



Purvodaya

The Rise of Opportunities

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) hosted an International Conference on BIMSTEC : A Driving Force Behind Neighborhood Cooperation” The organized event in collaboration with The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at Kolkata was an assemblage of eminent academicians, policy makers and civil society actors. The deliberations and correspondences highlighted how the Eastern Part of India could become a driving force for the Act East as well as BIMSTEC. As the region has an efficiency to serve as a liaison of connectivity between the North East as well as the Bay of Bengal. Facilitating an inclusive growth for the trade, commerce, business, economy through the region altogether. The ideas also surfaces the importance of Purvodaya which as a regional policy with Eastern stem cell gives a reassurance to emerge as a mediator of alliance between the Act East and the Bay of Bengal initiatives- connecting the landlocked North Eastern belt with coastal areas in multiple ways. The article on “Purvodaya Rises as Nodal Operator for BIMSTEC Nations” would highlight the factors as in how Eastern India through the concept of Purvodaya can be subsumed as a vital tunnel of connectivity for the nation itself

The other articles would also define about the arenas on inland waterways, role of IT and digitization to enable the substantial connectivity with Purvodaya with its neighbourhood. The segment on events and activities gives a glimpse of the important International conferences hosted with Ministry of External Affairs on BIMSTEC in March 2023 to discuss how the sub-regional policy addressing key issues like connectivity, food security, climate change along with social and cultural synthesis across South and South East Asia.

Institute through its Chapter on “Purvodaya” have deliberated on important issues, history and regional perspectives since its establishment. The Purvodaya Diary on 2023-2024 for the institute holds more important initiatives in terms of events and publications with viewpoints and themes of Asian, local and regional context to encourage a constructive policy designing and implementation blueprints for Purvodaya to sustain growth and greater engagements with its Eastern neighbourhood.

— Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India



The conference was inaugurated by Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (MOS), MEA, GOI along with Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General BIMSTEC, Secretariat Dhaka and Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.

PURVODAYA RISES AS NODAL OPERATOR FOR BIMSTEC NATIONS

Arindam Basu*

The recently concluded two-day BIMSTEC Conference in The City of Joy emphasized the role that Kolkata could play in making the Act East policies successful.

The meet titled BIMSTEC: 25 Years of Driving Force behind Neighbourhood Cooperation Conference saw Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Rajkumar Ranajan Singh, after inaugurating the meet, say: “Kolkata is strategically one of the most prominent cities of India and for promotion of East and Act East policy Kolkata should be the prime area. In the opinion of many experts it should be the regional head to lead the Act East policy.”

Multimodal connectivity has been a major thrust of BIMSTEC nations. It is essential for connecting intermediate and final production centres with markets across the BIMSTEC countries. This could be done by facilitating freight movement and lowering freight costs, reducing travel time, lowering cost per tonnage, or both. Kolkata has the positional vantage to lead the connectivity being both the storage and clearing point.

Dr. Constantino Xavier, Research Fellow, Centre For Social and Economic Progress, CSEP, New Delhi, began his speech, stating: “I start today by proposing that Kolkata should actually also strive to become connectivity capital. This is traditionally a city that has been deeply tied to the Bay of Bengal, to the

Himalayas, to the Eurasian hinterland, to the Indian Ocean region, to Southeast Asia and East Asia.

So certainly, this is if not one among, but certainly deep, most propitious place for us to discuss connectivity. And hopefully Kolkata can reclaim that role that has played historically over centuries in millennia as a connectivity hub for Asia.”

“We are reversing gears in this region and we are now not only building connectivity, but we actually trying to correct the connectivity gaps that have been built and deepened over decades. In the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, for 40 to 50 long years, the entire world was focused on interdependence, connectivity, and regions coming together. In this region, the exact reverse happened from the 1950s until the 1990s by any absolute indicator of connectivity interdependence, the region was coming apart.

South Asia, if you want to call the Bay of Bengal region was coming apart. Not only was there a lack of investment in managing connectivity, there was actually investment in building barriers to connectivity, in building border fences and disconnecting trade, in hindering mobility between these countries in the region, the so-called BIMSTEC region or Bay of Bengal region. So, you were reversing, you were going against the trend of history. And that is the legacy of dysconnectivity,” he said indicating that Kolkata could act as the untangling point of this legacy of disconnect by driving development being a nodal centre for BIMSTEC.

For countries like Bhutan and Nepal, which are landlocked nations without access to the sea or inland ports, Kolkata could be crucial entry-exit point. Not only that Kolkata could also be the important centre connecting North East India through land via North Bengal and water via Bangladesh thereby exploiting the potential of the region. And this could result in greater economic rewards based on greater regional connectivity. Around 400 million people live in the four coastal states adjacent to the Bay of Bengal, namely Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Kolkata could take the lead in connecting India’s landlocked North Eastern States, re-establishing the long-lost connectivity with the Bay of Bengal and critically enhancing the region’s development and welfare prospects.

In keeping with the idea, Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Chairman, National Shipping Board, said: “The BIMSTEC for the purpose of strengthening regional

solidarity and transport connectivity has been active and thanks to that we have a master plan in place which has been accepted which gives the detail. We have a clear master plan which covers areas of road transport, railways, ports, inland waterways and it also very familiarly touches upon the need for multi model connectivity and promoting ease of doing business and making transaction simpler and also the need for developing human resource.”

The Kolkata edition also marked the 25th anniversary of BIMSTEC that threw up several important issues including the promotion of Millet Diplomacy to ensure food security in the region and how East and North East of the country could become leaders in diplomatic strategy for the region.

Mr. Rajkumar Ranajan Singh said, “This is the Year of the Millet and our Prime Minister has given much importance to it. This is a climate resilient crop and its nutrition value is very high. Let us hope that food deficiency by way of cultivation and popularization of millet can be addressed. It grows in all geographic condition and needs less water. So let us promote it and see how far it goes to solve the problem of food security.”

In the technical session on climate change, Mr Sangay Wangdi, Researcher, Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies (CBS), expressed his concern about the growing climate hazard in the region. He said: "The problem we are facing is that, the areas which are cold are becoming colder and the areas which are hot are getting hotter."

Wangdi warned that the result of this climate change could bring with it a host of problems like sea level rise, extreme weather conditions, glacial lake outburst, vulnerable agriculture sector, ecosystem and economic loss and final vulnerable health conditions.

Echoing the same sentiments, Dr Yogesh Gokhale, Senior Fellow and Area Convenor, Centre for Forest Management and Governance Land; Resources Division, The Energy and Resource Institute, said: "Adaptation, inducing climate resilience and mitigation- need to be developed and implemented at regional level. All BIMSTEC member countries have nature based solution as a major approach committed as climate actions under Paris Climate Agreement. "

Food Security of the region was also another major point of discussion. Prof Sachin Chaturdevi, DG, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) said: “The GDP is growing with each passing day. The expansion is going high by 2.66 times. We have also noticed an economic expansion in per capita income in large number. A lot of efforts have been made in terms of food

value chain and agriculture. The main factor which we should keep in mind and aim should be to promote the knowledge of eco farming, reduce the cost of cultivation and farming.”

Dr. Herath Manthrithilake, Emeritus Scientist, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Sri Lanka, talking on the subject said: “It is important to talk about the wastage of food and food nutrition. I have no doubt in saying that our food system has changed. The western diet culture has turned our food habit into being more weighted and measured rather than valued and enjoyed.”

Speaking at the meet for increasing people to people connect, Prof. Jigme Nidup, Assistant Professor,

Norbuling Rigter College, Royal University of Bhutan, said: " Bringing up BIMSTEC university is something we can think as a long-term plan. This can help bring up a joint collaboration and research project between neighboring countries."

The idea of sports forming an integral part of this connect was also a point of discussion. The need of the hour was the formation of a common sports policy; regular sporting exchanges; holding each other develop sports; include sports as an important subject of nation building and create a new sporting frontier for the world to see—like BIMSTEC Games. It can open several doors like tourism, business industry and thus push bilateral and multilateral relations.



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Dreamstime

ODISHA: AN EMERGING STATE IN IT

Aruna Kumar Mohapatra *

The Indian Information Technology Industry has made rapid strides and assumed greater heights during the last couple of decades. IT companies across the globe have preferred to make their presence in India. The industry has grown manifold creating huge job opportunities tapping the skilled youth power and adding to the economic growth and development of the country. Share of IT sector to the India's GDP has considerably increased. India aspires to become a knowledge economy with a global role. The Indian economy has achieved a growth rate of around 8 % over the last decade, and the contribution of IT Sector to this growth is significant.

Keeping pace with the expansion of IT sector at the national level, Odisha, the Sunrise state in Eastern India is fast emerging as a leading industrial hub in the country. The State has undergone remarkable changes and transformed itself as the center of growth by adopting and experimenting innovative ideas and entrepreneurship. Odisha government has enhanced spending on Information Technology and Digital Initiative. About Rs. 356 crore has been earmarked for expenditure in the Electronics and IT sector in the 2023-24 state budget which clearly spells out the priority of the State government to the Information Technology,

Odisha, famous for its rich mineral resources, a long coastline stretching more than 480 kilometers with three operational sea ports, widespread road

connectivity including 5762 km of National and 4100 km of State Highways, excellent infrastructure and skilled human resources have created a conducive environment for the growth and expansion of IT sector. And it's because of the aforementioned supportive climate, one can see the presence of IT majors in the State. Way back in 1996, Infosys preferred the State capital for setting up its first offshore development center outside Karnataka. Apart from Infosys, IT majors like TCS, WIPRO, Tech Mahindra, Mindtree Capgemini, Black Knight Inc. and more than hundred IT companies and startups have made it a vibrant destination.

Odisha offers a robust infrastructural support for IT sector. The State has set up SEZs, namely Infocity and Infovalley on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. Infovalley campus spreads over a vast stretch of 750 acres of land. In addition, the State has 10,000 acres available land bank to house all the IT, Electronic Hardware Manufacturing (EHM). IT towers and four Incubation Centers in collaboration with STPI at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Balasore and Rourkela and above all power and telecom infrastructure have all spurred IT investors.

For any type of growth, skilled manpower is essential and in Odisha it is abundantly available. The State houses 800 plus technical colleges and 600 plus ITIs from which 47,000 plus students pass out every year. The State has set up India's first World Skill Center to train the future work force.

The State government has taken several laudable steps in leveraging the use of technology to reform government functioning as well. One such initiative in this direction is OSWAS (Odisha Secretariat Workflow Automation System) which has made offices paperless in the Secretariat and Directorates. GOSWIFT and GOPLUS are single window portals which act as facilitation mechanism for investors concerning various services needed throughout the functioning of the projects. Government has also implemented IT based mineral administration.

Odisha is one of the major states contributing to the Nation's economy through IT. Software exports from the State have touched to above Rs. 7500 crores per annum. It is recording consistent growth over the years. Because of the enabling environment created by the State government for the growth of IT sector,

many big players have started to invest and establish Data Centers in the State. Recently, Honorable CM of Odisha has inaugurated IBM's Client Innovation Center (CIC) at O-Hub, Chandaka Industrial Estate in the State capital. The CIC will have a capacity of 500 employees as the company is poised to expand its arena of operation to cater to the needs of the global clients outside India. Not only will it create opportunities for the existing employees but also help in harnessing young talents from the educational ecosystem in Odisha. Thus while established IT majors have their projects in the State, international organization like IBM has moved to the State

The new IT policy 2022 is another endeavor on the part of the State government to boost confidence of investors and to catapult IT sector of Odisha to scale greater heights, unfolding greater opportunities and improvement in the lives of its citizens. This is a very comprehensive policy. Incorporating the features of State's previous policies, it is significant in terms of the extent of incentives it offers. Among others, the policy offers incentives to encourage private initiatives to set up IT parks in the State. So much so, the Green field IT Park will avail capital subsidy amounting to 25% of its fixed capital investment subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 crores. Of course, the policy has certain terms and conditions for such IT parks enshrining that such parks must dedicate 60% of their built-up area for IT units. The policy offers 100% reimbursement of stamp duty/ registration fee/ land conversion fee to support such projects. In addition, reimbursement of SGST on capital goods, etc. for execution of such projects for a period of three years or till the completion of the project whichever is earlier is another encouraging feature of the policy to motivate IT companies to invest in the State. Apart from the new IT policy, the State government has also formulated Data Center Policy, 2022 which also offers incentives in this regard.

Thus, armed with the new IT policy and the Data Center Policy, the State government is expecting to get substantial investment proposals for its IT sector. The recently concluded MIO conclave has highlighted these congenial, proactive industry friendly policies transforming Odisha as the ultimate IT hub, particularly in the Eastern part of the country. Day is not far away when Odisha will be the leading destination for Information Technology in the country contributing sizably to its GDP.

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Dreamstime

ଜଳପଥ ପରିବହନ : ପୂର୍ବୋଦୟ ବିକାଶର କିରଣ

ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ନାରାୟଣ ମଲ୍ଲିକ,*

ମାନବ ସଭ୍ୟତା ଗଢ଼ି ଉଠିବା ଦିନଠାରୁ ନଦୀ ଏକ ଜୀବନଦାୟୀ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବରଦାନ ଭାବେ ମଣିଷକୁ ସହାୟତା ଯୋଗାଇ ଆସିଛି। ନଦୀ ଉପତ୍ୟକାରେ ଅନେକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ସଭ୍ୟତା ଗଢ଼ି ଉଠିଛି। ନଦୀଜଳ ମନୁଷ୍ୟର ପାନୀୟର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅବଲମ୍ବନ ହେବା ସହ କୃଷି, ଶିଳ୍ପ, ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ, ଗୃହପାଳିତ ପଶୁପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଆଧାର ଏହିପରି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଭାବରେ ଆମମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରେ। କେବଳ ସେତିକି ନୁହେଁ, ସଡ଼କର ବିକାଶ ହୋଇ ନ ଥିବା ସମୟରେ ଆନ୍ତଃ ନଦୀ ପରିବହନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଥିଲା ଯୋଗାଯୋଗର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ମାଧ୍ୟମ। କେବଳ ଭାରତୀୟ ଜନଜୀବନ ନୁହେଁ, ସମଗ୍ର ପୃଥିବୀର ଜୀବନ ଓ ଜୀବିକାର ଅବଲମ୍ବନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ହେଉଛି ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ।

ଏହ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ ଓ ଜଳପଥରେ ବହୁପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଓ ମନୁଷ୍ୟକୃତ ସମସ୍ୟା ମଧ୍ୟ ରହିଛି ଯାହା ନଦୀ ଜଳର ଗୁଣବତ୍ତା ହ୍ରାସ କରିବା ସହ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରତି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନାତୀ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛି। ଭାରତର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ନଦୀମାନେ ନିଜର ଗତିପଥରେ ବାଧାବିଘ୍ନର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି। ଦିନ ମନୁଷ୍ୟକୃତ ଆବର୍ଜନା ନଦୀ ଜଳକୁ ଭୟଙ୍କର ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଦୂଷିତ କରିବା ସହ ଏହାର ଗଭୀରତାକୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରୁଛି। ଶିଳ୍ପାୟନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରାସାୟନିକ, ଜୈବିକ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ବିନା ପ୍ରସେସିଂରେ ନଦୀକୁ ଛଡ଼ାଯିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜଳ ଦୂଷିତ ହେବା ସହ ନଦୀ ଜଳକୁ ଶିଳ୍ପ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଅନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ଭଙ୍ଗରେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯାଉଥିବା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଏହାର ବହୁମାତ୍ରାରେ ଅପଚୟ ହେଉଛି। ସେହିପରି ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ, ଜଳସେଚନ ପାଇଁ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଡ୍ୟାମ୍ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଇ ନଦୀର ଗତିପଥ ବଦଳା ଯାଉଛି। ଏଥିଯୋଗୁଁ ମରୁଡ଼ି, ବନ୍ୟା ଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଛି।

ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ, ନଦୀ ଜଳର ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ଓ ଶୁଦ୍ଧତା, ନଦୀ ଜଳପଥର ଗଭୀରତା ଓ ଚିରପ୍ରବହମାନତା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଯୋଜନାବଦ୍ଧ ବିକାଶଦ୍ୱାରା ଏସବୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନର ମୁକାବିଲା କରାଯାଇପାରିବ। ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି ବିଶ୍ୱର ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ ଦେଶମାନେ ନିଜ ନିଜ ଦେଶର ନଦୀର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଅନେକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟାନ୍ତମୂଳକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମହାତକୁ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି। ପୂର୍ବତନ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଅଟଳ ବିହାରୀ ବାଜପେୟୀଙ୍କ ଶାସନ ସମୟରେ ଭାରତରେ ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ଯୋଜନାକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲା। ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀଙ୍କ ଗଙ୍ଗା ସଫେଇ ଅଭିଯାନ ଏକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟାନ୍ତମୂଳକ ଯୋଜନା କହିଲେ ଅତ୍ୟୁକ୍ତି ହେବନାହିଁ।

ଲଞ୍ଚିଷ୍ଟିକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଜଳପଥଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସୁଲଭ ଓ ପରିବେଶ ଅନୁକୂଳ ଏବଂ ଅଧିକ ମିତବ୍ୟୟୀ। ସମଗ୍ର ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦେଶୀୟ ଜଳପଥକୁ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଅନୁକୂଳ, କମଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ଓ ପରିବେଶଅନୁକୂଳ ବୋଲି ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଛି ଏବଂ ବିପୁଳ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ପରିବହନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଜଳପଥ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସୁବିଧାଜନକ ବୋଲି ବିଚାର କରାଯାଇଛି। ରେଳ ଓ ସଡ଼କ ପରିବହନ ତୁଳନାରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦେଶୀୟ ଜଳପଥରେ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ପରିବହନ କରାଗଲେ କମ୍ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ପଡ଼ିବ। ସହ ପରିବେଶ ପାଇଁ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ସହାୟକ ହୋଇପାରିବ। ଭାରତରେ ଜଳପଥର ପରିବହନକୁ ଅବଦାନ ୬% ରହିଛି ଯାହା ବିକାଶଶୀଳ ଦେଶଗୁଡ଼ିକ ତୁଳନାରେ କମ୍। ବିକଶିତ ଦେଶରେ ଏହି ହାର ୧୦ ରୁ ୧୫% ଭଳି ଉଚ୍ଚ ସ୍ତରରେ ରହିଛି। ଭାରତରେ ୧୪,୫୦୦ କିଲୋମିଟର ର ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ ଜଳପଥର ଏକ ବିଶାଳ ନେଟୱାର୍କ ଅଛି, ଯେଉଁଥିରେ ନଦୀ, କେନାଲ, ବ୍ୟାକଞ୍ଚର, ଶାଖାନଦୀ ଏବଂ ଉପନଦୀ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ। ଏଠାରେ ସୂଚନାଯୋଗ୍ୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ଖାତର ଖେ ଆକ୍ଟ ୨୦୧୬ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଦେଶର ୧୧୧ଟି ଜଳମାର୍ଗକୁ ନ୍ୟାସନାଲ ଖାତର ଖେ ଯୋଷଣା କରିଛନ୍ତି। ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ୨୪ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ୫ଟି ବିଦ୍ୟମାନ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ଏବଂ ୧୦୬ଟି ନୂତନ ଜଳପଥକୁ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ଯୋଷଣା କରାଯାଇ ସାରିଛି, ଯାହା ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥର ମୋଟ ସଂଖ୍ୟାକୁ ୧୧୧କୁ ନେଇଯାଇଛି। ଏସବୁ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ୨୩ଟି ଜଳପଥ ମାଲ ପରିବହନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ। ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଠିକ ସମୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହେବା ଏବଂ ଭାରତରେ ଉନ୍ନତ ଜଳ ପରିବହନ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଭାରତର ଜଳପଥ ଦାୟତ୍ୱରେ ଥିବା ଏକ ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ ଇନିସିଆଟିଭିଭାସିଭି (IWAI) ଦାୟୀ। ଇନିସିଆଟିଭିଭାସିଭି ଖାତରଖେ ଅଥରିଟି ଅଫ୍ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଜଳପଥକୁ ପରିବହନର ଏକ ବିଶ୍ୱାସଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଓ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟିକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୋଣରୁ ଯୁକ୍ତିଯୁକ୍ତ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ଭାବେ ବିକଶିତ କରିବାକୁ ଯୋଜନା ରଖିଛି। ଏହି ଜଳମାର୍ଗ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ ହେଲେ ୬୦ ହଜାରରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ମିଳିବାର ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହିଛି। ଏହି ଜଳମାର୍ଗ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀମାନେ ଗୋଟିଏ ନଦୀରୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ନଦୀ ଦେଇ ଦେଶର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ସହ ଭାରତ, ବାଂଲାଦେଶ, ଚୀନ, ନେପାଳ, ଭୁଟାନ, ମିଆଁମାର, ଥାଇଲ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡ ସମେତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ଏସିଆ ଦେଶଗୁଡ଼ିକ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଓ ଗମନାଗମନର ବାଟ ଖୋଲିଯିବ। ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥର

ନିର୍ମାଣ ଫଳରେ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ପରିବହନ ଓ ଗମନାଗମନ ହୋଇ ପାରିବ। ଫଳରେ ଏହାର ପ୍ରଭାବ ଉତ୍ପାଦନର ବଜାର ମୂଲ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ସିଧାସଳଖ ପଡ଼ିବ ଏଥିରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ ନାହିଁ।

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଗତିଶକ୍ତି ଯୋଜନା ଆଧାରରେ ସାଗରମାଳା ଯୋଜନାରେ ଦେଶର ବନ୍ଦରଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଦିଆଯାଇ କାମ ହେଉଛି। ଏଥିରେ ମୌଳିକ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଥିବା ସବୁ ଅଭାବ ଦୂର କରାଯାଉଛି। ବନ୍ଦରର ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ସାଗରମାଳା ଯୋଜନାରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରାଯାଉଛି। ସେଥିରେ ବନ୍ଦରର ଗଭୀରତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି, ନୂଆ ବର୍ଥ ଓ ଚର୍ମିନାଲ ନିର୍ମାଣ, ଡ୍ରେଜିଂ, ବୃହତ ଜାହାଜର ପ୍ରବେଶ ପାଇଁ ଚାନେଲର ଗଭୀରତା ଓ ପ୍ରଶସ୍ତତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି, ମାଲ୍ହୋଝେଇ ଓ ଖଲାସ ପାଇଁ ଆଧୁନିକ ଯାନ୍ତ୍ରିକ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ଆଦି ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ। ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବୃହତ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପମାନ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେଉଛି। ଏଥିରେ ବନ୍ଦରର ଆଧୁନିକୀକରଣ, ରେଳ, ସଡ଼କ ଓ

ଜଳସଂଯୋଗ ପଥ ର ଉନ୍ନତି, ନୂଆ ଶିଳ୍ପାଂଚଳ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ସହ ବନ୍ଦରଭିତ୍ତିକ ଶିଳ୍ପାଂଚଳର ବିକାଶ, ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ଉନ୍ନୟନ, ଉପକୂଳ ଜାହାଜ ଚଳାଚଳ ଓ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଦେଶୀୟ ଜଳପଥର ଉନ୍ନତି ଆଦି କାମ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଦେଶର ରପ୍ତାନୀ ଆମଦାନୀରେ ବନ୍ଦରଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭୂମିକା ଥିବାରୁ ସରକାର ବନ୍ଦର ସମୂହର ବିକାଶ, ଆଧୁନିକୀକରଣ ଓ କ୍ଷମତା ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଯୋଜନା ଅଗ୍ରାଧିକାର ଭିତ୍ତିରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରୁଛନ୍ତି। ସେଥିରେ ଆଧୁନିକୀକରଣ,

ମେକାନାଇଜେସନ ଓ ଡିଜିଟାଇଜେସନକୁ ଅଗ୍ରାଧିକାର ଭିତ୍ତିରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରାଯାଉଛି। ବନ୍ଦରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଡାଇରେକ୍ଟ ପୋର୍ଟ ଡେଲିଭେରି, ଡାଇରେକ୍ଟ ପୋର୍ଟ ଏଣ୍ଟ୍ରି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ସହିତ କଣ୍ଟେନର ଷ୍ଟାନର ଓ ରେଡିଓ ଫ୍ରିକ୍ୟୁଏନ୍ସି ଆଇଡେଣ୍ଟିଫିକେସନ ସୁବିଧା କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏହାଛଡା ପୋର୍ଟ କମ୍ୟୁନିଟି ସିଷ୍ଟମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସିଧାସଳଖ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ସୁବିଧା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରକୁ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି। ଏହା ଫଳରେ ଦେଶର କ୍ରମବର୍ଦ୍ଧିଷ୍ଣୁ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ

ତାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ପୂରଣ କରିବାକୁ ବନ୍ଦରଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସମର୍ଥ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି। ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟରେ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଓ ସମୟ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ କମିଛି। ଦେଶର ସାମୁଦ୍ରିକ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କାରବାରରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖନୀୟ ଅଗ୍ରଗତି ଘଟିବା ସହିତ ଦେଶରେ ଅର୍ଥନୀତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ବଢିଛି, ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ବିକାଶ ଘଟିଛି, କର୍ମନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଛି, ଘରୋଇ ସହଯୋଗ ବଢୁଛି, ପରିବହନ ଓ ଗମନାଗମନ ସମୟ କମୁଛି, ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ବା ରସଦ ଯୋଗାଣ ବାବଦ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଉଛି, ବେପାର ବଣିଜ ପାଇଁ ଅନୁକୂଳ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଛି ତଥା ସର୍ବୋପରି ଭାରତକୁ ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ବିଶ୍ୱ ସାମୁଦ୍ରିକ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ପହଂଚାଇବାରେ ସଫଳ ହୋଇଛି।

ଗଙ୍ଗା ଏବଂ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁତ୍ର ଭଳି ଚିରସ୍ରୋତା ନଦୀ ହିମାଳୟ ଅବବାହିକାରୁ ଏବଂ ମହାନଦୀ, ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ, ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା, ବାରାକ, ଦାମୋଦର ଆଦି ଅଣ-ଚିରସ୍ରୋତା ନଦୀ ପୂର୍ବ ଘାଟ ଓ ଛୋଟନାଗପୁର ମାଲଭୂମିରୁ ଉତ୍ପତ୍ତି ଲାଭ କରି ପୂର୍ବ ଏବଂ ପୂର୍ବୋତ୍ତର ଭାରତରେ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହୋଇ ଏସବୁ ଅଂଚଳର ଅଧିବାସୀମାନଙ୍କର ଜୀବନରେଖା ପାଲଟିବା ସଂଗେ ସଂଗେ

ଏହି ଅଂଚଳର ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧିର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସାଧନ ହୋଇଛି।

କଞ୍ଚାମାଲ ଭଳି ଜଳର ଉପଲବ୍ଧତା ମଧ୍ୟ କୌଣସି ଅଂଚଳରେ ଶିଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହେବାର ଏକପ୍ରଧାନ କାରଣ। ଲୌହ ଇସ୍ପାତ କାରଖାନା ସ୍ଥାପନ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ଜାମଶେଦଜୀ ଟାଟା ନିଜର ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ଦଳ ସହ ଘୋଡ଼ା ପିଠିରେ ଚଢ଼ି ମଧ୍ୟପ୍ରଦେଶ, ବିହାରର ବଣଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଘେରା ଲୁହାପଥର ଖଣି ଅଂଚଳରେ ଘୁରି ବୁଲୁଥିଲେ, ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା ଓ ଖରକାଇ ନଦୀର ସଂଗମସ୍ଥଳ ସାକଟି ରେ ପହଂଚି ଯୂରକାର ସହାନ ପାଇଲେ ଓ ସେହିଠାରେ ହିଁ ଆମ ଦେଶର ପ୍ରଥମ ଇସ୍ପାତ କାରଖାନା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହୋଇଥିଲା। ସେହିଭଳି ମହାନଦୀ, ଦାମୋଦର ଓ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ ନଦୀ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ଭିଲାଇ, ବୋକାରୋ ଏବଂ ରାଉରକେଲା ରେ ଇସ୍ପାତ କାରଖାନା ସ୍ଥାପନ ହେବାରେ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ବହନ କରୋ। ସେହିପରି ତିଭିସି ର ମେଜିଆ, ରଘୁନାଥପୁର ତାପଜ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ପ୍ଲାଣ୍ଟ, ଏନଟିପିସି ର ଫରଙ୍କା ବିଶାଳ ତାପଜ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାରେ ଗଙ୍ଗାନଦୀର ଭୂମିକା ଅନସ୍ମୀକାର୍ଯ୍ୟ।

କୃଷି ଏବଂ ଶିଳ୍ପ ବିକାଶରେ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ହେବା ସହ ଏହି ନଦୀମାନଙ୍କର ପୂର୍ବ ଏବଂ ପୂର୍ବୋତ୍ତର ରାଜ୍ୟ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକ ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରିବାର ଅସୀମ ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହିଛି। ନଦୀ ଅବବାହିକାର ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ଜଳକ୍ରୀଡ଼ା, ନୌବିହାର, ଇକୋ-ଟୁରିଜିମ ଶିବିର ଆଦି ବିବିଧ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଏସବୁ ଅଂଚଳରେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନସ୍ଥଳୀ ବିକାଶ ଯୋଜନାର ରୂପାୟନ ଚାଲିଛି।

ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ-୧ ଉତ୍ତରପ୍ରଦେଶ, ବିହାର,ଝାଡ଼ଖଣ୍ଡ ଏବଂ ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଗଙ୍ଗା-ଭାଗୀରଥୀ-ସୁଗୁଲି ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀରେ ହଳଦିଆରୁ ପ୍ରୟାଗରାଜ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଲମ୍ବିଛି । ବିଶ୍ୱ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କୁ ବୈଷୟିକ ଓ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତାରେ ଏହି ଜଳପଥ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏହି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପାଇଁ ସମୁଦାୟ ୫,୩୬୯.୧୮ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟ ହୋଇଛି ଯାହାକୁ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ଓ ବିଶ୍ୱ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କୁ ସମାନ ପରିମାଣରେ ବହନ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ୪ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଗମନାମଗମନ ଓ ବ୍ୟବସାୟକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି ମୋଟ୍ ୨୦ଟି ଚର୍ମିନାଲ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏଥିମଧ୍ୟରୁ ୧୮ଟି ଚର୍ମିନାଲ ପାଣି ଉପରେ ଭାସମାନ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଇଛି। ମୋଟ୍ ୧୬୨୦କିମି ଜଳପଥ ଦେଶର ସବୁଠାରୁ ବଡ଼ ଜଳମାର୍ଗ ଭାବେ ସ୍ଥାନିତ ହୋଇଛି। ଏହି ଜଳପଥ ଯେଉଁ ଯେଉଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଦେଇ ଗତି କରିବ ଉକ୍ତ ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଗମନାମଗମନ ଓ ପରିବହନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ହେବା ସଂଗେ ସଂଗେ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବସାୟରେ ବହୁ ନୂତନ ସମ୍ଭାବନା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବ।

ଆସାମ ରେ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁତ୍ର ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀରେ ଧୁବି ଠାରୁ ସାଦିଆ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୨ ସମଗ୍ର ପୂର୍ବୋତ୍ତର ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକର ବିକାଶରେ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଭୂମିକା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବ।

ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ଭାରତୀୟ ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ ଜଳପଥ ପ୍ରାୟକରଣ (ଆଇଡବ୍ଲ୍ୟୁଆଇ) ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ୬ଟି ଜଳପଥକୁ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ରୂପେ ଘୋଷଣା କରିଛି। ସେଥିମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ନମ୍ବର ୫ର ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଚାଲିଛି। ଅନ୍ୟ ୫ଟି ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥର ସର୍ତ୍ତେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ତରରେ ରହିଛି ବୋଲି ଭାରତୀୟ ଆଭ୍ୟନ୍ତରୀଣ ଜଳପଥ ପ୍ରାୟକରଣ ସୂତ୍ରରୁ ପ୍ରକାଶ। ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ, ଖରସୁଆଁ ଓ ମହାନଦୀ ଇଷ୍ଟକୋଷ୍ଠ କେନାଲ ସହିତ ମତାଇ ନଦୀର ୫୮୮ କିଲୋମିଟର ଦୀର୍ଘ ଜଳପଥକୁ ଗତ ୨୦୦୮ ମସିହା ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୫ ତାରିଖରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ-୫ ରୂପେ ଘୋଷଣା କରାଯାଇଥିଲା। ଫେବ୍ରୁ ୧ରେ ଏହା ମଙ୍ଗଳାଯୋଡ଼ିକୁ ପାରାଦୀପ ୬୭ କି.ମି., ମଙ୍ଗଳାଯୋଡ଼ିକୁ ଧାମରା ପ୍ରାୟ ୨୮ କି.ମି. ଓ ମଙ୍ଗଳାଯୋଡ଼ିକୁ ପାଣିକୋଇଲି ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୧୭ କି.ମି. ଯୋଡ଼ିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି। ଫେବ୍ରୁ ୨ରେ ଏହା ତାଳଚେରକୁ ପଙ୍କପାଳ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୨୦ କି.ମି. ଏବଂ ଫେବ୍ରୁ ୩ରେ ଧାମରାକୁ ଚାରବାଟିଆ ୩୯ କି.ମି. ଓ ଚାରବାଟିଆକୁ ଗେଉଁଖାଲି ପ୍ରାୟ ୨୧୭ କି.ମି. ସହ ଯୋଡ଼ିବ।

ଆସାମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଆଏ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୬, ବାରାକ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୧୬, ବେକି ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୧୮, ଦେହାଙ୍ଗ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୦, ଧନସିରୀ -ତାଥେ ନଦୀପ୍ରଣାଳୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୧, ଦିଶୁ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୨, ଡୋୟନ୍ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୩, ଗଙ୍ଗାଧର ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୮; ମେଘାଳୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଗାନୋଲ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୯; ବିହାର ରାଜ୍ୟର ଗଣ୍ଡକ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୬, ଘାଗରା ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୪୦; ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଅଜୟ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୭, ବକ୍ରେଶ୍ୱର - ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ ନଦୀପ୍ରଣାଳୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୧୫, ଦାମୋଦର ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୨୯, ତିଭିସି କେନାଲରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୪, ତାରକେଶ୍ୱର ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୫, ଦ୍ୱାରକା ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୩୬; ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବୈତରଣୀ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୧୪, ବିରୂପା-ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ ନଦୀପ୍ରଣାଳୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୨୨, ବୁଢ଼ାବଳଙ୍ଗ ନଦୀରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଜଳପଥ ୨୩ ଆଦି ପୂର୍ବୋଦୟରେ ଆଶା ଏବଂ ଆକାଂକ୍ଷା, ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ସମ୍ଭାବନାର ସୁନେଲି କିରଣ ଆଣିବା ସହ ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିଶାଳୀ କରିବ।

* ଅବସରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ(ଲଜିଷ୍ଟିକସ) ଏବଂ ଚିନ୍ତୟ ସ୍ଥାଳ ଜେନେରାଲ ମ୍ୟାନେଜର (ଲଜିଷ୍ଟିକସ) ସ୍କିଲ ଅଥରୀଟି ଅଫ ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଲିମିଟେଡ଼, କୋଲକାତା

2nd ISCS BIMSTEC CONFERENCE

BIMSTEC: 25 Years of Driving Force behind Neighbourhood Cooperation

25th and 26th March, 2023; Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) in collaboration with The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had organized a two day 2nd BIMSTEC conference on 25-26th March, 2023 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata. The event received support and cooperation from multiple other Think Tanks across the BIMSTEC countries. From India circuit Research and Information System For Developing Countries (RIS), Bharat Chamber of Commerce, National Library, Ministry of Culture, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute For Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) whereas from other BIMSTEC Countries institutes like South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Nepal, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Bangladesh,

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, Department of Politics and International Relations, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand, Awarelogue Initiative, Sri Lanka, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, Norbuling Rigter College, Bhutan and The Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended their partnership towards the event. The event in itself was a commemoration of 25 Years of BIMSTEC's Journey altogether.

The conference was inaugurated by Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (MOS), MEA, GOI along with Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General BIMSTEC, Secretariat Dhaka and Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India.



The two day meet held exclusive sessions on Transport connectivity, Food Security, Climate Change, Educational Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges and People-to-People connect. Ambassador of Myanmar Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Dr. Rajdeep Roy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mr. Thiam Hee Ng from Asian Development Bank, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS along with other national and international delegation participated and shared their ideas on policies and perspectives on how BIMSTEC as a sub regional policy could harness growth and development in coming

times. Important aspects including the sports diplomacy, India's millet diplomacy tourism were being discussed.

As Kolkata is strategically important, especially for Act East policy, therefore it can enable east and north east of the country to become leaders for the diplomatic strategy for the region. A Kolkata Declaration was also read out on the concluding day that charted the range of issues which needs focus and introspection in the coming time. It was also proposed to engineer such assemblage of thinkers and policy makers through BIMSTEC Conference by the institute on an annual basis.



Day Long Seminar on BIMSTEC Security Cooperation

31st March, 2023; ICCR, Kolkata

On 31st March, 2023, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies organized a day-long seminar on “BIMSTEC Security Cooperation” at the RTC, ICCR where distinguished speakers from the BIMSTEC nations did deliberate on how sub regional platform like BIMSTEC can address key non-traditional security issues like counter terrorism, cyber and energy security, disaster management etc. The event received collaboration of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies(MAKAIAS). The event was supported by The Hindustan Petroleum, ONGC, Indian Oil and Engineers India Limited.

The International Seminar commenced with the welcome address of Shri Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India followed by the address of the Chief Guest of the event – Former Air Chief Marshal Shri Arup Raha who shared his valuable observation regarding BIMSTEC Security Cooperation from varied perspectives. The Day Long Seminar was Divided into three folds, which started with the Inauguration followed with the first Academic session on “Review to BIMSTEC Maritime Framework and Future Orientations”. The post lunch sessions comprised of BIMSTEC: Countering Terrorism and Radicalization” along with BIMSTEC: An Instrument Towards Energy Security Cooperation” followed with the valedictory. The Seminar remained excessively significant as BIMSTEC as a subregional policy is commemorating its 25 years and therefore it becomes pivotal to lens how the policy have been approaching security perspectives across its region, in order to attain peace, prosperity and people to people connect within the region itself. The event received participation of Distinguished guest along with Students and research scholars. The participants were handed brochures, conference kit of the conference. Where as the Speakers and Distinguished guests were felicitated with Mementoes and gifts on behalf of the organizers.

The three fold academic session of the seminar was addressed by distinguished speakers and scholars from the BIMSTEC countries which include Captain (IN) Alok Bansal, Director, India Foundation and Adjunct Professor at New Delhi Institute of Management, Vice Admiral (Retd.) Shekhar Sinha, Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff & Commander in Chief, Western Naval Command, India, Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Dhaka, Captain Sarabjeet S Parm, Senior Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, Ms. Sohini Nayak, Research Associate and Foreign Policy Analyst, ISCS, India, Prof. Indranil Sengupta, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT-Kharagpur, Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Treasurer, East West University Aftabnagar,

**Day Long Seminar on
BIMSTEC SECURITY COOPERATION**
31st March, 2023
ICCR,9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata - 700071
(10.00 am - 5.20 pm)

Inaugural Session
Chairperson
Shri Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC
Former Air Chief Marshal

Keynote Speaker
Captain (IN) Alok Bansal
Director, India Foundation and Adjunct Professor, New Delhi Institute of Management

Technical Session -I: Review To BIMSTEC Maritime Framework and Future Orientations
Chairperson
Vice Admiral (Retd) Shekhar Sinha
Former Chief of Integrated Defence Staff & Commander in Chief, Western Naval Command, India

Special Session: BIMSTEC: Countering Terrorism and Radicalization
Chairperson
Prof. Indranil Sengupta
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT-Kharagpur

Technical Session -II: BIMSTEC : An Instrument Towards Energy Security Cooperation
Chairperson
Dr. Uttam Sinha
Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Valedictory Session
Guest of Honour
Cmde (Dr) Srikanth Kesnur, VSM, (Retd)
Former Director Maritime Warfare Centre and Officer in Charge
Naval History Project

You are cordially invited

Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh
Director, MAKAIAS

Shri Arindam Mukherjee
Director, ISCS, India

Dhaka, Bangladesh, Prof. Rohan Gunaratna, Security Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technology University, Singapore, Sri Gautam Banerjee, Managing Director, Business Brio, Director, Data Science Foundation International, Uttam Sinha, Senior Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Director, Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), Nepal, Dr. Lobzang Dorji, Senior Lecturer, Norbuling Rigter College, Royal University of Bhutan, Dr. Sirinbhatra Sathabhornwong, Lecturer, Ubon Ratchathani University.

The Speakers in their discourse addressed key issues like the dynamics of maritime security and cooperation among the BIMSTEC nations in this regard, BIMSTEC'S policy initiatives towards countering terrorism and radicalization and the necessity of energy security and cooperation among the BIMSTEC member countries. The seminar marked its closure with a valedictory speech of Cmde (Dr.) Srikant Kesnur, Ph.D., (Retd.) Former Director, Maritime Warfare Centre (MWC) and Distinguished Academician in Maritime and Naval History, Defence and Diplomacy which was chaired by Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS).



Former Air Chief Marshal Shri Arup Raha delivering his speech

First cargo vessel to Sittwe Port flagged off from Kolkata



MV-ITT LION, Kolkata

A historical event at Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata took place on 4th May, 2023. As the first vessel from Kolkata Port started its maiden journey to Sittwe Deep Sea Port in Myanmar with 20,000 sacks of cement. Union Minister Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, GoI, Smt. Smita Panth, JS, BM, MEA with other govt. officials flagged off MV-ITT LION, Kolkata on its historic journey. The cement from 'ITT Lion, Kolkata' will be unloaded at Sittwe Port and will eventually reach Paletwa in the Chin state of Myanmar on the border of Mizoram by a small boat through the Kaladan River on 9th May, 2023. Paletwa is also less than 20 km from the Bangladesh border.



Flag off Ceremony

Arindam Mukherjee

Arindam Mukherjee

The cargo vessel named MV-ITT LION (V-273) is the inaugural shipment to operationalise the Sittwe Port in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. The port has been developed with Indian assistance as part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP). Many have been eagerly waiting for the completion of that

port for a long time. As it would facilitate cheap and better connectivity with Myanmar, and act as an alternative route of freight transport in North East India- avoiding the Chicken Neck of North Bengal. India's Act East Policy, Neighborhood First Policy, Indo-pacific Geo politics and etc are associated with this India's 484 million USD Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.



Under construction Sittwe Deep Sea Port 2014

Arindam Mukherjee



Photo shoot after Flag Off Ceremony

Arindam Mukherjee

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