

# **Module 1: Introduction to Supply Chain, Logistics, Freight Transportation, and International Trade**

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## **Overview**

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This foundational module provides a comprehensive understanding of supply chain and logistics principles, including their role in enabling international trade. It introduces the structure, functions, and key actors within global and local supply chains and explores how freight transportation systems, legal frameworks, and international institutions interact to support the movement of goods across borders. Emphasis is given to Bangladesh's economy and its integration into global trade networks.

This module sets the stage for deeper exploration in subsequent modules and helps learners build a holistic appreciation of how supply chain and logistics systems operate in real-world business and trade environments.

## **Module Objectives**

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- Introduce the foundational concepts and terminologies of supply chain and logistics.
- Familiarize learners with the strategic importance of freight transportation and trade routes.
- Understand Bangladesh's economic structure and its role in international commerce.
- Explore the legal and institutional framework governing trade and logistics.
- Examine the historical evolution of containerized sea freight and air freight.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of logistics stakeholders and international bodies.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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At the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Define and explain fundamental supply chain and logistics concepts.
- Identify the key components and stakeholders in global supply chains.
- Analyze the importance of freight systems and trade routes in global commerce.
- Discuss the economic profile of Bangladesh in the context of logistics and trade.
- Recognize the roles of international bodies such as WTO, FIATA, IATA, and ICC.
- Explain the legal principles that guide business operations in trade and logistics.
- Describe the historical development of containerized sea freight and air freight.

## Content summary:

Module 1	Key Topics
Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction to supply chain and logistics concepts</li><li>- Key terminologies and systems</li><li>- Importance of SCM in the global economy</li><li>- Overview of Bangladesh's economy: sectors, trade, policies</li></ul>
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Supply chain processes and strategic frameworks (responsiveness vs. efficiency)</li><li>- Process views: cycle and push/pull</li><li>- Commercial geography: trade routes, time zones, climate impact</li></ul>
Session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Legal principles: contracts, torts, IP, employment law</li><li>- Key trade stakeholders: freight forwarders, C&amp;F agents, shipping lines, ICDs, ports, and airlines</li></ul>
Session 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview of global trade institutions: WTO, WCO, FIATA, IATA, ICC, UNCTAD</li><li>- History and impact of containerization and air freight</li><li>- Role of sea and air freight in shaping global supply chains</li></ul>