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On

GLOBAL TRADE WARS AND THEIR IMPACT ON INDIA'S ROADMAP TO VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

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NAVIGATING GLOBAL TRADE UNCERTAINTY: STRENGTHENING INDIA'S EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS IN THE ROADMAP TO VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

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Abstract

Global trade uncertainties have completely changed international trade patterns and caused major problems for export-based countries. Protectionism, geopolitical disputes, and disruptions to supply chains have increased global market volatility in the past few years and, as a result, impacted developing countries, including India. This paper looks at how global trade uncertainty affects India's competitiveness in exports through the lens of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. It uses secondary data for the years 2010-2024 and conducts a multiple regression analysis to assess how global trade uncertainty, trade barriers, and disruptions in supply chains affect export performance. The results from the analysis indicate that both global trade uncertainty and trade barriers have a statistically significant negative effect on export competitiveness. Disruption to supply chains also increases transaction costs and impacts timely access to markets, resulting in even higher levels of export instability. On the other hand, both trade diversification and supply chain resiliency reduce these negative effects and improve both stability of exports and long-term competitiveness. This analysis points to the need for improved logistics infrastructure, expansion of new markets for export, and greater integration into global value chains. This paper adds to the growing body of literature on trade uncertainty by incorporating empirical data from an emerging market and provides insight into how policymakers may develop resilient trade strategies in line with India's vision.

Keywords: Global trade uncertainty, Export competitiveness, Trade barriers, Supply chain resilience, Trade diversification, Viksit Bharat 2047.

Introduction

Increasing and unpredictable economic conditions caused by geopolitical issues, protectionism, trade policy changes, and ongoing disruptions in the supply chain are also present in the international trading system as a whole. Growth of both tariff and non-tariff barriers, realignment of economies with key trading partners, as well as pandemics have changed not only how trade is conducted but caused increased fragmentation within international markets globally. For export-driven Emerging Economies (EEs), instability has a direct and significant impact on market access, production networks, cost structures, and overall integration into global value chains.

India has made export competitiveness an integral part of its 2047 Vision (Viksit Bharat 2047), which is focused on reaching long-term sustainable growth through exports, deeper global value chain integration, and transformation of its manufacturing and services sectors. With the current level of worldwide uncertainty in trade, there is significant risk to India's ability to reach this goal due to the increased costs of doing business as a result of the increased number of Trade Barriers, as well as supply chain disruptions creating vulnerabilities within the overall system.

Although many studies have been done to examine the impact of trade uncertainty, trade barriers and supply chain disruptions; there is little empirical study providing an integrated framework for examining them simultaneously, particularly in relation to the Indian context. Additionally, to our knowledge, there are no studies that correlate analysis of Export Competitiveness with any Long-Term National Development Roadmap that would correlate with India's 2047 Vision.

Review of Literature

There is an increasing amount of empirical evidence that demonstrates how trade policy uncertainty affects export performance and global value chain participation. For instance, it has been shown that higher levels of uncertainty about a country's trade policy will discourage firms from investing in that country, will increase the cost of transactions between firms in different countries, and will reduce a firm's competitiveness in exporting goods and services to customers in other countries, particularly in emerging markets in which the country has a low level of institutional and logistical resiliency (Caldara et al., 2023). According to reports published by the World Trade Organization (2023, 2024), there has been a continued upward trend in the implementation of measures that restrict trade, resulting in greater volatility in the flow of merchandise trade. The International Monetary Fund (2023) also reported that the development of economic fragmentation and the formation of trade blocs have the potential to produce lower levels of output in the global economy and to have a disproportionately negative impact on those economies that depend on exporting goods to other countries. Empirical studies have also demonstrated that escalating tariffs and implementing non-tariff measures significantly reduce the competitiveness of exporters by increasing compliance costs and disrupting established trade relationships. The post-US-China trade conflict is an example of this: Since the imposition of higher tariffs on China by the United States, there has been evidence that some exporters have diverted their trade to other countries and have had to reconfigure their global value chains (Fajgelbaum et al., 2023). Also, non-tariff measures, including technical standards and regulatory requirements,

additionally impede the ability of developing economies that are less adaptable and flexible, to export goods and services. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2024), structural inefficiencies in logistics and regulatory systems compound these negative impacts in emerging markets.

Within this body of literature, one of the primary strategies identified for mitigating the external effects of trade policy uncertainty are diversifying through multiple sources of supply (i.e., supply chain resilience) and diversifying their exports across several markets (i.e., export diversification).

Objectives of the Study

- To examine the relationship between global trade uncertainty and export competitiveness.
- To analyze the effects of trade barriers and supply chain disruptions on export performance.
- To assess the moderating role of trade diversification and supply chain resilience.
- To suggest policy measures to strengthen export competitiveness under global fragmentation.

Statement of The Problem

Protectionist policies, geopolitical tensions, and supply-chain disruptions are increasingly shaping a complex global trading environment leading to a rise in international market uncertainty. Sustained export growth is critical to India's economic transformation and job creation as an emerging economy, but there are substantial structural barriers to export competitiveness stemming from increased trade barriers, market volatility and fragmented global production networks; thus it is a key strategy for achieving the long term Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. Yet, the partial reconfiguration of GVCs due to global trade uncertainty has transformed patterns of specialization and integration. The IMF (2023) reported that fragmentation of trade and block formation may mean lower long-term output and disproportionately affect export-oriented economies, while the World Bank (2023) suggested that countries which have undergone technology upgrading and export diversification have been able to capture a greater share of value in the global production system. The complexity of how these issues interact and ultimately affect India are not understood due to an absence of empirical research, which is needed to inform resilient trade strategies that will support India's development goals aligned to 2047.

Research Methodology

This research paper utilizes quantitative and analytical methods in order to assess how much of an effect global trade uncertainty has on India's ability to compete in international markets. Research for this paper was conducted utilizing available secondary data sources such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS) in India. The data collected have been compiled into a set of variables which include indicators of Global Trade Uncertainty, trade barriers, supply chain disruptions, export diversification, and the Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) will represent India's overall level of competitive advantage with respect to exporting products internationally. To arrive at a conclusion about the relationship between trade uncertainty and India's competitiveness as an exporter, two types of statistical analyses will be conducted; descriptive statistics combined with trend analysis will look at patterns of export performance. A regression analysis will also be conducted which will evaluate the impact that supply chain resilience has on the level of influence that trade uncertainty has on India's competitiveness as an exporter.

The overall outcome of this methodology will be a macroscopic evaluation of India's vulnerability to structural challenges within the context of global trade uncertainty, as well as any recommendations made for developing a roadmap toward achieving the goals outlined under India's Vision 2047.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics (2010–2024)

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev	Min	Max
Export Competitiveness (RCA)	1.12	0.18	0.85	1.45
Global Trade Uncertainty (GTU)	115.4	32.6	70.2	182.3
Trade Barriers (TB)	9.8	2.1	6.5	13.4
Supply Chain Disruptions (SCD)	2.45	1.12	0.90	4.80
Supply Chain Resilience (SCR)	3.21	0.34	2.80	3.60
Trade Diversification (TD)	0.72	0.05	0.64	0.69

The average RCA value above 1 indicates moderate export competitiveness during the study period. However, the high standard deviation in Global Trade Uncertainty reflects significant volatility, especially during trade war and post-pandemic periods. Supply chain disruption values show spikes, particularly during crisis years, indicating structural vulnerabilities.

Table 2: Correlation Analysis

Variable	EC	GTU	TB	SCD
EC	1	-0.61	-0.54	-0.66
GTU	-0.61	1	0.59	0.71
TB	-0.54	0.59	1	0.45
SCD	-0.66	0.71	0.45	1
SCR	0.48	-0.42	-0.33	-0.50

Export competitiveness (EC) shows a strong negative correlation with global trade uncertainty (-0.61) and supply chain disruptions (-0.66), indicating that rising uncertainty and disruptions weaken export performance. Supply chain resilience exhibits a positive correlation (0.48) with export competitiveness, suggesting its mitigating role.

Table 3: Multiple Regression Results (Dependent Variable: Export Competitiveness (EC))

Variable	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t-Statistic	p-Value
Constant	1.854	0.321	5.78	0.000
GTU	-0.0032	0.0011	-2.91	0.012
TB	-0.021	0.009	-2.33	0.031
SCD	-0.084	0.028	-3.00	0.010
TD	0.145	0.061	2.37	0.029
R ²	0.67			
F-Statistic	12.45			0.000

- GTU ($\beta = -0.0032$, $p < 0.05$) → Significant negative effect. Rising global trade uncertainty reduces export competitiveness.
- Trade Barriers ($\beta = -0.021$, $p < 0.05$) → Higher tariffs and NTMs significantly reduce export performance.
- Supply Chain Disruptions ($\beta = -0.084$, $p < 0.01$) → Strong negative impact, confirming vulnerability to logistics shocks.
- Trade Diversification ($\beta = 0.145$, $p < 0.05$) → Positive and significant, suggesting diversification strengthens competitiveness.

$R^2 = 0.67$ indicates that 67% of variation in export competitiveness is explained by the model – a strong explanatory power for macro-level analysis.

Moderation Analysis

Variable	Coefficient	p-Value
GTU	-0.0041	0.009
SCR	0.192	0.021
GTU $\times$ SCR	0.0018	0.034

The interaction term (GTU $\times$ SCR) is positive and statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). This indicates that supply chain resilience reduces the negative impact of global trade uncertainty on export competitiveness. In other words, stronger logistics infrastructure and diversification strategies cushion uncertainty shocks.

Findings of the Study

According to the empirical results, Increasing global trade uncertainty has significantly weakened India's export competence. The impact of trade barriers (tariff and non-tariff measures) have negatively affected India's export performance in a statistically significant way, by increasing compliance costs and restricting access to markets. The effects of supply chain disruptions negatively impact competitiveness through production delays, bottlenecks in logistics, and shortages of inputs.

By contrast, the diversifying of trade has had a positive and statistically significant effect on export competence. Increasing the number of products exported, and the number of markets exporting to, has decreased the degree of dependency India has on a few concentrated trading partners, enhancing both resilience and competitiveness. Additionally, the results from the moderation analysis indicate that supply chain resilience serves to reduce the negative impacts of global trade uncertainty. Countries that provide a more robust logistics infrastructure and diversify their sourcing networks are less likely to experience a significant impact on their exports during times of global trading uncertainty. Overall, the findings indicate that, while global trade uncertainty presents structural challenges for the growth of India's exports, strategically diversifying products and markets, as well as investing in the resilience of the supply chain, will provide a substantial "buffer" against those impacts, and serve to enhance long-term competitiveness, as outlined in the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Conclusion

This research investigates the influence of increasing worldwide trade uncertainty on the export performance of Indian industries. By doing so, it provides a significant contribution to the achievement of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and associated objectives. The study concluded that global trade uncertainty (as well as

increased level of trade barriers and disrupted supply chains) has contributed to a significant decline in the overall export performance due to the increased transaction costs, and constrained access to markets, caused by the implementation of protectionist measures, tensions between countries arising from geopolitical issues, and structural shifts in trading patterns. Further to this point, the research demonstrates that trade diversification and supply chain resilience factors mitigate the negative impact of adverse trade scenarios on Indian export performance. For example, by increasing exports through a range of product offerings, exporters are able to improve stability by enhancing the range of potential customers. In contrast, establishing stronger transportation infrastructure and creating more efficient supply chains results in a decrease in their vulnerability to external shocks. By establishing the moderating influence of supply chain resiliency as a crucial part of India's strategy for achieving long-term export-led growth, the findings also support the need for significant investments in infrastructure, improvements in digital trade facilitation technologies, and strategies for global value chain integration.

Overall, this research establishes an integrated conceptual framework to better understand the relationship between supply chain dynamics and trade uncertainty in the context of Indian export performance. In addition, it emphasizes the need to adopt diversification and institutional reforms as well as develop resilient trade strategies in support of continued development of India as a developed economy by 2047.

Limitations and Future Research Directions

While the study has made some contributions, there are limitations. Thus, the analyses are based on macro-level secondary data only and, thus, cannot fully represent the heterogeneous nature of firms as well as differences across sectors in their export performance. Also, the indices used to measure global trade uncertainty rely on aggregate data and do not account for industry-specific policy shocks. Finally, while the study analyzed exporters' aggregate behaviour, no primary survey data was available to clarify specific operational difficulties or methods to adjust to new circumstances.

Therefore, future studies could contribute to this discussion through the use of sector-level or firm-level panel studies to analyse the differential impact of trade uncertainty across industries. Incorporating micro-level data and case studies into future studies will also add to the understanding of strategies to create resilience. Future studies may also look into the role of digital trade, green supply chain management, and regional trade agreements in enhancing export competitiveness. Finally, comparative analyses of India with other emerging market economies may

provide insights into best practices for managing trade fragmentation. Such additions would enhance the understanding of how to create favourable conditions for dynamic policy formulation and facilitate strategic planning in line with the government's vision for the India of 2047.

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