

Major Trading Items of Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong Cross Border Trade Centres

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ABSTRACT: Cross border trading is perceived as an important economic activity. It is one of the fundamental paraphernalia of rapid socio-economic development. Further, it upscale demographic, cultural, technological, psychological and political conditions of the trading areas. The present study reveals that Indian has imported 35 major items from Bhutan and Burma through Bleeting-Namtsering and Nampong-Pangsau cross border trade centres. Some of the prominent imported items are dry fish, fertilizer, refine oil, Dalda, cloths, dinner set, rice cooker, water boiler, power chain, garlic, egg, blanket, orange, Sinka, Todung, local ghee, dry mushroom, Churpi, Busma, cup set, solar light, dry chilly, petrol, water filter, refine oil, beer, badam drink, weedicide, fan, clothes, energy drinks, Burmese cakes, shoes, coffee, and machete respectively. On the other side, India has exported 21 major items to Burma and Bhutan. Exported items are medicinal plant, cloths, Churpi, local ghee, chocolate, biscuits, cabbage, tomato, green vegetables, sanitary napkins, kitchen items, cement, cosmetics, utensils, rice, batteries, salt, ornaments, umbrella, mustard oil and torch light respectively.

The present study reveals that India's import exceeds export. Therefore, India suffers 'Negative Trade Balance' with Burma and Bhutan at Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong cross border trade centres.

KEYWORDS: Arunachal Pradesh, Bleething, Cross Border Trade, and Pangsau

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I. INTRODUCTION

Cross border trade has been an effective catalyst of all round development especially, in border areas. Generally it connotes flow of goods and services across international borders within an easy reach of up to 30 kilometers in either side of nations. It remains as a fact that, most cross-border trade activities are not reported and figured in foreign trade statistics of a country. Conventionally, it is undertaken by small traders with the help of their family members. Usually, the traders deals with homemade or self produced products in small quantities less than one quintile that worth less than a few hundred dollars in value. In the regime of cross-border trade, agricultural products and consumer goods are primarily traded. Around the world, most of the cross-border traders carry goods by walking on foot, by using draught animals like donkey, camel, yak, horse etc, by using a bicycle, or hire minibus or a car, to the other side of the border. Generally, traders need not to recourse to big carrier like train or trucks etc, because they mostly trade in small quantities. Infact, price differentiation of products along either sides of the border is the raison-detre of cross border trade. Even, it offers lot of employment and income opportunities to women traders (Jackson, 1996 and Cagatay & Ozler, 1995) around the world. Moreover, it plays a vital role in alleviating poverty and promoting women economic empowerment (Chen & al., 2006).

Arunachal Pradesh- 'Land of Rising Sun' is located in the eastern most part of India. It lies between latitude 26^o-28^oN and 29^o-30^oN and longitude 91^o-31^oE and 97^o-30^oE covering an area of 83,743 sq.km. Arunachal Pradesh has long international boundary with Bhutan to the west sharing 160 km, China to the north and north-east sharing 1,080 km and Myanmar to the east sharing 440 km respectively. Altogether, she has 1680 km long international boundary. Along the boundary line, there are ten major cross-border trade centres namely-Bumla, Bletting, and Lumla in Tawang District; Dongsengmang in West Kameng district; Takseng in Upper Subansiri district; Mechuka and Monigong in West Siang district; Gelling in Upper Siang district; Kibithoo in Anjaw district; Pangsau Pass in Changlang District respectively.

Arunachal Pradesh represents a fine example of mutually dependent cross-border trading Indian state especially along with Bhutan and Myanmar. People of Arunachal Pradesh have been crossing 1680 km long

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international boundaries back and forth for trade for many centuries. However, it is carried on in traditional way by small and local traders. Arunachal traders export items like- edible oil, potatoes, ginger, Kasturi, local papers (Mon Shuk), traditional necklace & beads, traditional wooden mask (Sheng Bha), local colour (Naktsi), Mishmi Teta, Sword (Syabrey), tea, rice, dry fruit, kerosene oil, seasonal green vegetables, tomatoes, mushroom (both moist and dry), green chilies (Solu)⁴ fodder for cattle, bamboo and bamboo products, woollen carpet, fruits like apple, kiwi, orange and Thanka painting etc. Likewise, some of the notable items of import along borderline by local traders from China, Bhutan and Myanmar consist of ornaments (Ziroo and Nayu), Pots (Kho), shoes, dresses (Shinka, Chola), milk and milk products, yak and sheep wool, silk, gold, silver, precious stones & gems, articles of religious importance, cooking utensil (Hayang and Bangla Thal), rock salt (Tamin), beads (Krunung), wine (Chang), blanket (Thanga), electric goods, electronic products, China clay bowl, dry meat, Tibetan sword (Sabre), computer parts and software etc (Mody, 2012).

Cross-border trade is considered as one of the most important potential agent for socio-economic development of the Arunachal Pradesh in India. The centrality of the Arunachal Pradesh and its strategic location supports its growing economic links with neighboring countries like- Bhutan, China and Myanmar. Even, this locational advantage hold lot of promises to upscale India' trade ties with even, ASEAN and SAARC nations.

Cross-border trade has tremendous effect on prominent economic variables like saving, income, investment and consumption. It has also far-reaching effects on geographical features. Cross-border trade has reshaped the settlement pattern, immigration rate, sex ratio, population and density of population, urbanization and pace of environmental degradation. Moreover, cross-border trade has been an active agent of social change. It has been significantly changing, modifying, and replacing the customs, traditions, socio-economic institutions, religion, educational system, general aspiration, belief, outlook, marriage system and demographic composition of the Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong cross border trade centres hereafter, called as 'Study Centre'.

Thus, Arunachal Pradesh has huge potential of cross-border trade in India as she share a very long boundary with three countries viz- China, Bhutan and Burma with whom she has been maintaining informal cross-border trade relation since times out of mind.

Objectives

The main objectives of the paper are:

1. To provide an overview of Cross Border Trade items of Bleeting-Namtsering Area.
2. To discuss Cross Border Trade items of Pangsau-Nampong Area.

II. METHODOLOGY

Methodology adopted in conducting the research pertaining to cross border trade in Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong centres are as follow:

- **Research Methods & Tools:** An effort has been made to make the study an empirical. Field Survey Method has been used for the present study. Again, personal interview, informal discussion, internet social networking, telephonic contacts and observation methods have been used during the field study to collect primary data. Structured schedules, digital camera, video camera, telephone and other stationeries have been the prominent research tools used to collect field data during the field survey.
- **Sources of Data:** The study in its entirety is based on both primary and secondary data. Personal interview and observation have been the main sources of primary data. For better analysis of the topic, various secondary data have been collected from various books, journals, reports, magazines etc., of national and international repute. Also, reports and publications of department of trade and commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and official websites have been referred to for better understanding of the research problem. However, internet is one of the most used sources of secondary data for the study.
- **Sampling Technique and Size:** Convenience sampling under non-probability sampling technique has been applied during the study. The samples encompass respondents from various professions like- teachers, traders, farmers, public leaders, government officials etc. Altogether, 150 samples have been drawn from the two cross border trade points to draw inferences on the population parameter. Moreover, the selected samples consist of 75 samples from Pangsau-Nampong trade centre and another 75 samples from Bleeting-Namtsering trade point respectively.
- **Universe of the Study:** The study covers the entire population of Nampong and Pangsau area in one hand and Bleeting and Namtsering area in other hand. The population includes Burmese traders, Bhutanese traders, Indian traders, students, public leaders, village elders and others from the two selected centres.

⁴Tibet province is dependent on *Tawang* for variety of chilies

- **Period of the Study:** The reference period of the study is from 2015-16 to 2017. Data over these three years have been used for analysis for the study.
- **Tools of Data Analysis:** For analysis of data, statistical tools of data analysis like percentage, bar diagram etc have been used. Also, SWOT Analysis has been administered on the Study Centre. Moreover, statistical packages like SPSS, MS Excel and Minitab are used to process and analyze the field data.

Major Cross Border Trade Items Of The Study Area

Trading has been a fundamental human activity which leads not only to economic but also, social, demographic, cultural, political development etc. The people of the Bleeting-Namtsering and Nampong-Pangsau areas have been trading products since time immemorial. It is reported that earlier, they had engaged in trading traditional articles and essential goods. However, in recent times, they have started to deals with modern articles like machines, equipments, fertilizers, furniture, kitchen utensils, electronic items etc. Moreover, it is reported during the survey that many Indian traders engaged in re-selling business. They purchase various products for reselling in nearby Indian towns.

A. Trading Items of Bleeting-Namtsering Area:

Various trading items made by Indians with Bhutanese counterparts are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Major Trading Items of Bleeting-Namtsering Area

Import Items	Rank	Price (in Rs)	Export items	Rank	Price (in Rs)
Dry Fish	1	180 per Kg	Medicinal Plant	1	2000 per Kg
Fertilizer	2	300 per Kg	Cloths	2	500-5000 per unit
Refine Oil	3	80 per Litre	Churpi	3	250 per Kg
Dalda	4	70 per Kg	Local Ghee	4	300 per Kg
Cloths	5	200-3000 per unit	Chocolates	5	10-500 per unit
Dinner set		2000 per unit	Biscuits		10-100 per unit
Rice Cooker		2100 per unit	Cabbage		10 per Kg
Water Boiler		1400 per unit	Tomato		20 per Kg
Power Chain		42,000 per unit	Green Vegetables		10-20 per bundle
Garlic		70 per Kg			
Egg		300 per plate			
Blanket		1500 per unit			
Orange		70 per Kg			
Sinka		400 per unit			
Todung		2600 per unit			
Local Ghee		300 per kg			
Dry Mushroom		200 per kg			
Churpi		300 per kg			
Busma		1500 per kg			
Cup set		70 per set			
Solar Light		4500 per set			
Dry Chilly		16 per kg			
Petrol		40 per litre			
Water filter		1500 per set			
Refine oil		80 per litre			
Beer		50 per unit			
Badam drink		50 per unit			
Weedicide		300 per litre			
Fan		1600 per unit			

Source: Field Study, 2017

It is evident from Table 1 that the Indians residents from Bleeting-Namtsering have imported various items from Bhutan like- dry fish, fertilizer, refine oil, Dalda, cloths, dinner sets, rice cooker, water boiler, power chain, garlic, egg, blanket, orange, Sinka, Todung, local ghee, dry mushroom, Churpi, Busma, cup set, solar light, dry chilly, petrol, water filter, refine oil, beer, badam drink, Kyan, wedicide, fan etc.

However, the top five items import made by the Indian residents of Bleeting-Namtsering area are dry fish, fertilizers, refine oil, Dalda and varieties of cloths respectively. On the other side, some items exported by Indian residents of Bleeting-Namtsering area to Bhutan are- green vegetables, tomato, cabbage, biscuits, chocolates, local ghee, Churpi, clothes, medicinal plants etc. It is revealed from Table 1 that the top five items exported by India to Bhutan are medicinal plants, cloths, Churpi, local ghee and chocolates respectively.

It is noted from Table 1 that the India suffers Negative Trade Balance as the imports much exceeds the exports. It is due to firstly, availability of Bhutanese products and nearness of Bhutanese market. Secondly, due to the far off Indian towns like Tawang, Lumla etc.

B. Trading Items of Pangsau-Nampong Area:

Pangsau-Nampong trade centre is the only formal cross border trade point recognized by the Govt. of India in entire Arunachal Pradesh. So, state government has established a custom office in Nampong and posted Trade Development Officer (TDO) for development and regulation of trading activities with Burmese counterpart. In the trade centre, Govt. of India has listed 62 items for trading between India and Burma. It is observed during the study that, due to well maintenance of the famous Stilwell Road by Indian Govt., there is a huge demand of Indian goods from the Burmese.

Various items of import and export made by Indians from and to Burmese are highlighted in Table 2.

It is evident from Table 2 that the Indians have imported various items from Burma like- clothes, energy drinks, Burmese cakes and biscuits, camouflaged shoes, slippers, coffee, Machete (Dao) etc. It is clear from Table 2 that, Burmese clothes are imported mostly by Indian followed by energy drinks, cakes & biscuits, shoes, coffee etc. On the other side, some items exported by Indian to Burmese in Pangsau-Nampong cross border trade centre are- Indian biscuits, kitchen items, cement, cosmetics, utensils, rice, batteries, salt, ornaments, umbrella, mustard oil, torch light, sanitary napkins etc. Also, it is unveiled from Table 2 that India makes highest export of biscuits. It is followed by kitchen items, cement etc.

Table 2: Major Trading Items of Pangsau-Nampong Area

Import Items	Rank	Price (in Rs)	Export Items	Rank	Price (in Rs)
Clothes	1	300-2000	Biscuits	1	5- 30 per Unit
Energy Drinks	2	80	Kitchen Items	2	20-2000 per unit
Burmese Cakes and Biscuits	3	10-150	Cement	3	300-500 per unit
Shoes (Camouflaged) and Slipper	4	380	Cosmetics	4	44-500 per unit
Coffee	5	260	Utensils	5	50-1000 per unit
Machete (Dao)		750-1200	Rice		20-80 per Kg
			Batteries		10-15 per unit
			Salt		8-20 per unit
			Ornaments		50-500 per unit
			Umbrella		150-300 per unit
			Mustard Oil		100 per Litre
			Torch Light		125-140 per unit
			Sanitary Napkins		45-400 per unit

Source: Field Study, 2017

It is reported during the field survey that India suffers Negative Trade Balance as the imports exceeds the exports. However, cheap commodities are imported by India like- Burmese clothes, cake, coffee, organic vegetables, Burmese machete, shoes, slipper. On the other side, Burmese are reported to have imported bit costly products from India (Nampong or Jairampur) like- cement, rice, medicines, utensils, ornaments, electronics items etc.

C. Trading Items of the Study Area:

Various items traded by Indians with Burmese and Bhutanese are highlighted in Table 3.

It is evident from Table 3 that Indians have imported 35 major items from Bhutan and Burma. They imported items like- dry fish, fertilizer, refine oil, Dalda, cloths, dinner set, rice cooker, water boiler, power chain, garlic, egg, blanket, orange, Sinka, Todung, local ghee, dry mushroom, Churpi, Busma, cup set, solar light, dry chilly, petrol, water filter, refine oil, beer, badam drink, weedicide, fan, clothes, energy drinks, Burmese cakes, shoes, coffee, and machete respectively. On the other side, the major 21 items exported to Burma and Bhutan are- medicinal plant, cloths, Churpi, local ghee, chocolate, biscuits, cabbage, tomato, green vegetables, sanitary napkins, kitchen items, cement, cosmetics, utensils, rice, batteries, salt, ornaments, umbrella, mustard oil and torch light respectively.

Table 3: Major Trading Items of the Study Centre

Import Items	Price (in Rs)	Export items	Price (in Rs)
Dry Fish	180 per Kg	Medicinal Plant	2000 per Kg
Fertilizer	300 per Kg	Cloths	500-5000 per unit
Refine Oil	80 per Litre	Churpi	250 per Kg

Major Trading Items Of Bleeting-Namtsering And Pangsau-Nampong Cross Border Trade Centres

Dalda	70 per Kg	Local Ghee	300 per Kg
Cloths	200-3000 per unit	Chocolates	10-500 per unit
Dinner set	2000 per unit	Biscuits	7.5-65 per unit
Rice Cooker	2100 per unit	Cabbage	10 per Kg
Water Boiler	1400 per unit	Tomato	20 per Kg
Power Chain	42,000 per unit	Green Vegetables	10-20 per bundle
Garlic	70 per Kg	Sanitary Napkins	45-400 per unit
Egg	300 per plate	Kitchen Items	20-2000 per unit
Blanket	1500 per unit	Cement	300-500 per unit
Orange	70 per Kg	Cosmetics	44-500 per unit
Sinka	400 per unit	Utensils	50-1000 per unit
Todung	2600 per unit	Rice	20-80 per Kg
Local Ghee	300 per kg	Batteries	10-15 per unit
Dry Mushroom	200 per kg	Salt	8-20 per unit
Churpi	300 per kg	Ornaments	50-500 per unit
Busma	1500 per kg	Umbrella	150-300 per unit
Cup set	70 per set	Mustard Oil	100 per Litre
Solar Light	4500 per set	Torch Light	125-140 per unit
Dry Chilly	16 per kg		
Petrol	40 per litre		
Water filter	1500 per set		
Refine oil	80 per litre		
Beer	50 per unit		
Badam drink	50 per unit		
Weedicide	300 per litre		
Fan	1600 per unit		
Clothes	300-2000		
Energy Drinks	80		
Burmese Cakes and Biscuits	10-150		
Shoes (Camouflaged) & Slipper	380		
Coffee	260		
Machete (Dao)	750-1200		

Source: Field Study, 2017

It is reported during the study that India import more than the export she made. Therefore, India suffers Negative Trade Balance with Burma and Bhutan at two prominent cross border trade centres (Called as Study Centre) namely- Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong cross border trade centres.

Concluding Remarks

Cross border trading is seen as an important economic activity. It triggers socio-economic development especially in and around border areas where it is undertaken. Further, it upscale demographic, cultural, technological, psychological and political conditions of the trading areas. The present study unveiled that the people of Bleeting-Namtsering and Nampong-Pangsau areas have been engaged in cross border trading activities with Burmese and Bhutanese counterparts since time out of mind. It is reported that earlier, they had engaged in trading traditional articles and essential goods only. Fascinatingly, they have started to deals with modern articles like machines, equipments, fertilizers, furniture, kitchen utensils, electronic items etc in recent times. Furthermore, many Indian traders are engaged in re-selling business. They purchase various products for reselling purposes in nearby Indian towns. The study reveals that Indians have imported 35 major items from Bhutan and Burma through Bleeting-Namtsering and Nampong-Pangsau cross border trade centres. Some of the prominent imported items are dry fish, fertilizer, refine oil, Dalda, cloths, dinner set, rice cooker, water boiler, power chain, garlic, egg, blanket, orange, Sinka, Todung, local ghee, dry mushroom, Churpi, Busma, cup set, solar light, dry chilly, petrol, water filter, refine oil, beer, badam drink, weedicide, fan, clothes, energy drinks, Burmese cakes, shoes, coffee, and machete respectively. On the other side, Indians have exported 21 major items to Burma and Bhutan. Exported items are medicinal plant, cloths, Churpi, local ghee, chocolate, biscuits, cabbage, tomato, green vegetables, sanitary napkins, kitchen items, cement, cosmetics, utensils, rice, batteries, salt, ornaments, umbrella, mustard oil and torch light respectively.

The present study reveals that India's import exceeds export. Therefore, India suffers Negative Trade Balance with Burma and Bhutan at the cross border trade centres (Called as Study Centre) namely- Bleeting-Namtsering and Pangsau-Nampong.

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