

Abstract

Characterization of cross border trade practices between NEI and Bangladesh in the backdrop of country level trade

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The North-East region of India (NEI), as it stands today, presents an appropriate case for study of inter- regional disparities and its retrospective causes and effects. While the entire country is moving to integrate globally, the region seems to be unable to use its ‘land-linkedness’ with a number of foreign markets and make faster economic progress through effective utilization of contiguous markets of Bangladesh, Myanmar and beyond. This paper first ascertains the commodities that are increasingly contributing towards enhancing trade between India and Bangladesh. Against the background of country level trade, the paper characterizes the trade interweaving between three states of NEI (Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura) and Bangladesh and empirically identifies the commodities responsible for constituting trade flow and its variation over a long period of time in respect of concerned NEI states. This paper indicates that commodity diversity in NEI –Bangladesh trade has been very minimal though volume of trade increased over the years. Against this backdrop, this paper argues in favour of emphasizing on the need to enlarge the trade basket between NEI and Bangladesh and suggest possible measures for enhancing cross border interactions so that ‘land linked’ based economic development can really take place in the region.