

# **Borders and Beyond**

## **In The Context of India's Look East Policy**



# No man an island unto himself

- True of nations also-even island nations?
- Countries come together for mutual benefit
- Maybe all countries in the world-WTO?
- Issue based groups
- Regional or sub-regional groupings

# Large countries

- Parts of countries can also cooperate
- Parts of one country may share language, culture, historical ties with neighbour
- Shared ties basis for cooperation
- Less well endowed parts to be supported to enable full participation in sub-regional cooperation
- Development to be symmetrical

# North east and Look East Policy

- Seven Sisters and Sikkim share long international boundary
- Adjoining countries members of SAARC, SAFTA, ASEAN, BIMSTEC as India is
- Platform for cooperation already exists
- To sub-regional form now

# North east location vis-à-vis neighbours



# Infrastructure

- Power-48000 hydro potential
- Railways-2578 km tracks 1200 km broad gauge
- Air connections-well connected

Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura regular flights  
Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh heli services

# The Potential

- Infrastructure necessary for states to  
Gain maximum benefit from sub-regional  
cooperation  
Contribute to sub-regional growth
- Petroleum, tea, organic horticultural  
products, jute goods, acrylic fibre?

## The Potential (continued)

- Demand for food?
- Services and logistics
- Health care
- Education-particularly teaching English
- Set up health care and English teaching in adjoining and ASEAN countries

## The Potential (continued)

- Roads and railways across borders
- Air services to
  - Kunming via Mandalay
  - Bangkok/Singapore via Yangon
  - Dhaka/Paro

Ganga Mekong- LCMV countries?

# The Challenge

- Political, social and human infrastructure in symmetry to reach agreement
- Physical infrastructure improvement particularly power, roads, railways
- Services infrastructure like customs, banking, warehousing, telecom services make customer friendly

# The Challenge

- Tourism infrastructure to be made seamless  
Governance issues

# Suggested First Steps

- Infrastructure for
    - obtaining best possible information
    - analysis of information
    - wide ranging consultations and agreement
- Consistent policies and action for results
- Inculcate among Policy makers, Executors, Workers, Stakeholders business like work culture, result orientation

## Suggested First Steps (continued)

- Concentrate on what people best do and want to do
- Match what people across borders want
- Ensure environment friendliness
- Conserve soil water nature
- Ensure infrastructure for goods services
- Joint/integrated activities by states

## Suggested First Steps (contd)

- Act in time bound manner
- Regular monitoring by broad based involvement
- Evaluate reconnect and course correct 3-5 years