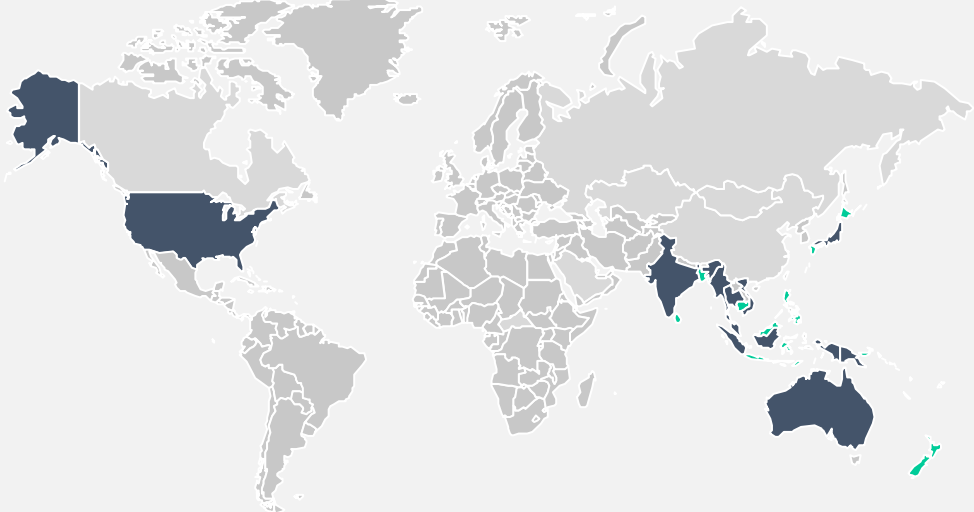
## Programme Approach

The initiative involves engagements with government representatives across countries, international missions, academic institutes, think tanks and trade & industry associations.



## Outcome

Two policy briefs in support of a supply chain integrated trade environment in the Indo-Pacific focusing on Australia and India as trade partners



The engagements span across South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific sub-regions

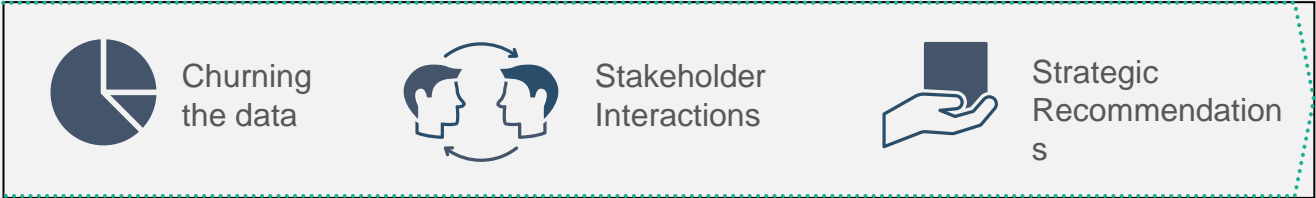


# Case V: Indian Maritime Trade Landscape and Opportunities for British Businesses to Bolster Bilateral Trade

## Approach



## Methodology



Identification of trade opportunities for British businesses in India and suggesting ways to overcome non-tariff barriers to amplify bilateral trade

# Case VI: Developing a Strategic, Diplomatic & Economic Rationale for the Eastern Maritime Corridor between India and Russia

## Objectives of the Study

- ▶ Identifying opportunities for the ports at both ends of the route
- ▶ Feasibility of identified parameters, initiatives and scenarios on the proposed route
- ▶ Opportunities of enhancing bilateral trade between India & Russia through a new sea link
- ▶ Develop economic rationale and revenue projections
- ▶ Research & elaboration of organizational scheme for opening a sea line between port of Chennai and Vladivostok



Sea route between Chennai & other Indian Ports on the East Coast & Russian Ports in the Russian Far East

## Approach

- ▶ Bilateral trade & eastern coast traffic analysis
- ▶ Trade potential analysis & hinterland mapping
- ▶ Infrastructure & connectivity mapping
- ▶ Stakeholder engagement & trader collaboration

## Outcomes of the Study

- ▶ List of potential commodities that can be traded through the new route
- ▶ Bottlenecks, barriers hindering the trade. Strategies to overcome the barriers
- ▶ Sea bound commercial trade potential via proposed Corridor for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years
- ▶ Short/Medium/Long term strategies to implement the project
- ▶ Action plan to establish the Eastern Maritime Corridor by involving the two Governments and other stakeholders

# Case VII: Coordinated Border Management at Land Ports in BBIN Countries

## Starting with defining the context

- Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have been at the core of India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Look East' policies
- Intra-regional trade remains a key thrust area to ensure sustainable growth in the region
- Over the years, several initiatives have been taken by Indian agencies to improve cross-border trade i.e. establishment of ICPs by LPAI
- However, delays due to physical and non-physical barriers continue to hamper smooth movement of goods in the region



## Outlining intervention areas and developing an action plan

- To facilitate faster cross-border trade and increase competitiveness, coordinated border management, entailing synchronized and synergized documentation, development of common infrastructure as well as alignment of working hours and procedures at these border points was the key intervention required
- This study provided an action plan for setting up coordinated border management between India and its neighbours (Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal), while carefully assessing the feasibility of common facilitation, in terms of development of infrastructure and alignment of regulatory procedures



## Aligning with the government's vision and key frameworks

- The coordinated border management action plan aligned with the vision of the Government of India as part of the NTFAP (National Trade Facilitation Action Plan) Action Point 10 (Reference TFA provision: 8.2) and towards achieving the NTFAP target of bringing down the average import release time to 48 hours and average export time to 24 hours for land ports
- To make progress towards NTFAP Action Point 10, special focus was on facilitating alignment of working days/hours, development of common facilities and establishment of common facilitation center

# Action Plan Developed for ICPs on the India-Nepal, India-Bhutan and India-Bangladesh Borders



# Case VIII: Promoting Regional Connectivity through Trade between Bangladesh, India, and Nepal (BIN)



## Research Problem

*How can the intra-regional trade between BIN countries be amplified in the presence of political and tariff barriers?*

South Asia is one of the largest food grain producing regions, however, it is also home to approximately two-fifths of the food-insecure population in the world. The intra-regional agricultural trade has historically been low in South Asia due to lower yields, a large population to sustain, goal of achieving self-sufficiency, and prevalence high tariffs. Further, protectionism and domestic subsidies have been at the fulcrum of agricultural policies in South Asia.



## Actions

Three levels of analysis were conducted in the study:

- Procurement stage in India - Analysis consists of factors such as input subsidies, domestic production and consumption, and the dynamics of price change in the Indian market
- The export stage – This stage analyzed the prevalence of tariff and non-tariff barriers that exist at the border points
- Consumption stage in Bangladesh & Nepal - This stage analyzed the trend in consumption and the factors that drive exports from India to Nepal and Bangladesh



## Outcome

A comprehensive report highlighting the challenges that the trade is facing, identifying tariff & non-tariff barriers that exist, underlining processes, policies & people that play an important role in the entire supply chain. The report also came out with an action plan for policy establishment & other stakeholders to improve the intra-regional trade.



# Our Publications



Bridging Infrastructural Deficits at Select Trade Ports in India  
<https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Bridging-Infrastructural-Deficits.pdf>



Coordinated Border Management at Land Ports in BBIN  
<https://www.briefindia.com/coordinated-border-management-at-land-ports-in-bbin-countries-2/>



The Political Economy of Rice Trade between BIN Countries  
<https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-Political-Economy-of-Rice-Trade.pdf>



MRO in India: Trends, Challenges & Way Forward  
[https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/MRO\\_Report-FINAL.pdf](https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/MRO_Report-FINAL.pdf)



Country report on Development Cooperation in Indo-Pacific-  
<https://www.briefindia.com/complementarity-of-indian-development-cooperation-with-similar-initiatives-in-the-indo-pacific-cambodia/>



Improving Rail Efficiency & Share in India's Freight Transport  
<https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Efficiency-and-competitiveness-of-Indian-Railways.pdf>



Opportunities for India's Participation in GVCs  
<https://www.briefindia.com/policy-report-opportunities-for-indias-participation-in-global-value-chains/>



National Time Release Study 2023  
[https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/National-Time-Release-Study\\_2023\\_India.pdf](https://www.briefindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/National-Time-Release-Study_2023_India.pdf)

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