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
2. BIMSETC | About BIMSETC
3. Embassy Of Japan | Japan Relationship With North East Region

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