Mr Surjit Bhujabal, Member Customs, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Special Secretary to Government of India
India’s growth trajectory in UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation since 2015

2023
Transparency: 100%
Formalities: 100%
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 100%
Paperless Trade: 100%
Cross-border paperless trade: 66.67%

2021
Transparency: 100%
Formalities: 95.83%
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89%
Paperless Trade: 96.3%
Cross-border paperless trade: 66.67%

2019
Transparency: 93.33%
Formalities: 87.5%
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 66.67%
Paperless Trade: 81.48%
Cross-border paperless trade: 55.56%

2017
Transparency: 93.33%
Formalities: 70.83%
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 66.67%
Paperless Trade: 77.78%
Cross-border paperless trade: 27.78%

2015
Transparency: 80%
Formalities: 70.83%
Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 44.44%
Paperless Trade: 77.78%
Cross-border paperless trade: 27.78%
Reasons for Improvement of India’s score

01  Formalities

- Creation of a Central repository for all Non-Tariff Measures
- Conduct of National Time Release Study on annual basis since 2021
- Pre-Arrival processing of Customs documents – As per Section 46 of the Customs Act, 1962, the importer may file the Bills of Entry 30 days in advance of expected arrival of the cargo.

02  Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation

- Under the overall institutional mechanism of India’s NCTF, 5 Working Groups has been set up on – Infrastructure upgradation, PGA regulations and procedures, Time Release Study, Legislative Changes required and Outreach.
- All the Working Group meet regularly with the aim to under TFA Plus reforms in the domain of regulatory, technology and infrastructure

03  Paperless Trade

- E-Payment of Customs Duties and Fees through launch of E Cash ledger(ECL). ECL extended to Courier mode also w.e.f March 2024.
- Electronic Single Window and launch of ICEGATE 2.0 that provides e-filing services to the Trade, Cargo Carriers and other Trading Partners electronically
• The 2023 survey, covering more than 140 economies and evaluating 60 trade facilitation measures, has positioned India at the forefront of global trade facilitation efforts, with an impressive score of 93.55% in 2023 vis a vis 90.32% in 2021.

• The 2023 Survey has recognized India's exceptional progress across various sub indicators, with the country achieving a perfect score of 100% in four key areas: Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, and Paperless Trade.

• These remarkable scores are a testament to India's relentless efforts in streamlining trade processes, enhancing transparency, and promoting cooperation among stakeholders through initiative such as Turant Customs, Single Window Interface for Facilitation of Trade (SWIFT), Pre-Arrival data processing, e- Sanchit, Coordinated Border Management etc. India has witnessed a substantial improvement in the score for “Women in Trade Facilitation” component from 66.7% in 2021 to 77.8% in 2023 thereby indicating commitment to gender inclusivity and the empowerment of women in the trade sector.

• While India has made significant strides, there remain areas marked as partially implemented or at pilot stages in the survey. However, ongoing initiatives such as the India-Korea Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES), Hub & Spoke Model for e-commerce exports, and online filing of AEO-LO applications are poised to further elevate India's trade facilitation landscape.