

**World Bank Group's Business  
Ready (B-READY) Project**

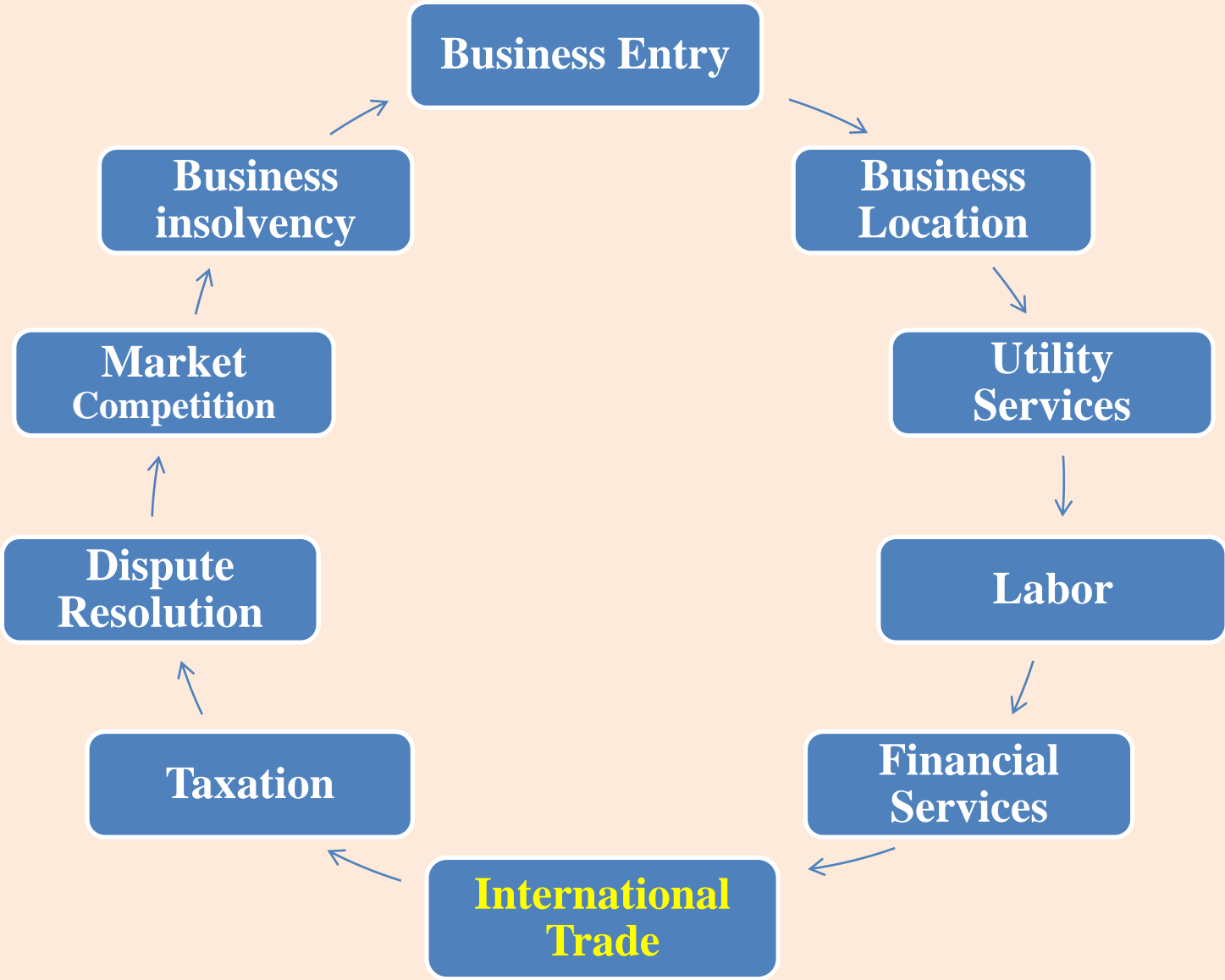
# Overview

- **Business Ready (B-READY)** is a new data collection and analysis project of the World Bank Group to rank the business and investment climate worldwide, accompanied by an annual corporate flagship report.
- B-READY improves upon and replaces ‘Doing Business’ Rankings as it assesses a country’s regulatory framework and public services but also evaluates their efficiency.
- It is a key instrument of the World Bank Group’s new strategy to facilitate private investment, generate employment, and improve productivity to help economies (countries) accelerate development in inclusive and sustainable ways.
- It reflects a more balanced and transparent approach toward evaluating a country’s business and investment climate, building on recommendations from hundreds of experts from within and outside the World Bank Group, including from governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations.
- The project aims to balance de jure and de facto measures, ensuring that the data produced are both comparable across countries and representative within each country.
- The World Bank has released a Methodology Handbook which covers all the aspects of B-READY Project. [B-READY-Methodology-Handbook.pdf \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/publications/b-ready-methodology-handbook)

## B-READY three main focus areas

- ***Reform advocacy.*** B-READY advocates for policy reform through the effective communication of international benchmarking, opening the door for knowledge sharing and policy dialogue for governments, the private sector, the World Bank Group, and other development institutions.
- ***Policy guidance.*** B-READY guides specific policy change through comprehensive and relevant data and information, showing how and by how much each economy lags international good practice.
- ***Analysis and research.*** B-READY provides granular data for research and analysis, shedding light on the drivers and mechanisms of private sector development.

# Ten B-READY Focus Areas based on 'Firm Life Cycle'



## International Trade - 3 Assessment Pillars

**Pillar-I**  
**Regulatory**  
**Framework**



**Rules and regulations** that firms must follow as they open, operate and close a business

**Pillar-II**  
**Public Services**



Government-provided facilities for compliance with regulations + business-enabling **public institutions and infrastructure**

**Pillar-III**  
**Efficiency**



Efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in **Practice**

# International Trade Data Structure

- The International Trade topic measures different aspects of international trade—trade in goods, trade in services, and digital trade—across three different dimensions, here referred to as **Pillars**.
- Each pillar is divided into **categories**—defined by common features that inform the grouping into a particular category—and each category is further divided into **subcategories**.
- Each subcategory consists of several **indicators**, each of which may, in turn, have several components
- Relevant **scores** are assigned to each indicator and subsequently aggregated to obtain the number of points for each subcategory, category, and pillar.



## Pillar I Example

<b>Pillar I (166 Score)</b>	<b>Quality of Regulations for International Trade</b>
Category	1.1 Practices Supporting International Trade
Subcategory	1.1.1 International Trade in Goods and Services
Indicator	13. De Minimis Value
Question	What is de minimis value threshold in local currency local currency units, LCU)?
<i>Setting a duty de minimis value <b>reduces the time and cost</b> associated with imports and exports of low-value consignments, promoting firms' access to cross-border trade.</i>	
Response: Y, 1000/- INR	

- The title for the Pillar suggests the broader assessment area which are further divided into category and subcategory.
- Further it has been narrowed into set of indicators along with specific description for each question which will help the evaluator (World Bank) to gauge an economy's performance.
- All the indicators are marked to a single question where the Government is the respondent. The evaluator (World Bank) will validate the responses through expert consultations with private sector experts.

***Note: Score assigned to each question will be secured based on expert consultation which makes perception management through workshops/sessions a critical exercise.***

## Pillar II Example

<b>Pillar II (100 Score)</b>	<b>Quality of Public Services for facilitation of International Trade</b>
Category	2.1 Digital and Physical Infrastructure
Subcategory	2.1.2 Transparency and Availability of Information
Indicator	10. Consultation – Practice
Question	In practice, are interested parties/stakeholders consulted before introducing or changing laws and regulations affecting the importation, exportation and transit of goods? (Y/N)
<i>When drafting international trade regulations or before introducing changes to trade policy, it is necessary to make advance notices public and conduct stakeholder consultations within a reasonable time period.</i>	
Response: Y, Amendment in Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to include Para 1.07A and 1.07B for consultation with stakeholders to seek views, suggestions, comments or feedback from relevant stakeholders, including importers/exporters/industry experts concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy.	

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## Pillar III Example

<b>Pillar III (100 Score)</b>	<b>Operational Efficiency of exporting goods, importing goods and engaging in Digital Trade</b>
Category	3.1 Compliance with Export Requirements
Subcategory	3.1.1 Total Time to Comply with Export Requirements
Indicator	1. Total Time to Comply with Export Requirements
Question	Total time to comply with export requirements: In fiscal year[Insert last complete fiscal year],as a percentage of the value of the products exported directly, what was the average cost of complying with all export requirements, including Customs fees, other required payments, and payments made to Customs brokers or freight forwarders, transportation freight, trade finance and insurance services?
<i>Operational and transaction costs associated with exporting have become increasingly important. Factors such as cumbersome customs clearance procedures, lack of coordination among border agencies, inadequate trade infrastructure and limited logistics services increase time to comply with export requirements.</i>	
Response will be provided by firms	

- The title for the Pillar suggests the broader assessment area which are further divided into category and subcategories consisting of one indicator each.
- Pillar III consist of 13 questions which will be used in the Enterprise Survey to analyse firm experiences and evaluate the economy's performance.

***Note: The evaluator (World Bank) will directly approach firms which makes perception management through workshops/sessions a critical exercise.***

# B-READY Data Collection Sources

- The Department of Commerce assigned the questions for Pillar I & II to respective line Ministries/Departments.
- Based on their responses, a cross-verification with experts was conducted.
- Final country responses will be submitted to the World Bank Group.
- The World Bank Group will validate responses for Pillar I and Pillar II by collecting data through expert consultations with private sector experts.
- The questions for Pillar III are not responded by the Government as the World Bank Group will directly collect the data through Enterprise Surveys.
- *Enterprise Surveys* provide representative data on time and cost to import and export goods and participating in digital trade experienced by businesses in practice from the private sector.
- *Private sector experts* include trade economists, trade lawyers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, clearing agents, shipping lines, and other trade experts.

# Selection criteria of Experts set by World Bank

- The International Trade topic has four questionnaires in Pillar I & II covering trade in goods, trade in services, public services, and digital trade.
- Each questionnaire targets experts in their respective areas of expertise. In order to select potential experts to participate in the questionnaires, screener questionnaires have been developed.

## **Relevant expert professions:**

Trade in goods - Trade economists, trade lawyers, trade consultants, trade managers, other trade experts, etc.

Trade in services - Trade economists, trade lawyers, trade consultants, trade managers, other trade experts, etc.

Public services - Freight forwarders, Customs brokers, clearing agents, & shipping lines, trade consultants, trade managers, etc.

## **Relevant areas of specialization:**

Trade regulations - Trade economists, trade lawyers, other trade experts, etc.

Public services - Freight forwarders, Customs brokers, clearing agents, & shipping lines, trade consultants, trade managers, etc.

# Type of Firms to be Surveyed by WBG

**World Bank has set criteria for firms that will participate as respondents for Pillar III**

- Registered formal firms with more than 5 employees
- ES stratified by sector of activity, firm size, and geographical location
  - Small firms (5-19 employees)
  - Medium-size firms (20-99 employees)
  - Large firms (100 or more employees)
- In most cases covering main urban centers of country
- Firms of different size and sector trading internationally in goods, services and via digitally
- Firms in manufacturing and wholesale sector exporting or importing more than 10 percent of their annual sales
- Firms exporting goods ordered, digitally

# Timelines

India will be assessed in the April 2026 Report



Apr 2026

Sep 2024

Apr 2025

## Expert Consultations

Apr 2025-Oct 2025

185 Economies

## Firm-level Surveys

Oct 2024-Oct 2025

71 Economies

India

**Thank You!**