

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - 1/20

Belt and Road initiative is the largest infrastructure project of 21st century, with the investment of about 1.3 trillion dollars. President Xi Jinping announced the initiative during the official visit to Kazakhstan and India in 2013.

The plan was two pronged: the over-land silk road Economic belt and the Maritime silk road. The two were collectively referred to first as the One belt one Road initiative but eventually became the Belt road initiative.

Corridors

There are six corridors of the BRI, which are given below.

- i) New Eurasian land bridge
- ii) China - Mongolia - Russia
- iii) Bangladesh - China - India - Myanmar Corridor.
- iv) China Pakistan Economic Corridor
- v) China Indo-China Peninsula Economic Corridor
- vi) China Central Asia West Asia Economic Corridor.

UN backed this trans-national corridor project in the UNSC resolution 2344 which call on all the countries to strengthen the process of regional cooperation, through regional development initiative such as silk road Economic belt and the 21st century maritime silk road initiative. International monetary Fund (IMF) and the silk road Fund are also financing the BRI initiative. As per the document, BRI will be implemented according to the principles and purposes of the UN charter.

When it comes to infrastructure and development, Asia appears to be an under-developed region. According to Asia development bank report, Asia has US \$8 trillion funding gap in infrastructure development. Another report maintains that the region is in dire need of US \$1.4 trillion investment in infrastructure per annum, between 2013 and 2017, in order to maintain

it's growth momentum.

Investment in Different sectors

BRI invested in different sectors

which are following

- 1- Transport sector
- 2- Industries
- 3- Energy
- 4- Agriculture sector

~~Agriculture sector~~

Transport sector.

One of the major investment of BRI is in transport sector which includes bullet train project, Motorway and highways, sea ports and so on.

Industries

Under BRI project, the industries will be established where there is an abundance of raw materials. We can take an example of Pakistan, where the textile, copper, silver and food

industries will be established.

Energy sector

Energy sector is broadly divided into two heads

1- hydrocarbons

2- clean energy winds

• The Caspian region (Iran, middle east) is rich in hydrocarbon. The countries rich in hydrocarbons will be incorporated in this energy sector. As for clean energy wind is concerned, solar, hydal and ^{civil-}nuclear plants will be installed and the case study here is Pakistan.

Investment in Agriculture sector

The countries in South Asia, Central Asia, Asean and many more will be considered for investment in agriculture sector. Many steps will be taken like modernisation of agriculture techniques, seed development, hybrid

production, live stock production and cold storage will be established.

Objectives of BRI

There are different objectives of this trillion dollars project, which are following.

Shorter access to the market

Chinese ships take more than 49 days to reach Europe and 36 days to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through Shanghai. Through Chinese bullet train, the distance reduce up to 2000 km and goods reach to England in 11 days. There will be less transportation cost.

Collective Economic Policy

China linked its development with the development of region. This policy is adopted US and Europe.

China is going to be largest economy but the main hurdle here is that her neighbours are underdeveloped. China linked its economy with these countries like the relocation of industries.

Influence the Government of BRI Countries

China will influence the government of BRI countries as west in general and US in particular influenced government's decision making of the world.

China is doing the same by giving loans and investing in infrastructures of under developed countries.