India’s Trade Facilitation Reforms - TFA and Beyond
Agenda

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02 Commitments under WTO TFA
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**Institutional mechanism for Trade Facilitation – India’s NCTF**

**Article 23.2 of TFA:** Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

- **Structure of NCTF** is all inclusive with the representation from **private industry, women traders** and **government stakeholders** from various line Ministries.

- **NCTF** follows a **goal-based approach** and acts as the custodian of trade facilitation in the country:
  - Develop and implement **National Trade Facilitation action plan**
  - Conducts **evaluative TRS studies** to measure the impact on release time
  - Conducts **Surveys** to evaluate the perception of trade
Commitments under WTO TFA

**Category A (72%)**
Commitments which India was complying with, on the date of ratification of TFA

**Category B (28%)**
Commitments which were to be complied in time period of 5 years

India has been implementing TF plus measures since 2017 through creation of NTFAP 2017-20 and NTFAP 2020-23. Now India is in the process of drafting NTFAP 2023-26 to take it forward.

Learnings from NTFAP 2020-23

NTFAP 20-23 Framework design & finalization

Interactions with concerned Ministries

Development of Action points

Private Sector Consultation

Finalization of Action Points through Working Groups

Launch of NTFAP 2023-26
Indian customs introduced the ‘Turant Customs’ programme as a key initiative to enable faster clearance and reduce the cost as well as compliance burden involved in the EXIM trade.

**Faceless Customs**
- Anonymous Customs Assessment
- Remote Customs Assessment
- Uniform Customs Assessment
- Faster Customs Assessment

**Paperless Customs**
- Electronic submission of all supporting documents on E-sanchit platform
- Provision of NOC through SWIFT platform for clearance of Imports.

**Contactless Customs**
- Web based goods registration by importer
- Automated queuing and machine enabled customs out of charge
- Online video interface only when necessary
- Turant Seva Kendra for document verification
Technology Reforms - beyond TFA

**E- Sanchit**
- Submission of all supporting documents in digital platform.
- Uploading of licenses/certificates issued by PGAs, thereby ensuring authenticity.

**DGARM**
- A dedicated directorate for data analytics and risk management through use of AI/ML based interventions

**RMS**
- Precise targeting through use of AI/ML
- Enhanced facilitation of cargo
- Integration of PGAs with the Indian Customs RMS

**SWIFT**
- Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) for lodging standardized information and documents at single-entry point.
- Single Window Phase II containing features such as Unified dashboard, Unified application and Unified payment is under process.

**Other Initiatives**
- Electronic Cargo Tracking System
Infrastructural Reforms - beyond TFA

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan addresses last mile road and rail connectivity between economic zones and customs ports

Focus on promoting non Intrusive examination of cargo through installation of scanners

DPD and DPE Infrastructure in form of Container yards at ports and Centralized parking plaza (CPP) for faster clearance of Factory Stuffed containers

100% RFID Based EXIM Containers tracking in Country

Conversion of Land Customs Stations to Integrated Check Posts which houses all regulatory agencies, such as immigration, customs and border security at one place

Upgradation of Central Revenues Control Laboratories (CRCL)
Anonymised Escalation Mechanism
User submit grievances pertaining to delay in Bill of Entry clearance under faceless assessment

Scorecard for CBs
An EODB scorecard system has been implemented which contains performance of Custom brokers based on 5 various parameters for each month. It sensitize the customs brokers about facilitation measures taken to reduce time & cost of clearance

ICETAB
Provides the shed officers mobile access to the ICES application to facilitate in the examination of cargo and help them submit their examination report in ICES immediately on completion of the examination

Compliance Information Portal (CIP)
Provide free, easy, and quick access to information on all Customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 Customs Tariff Items

Body worn camera
To Improve transparency, boarding officer will wear a boarding Jacket fitted with Body Worn Camera (“BWC”) having a video/audio recording facility

QRcode-based sampling
Assist in monitoring the activities at the various stages of entire sampling process chain of the samples drawn for testing at ports laboratory
Impact of TF Reforms – Reduction in Overall Release Time (1/2)

Reduction in import release time at JNPT (between Vessel Arrival to Customs clearance): 2017-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Release Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>181:34 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>139:85 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>103:6 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>93:6 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>75:31 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>55:27 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AEO and RMS facilitated data represent a sub-set of the all-in-one average time | Source: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 TRS published by JNCH, National TRS 2021 & 2022
A recent survey, to determine the cost benefits of the DPD scheme, was conducted by CII at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port. The results indicate that:

- Average of INR 6,953 saved by importer in DPD mode as compared to CFS clearance for 20’ container and INR 14,812 for 40’ container.
- Approximately 5-7 days are saved by importer in DPD mode as compared to CFS clearance.

### Comparison of Cost of Container in CFS and DPD for Imports Clearance

**20’ container**
- Average Cost of clearance under CFS model (INR): 10,330
- Average Cost of clearance under DPD mode (INR): 3,377

**40’ container**
- Average Cost of clearance under CFS model (INR): 19,495
- Average Cost of clearance under DPD mode (INR): 4,683

### Comparison of Time of Container in CFS and DPD for Imports Clearance

**Under CFS Model**
- 1.5 days at terminal and 5-7 days at CFS

**Under DPD Model**
- 2 days at terminal only

Source: Analyzing Ease of Doing Business through Process Improvements and Financial Benefits (Confederation of Indian Industry and Du Point Nutrition & Health)
Thank You