

1. **Implementation of BCIM economic corridor could unleash forces of development in India's North-East region. In the light of above statement, comment on the advantages of BCIM corridor for India. Also highlight the apprehensions due to which India is hesitant to join the project.**

Answer:

- BCIM is a sub-regional organization including Bangladesh China, India and Myanmar which is aimed at greater integration of trade and investment between the four countries.

Elements of BCIM

- Proposed corridor will cover 1.54 m sq km, encompassing an estimated 440 million people.
- It will be a multi-modal corridor and will run from Kunming in Yunan province to Kolkata via Bangladesh & Myanmar.

Advantage of BCIM for North-East & India

- Intra-regional road network under BCIM could reduce transportation cost between China & North east by 30% which could facilitate trade between China and North East.
- Increasing connectivity with China, Myanmar & Bangladesh would give a boost to exports from North East which would help in its economic development.
- It will help in developing infrastructure facilities in the North east India.
- Increasing connectivity would also give fillip to the tourism in North East.
- Economic development of North East would reduce insurgency.

India's Apprehensions

- Though BCIM offers number of economic advantages to India and especially North east Region. India is still apprehensive to join the project due to number of reason such as:
- Increasing connectivity between China & NE could flood the North east with Chinese goods which could not only destroy the local industry of NE but would could increase Chinese influence in the area.
- Increasing connectivity could be misused by drug traffickers & insurgents to create trouble in North east.
- Recently China has confirmed that the BCIM project is not a part of the umbrella BRI project, yet most of the project is funded by China thus may lead to economic and strategy dominance of China over the region.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. Although it was outlawed 25 years ago, manual scavenging continues to be prevalent in India. Analysing the reasons behind this problem, discuss what can be done to address it. (150 words)
2. Explain the concept of soil liquefaction. Illustrate how it manifests during seismic events. What preventive steps can be taken to minimise its impact? (150 words)

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