

## Troika for India's northeast region

#### Why in news?

In the third India-Japan Intellectual Dialogue in Agartala, policymakers focused to bring the troika of Bangladesh, India and Japan closer.

#### What is the role of Japan in north east region?

- Japan has historical ties with the **North Eastern region** of India.
- Japan attaches great importance to the development of the region in the spirit of trust and friendship.
- Japan-North Eastern India relationship and cooperation, aim at promoting the intellectual interactions between Japan and the North East.
- The cooperation can bring new opportunities in empowering entrepreneurship in agriculture/Bamboo sector and Fostering People to People Contact.

### What are the developments in north east regions connecting Bangladesh?

- Matarbari Deep Sea Port (DSP) It is being constructed with Japanese assistance and is scheduled to be operational in 2027.
- The long term vision is for Bangladesh and the northeast to become a hub and key industrial corridor of this region.
- Located on the on the southeastern coast of Bangladesh.
- Rapid industrialization To increase the connectivity of roads and railways by Hiroshi Suzuki, Japan's Ambassador to India.
- It also provides job opportunities and connects with Bangladesh.
- Creating value chains and manufacturing products Should encompass diverse sectors such as
  - Agro-processing,
  - Man-made fibers,
  - Handicrafts,
  - Assembly of two-wheelers and
  - Mobile phones, and pharmaceuticals industries.



#### What are the challenges to development of north east region?

- Japan being the only investor in the region is unworkable
- Lack on Indian companies taking part in the development of north east region
- Too much restrictions on the flow of investments from Bangladesh.
- Lack of policy coordination among the governments of Bangladesh, India and Japan on the development of north east

#### What is the way forward?

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is self-defeating and Bangladesh must move towards establishing the Bay of Bengal Community (BOBC).
- A Bangladesh, India and Japan (BIJ) Forum should be launched at the level of Foreign Ministers, for better coordination.
- The policies of north east and Bangladesh needs to be converged.

#### **Quick facts**

# Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- BIMSTEC is a regional organization that was established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the *Bangkok Declaration*.
- BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and mutual benefit.
- The 7 members of BIMSTEC are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Srilanka and Thailand.
- BIMSTEC headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

To know more about BIMSTEC click here

#### References

1. The Hindu Role Of Japan In North East Region

- BIMSETC | About BIMSETC
  Embassy Of Japan | Japan Relationship With North East Region

