

24/21/22
Q.5 2

The centre for Bay of Bengal studies can enhance the India's overall framework for maritime engagement. Discuss.

The Centre for Bay of Bengal studies was opened at the Nalanda University at backdrop of increasing geopolitical and geo-economic significance in the region. The centre can act as collaborator in many domains.

Enhancing maritime engagement

The Bay of Bengal region is home to 400 million people. The centre can offer services in trade, culture, connectivity, security and maritime. It can act as a converging point in securing sea lines of communication as the Bay region secures energy security for India and South East Asia.

Threats at Bay

① Population growth has resulted in increased sea surface temperature on the enclosed sea.

80% of Cyclones occur in Indian Ocean concentrated

in Bay of Bengal.

② Species extinction and illegal trading is eroding biodiversity. The recent sea cucumber trade is to be mentioned.

③ Asserhau Chitra can make the Bay region hot bed of exchanges.

Suggestive measures

① Cultural : For increasing cultural collaborations the centre must take part in Project Mausam to propagate Indian culture.

② Regional co-operation can be expanded by opening a centre for BIMSTEC which has combined GDP of \$ 2 trillion.

③ Security angle can be met by Colombo Security conclave which can help centre combat organised crimes.

India has been prominent in white shipping agreement and renewal of ties with Bay nations. The centre can surely add teeth to it.