

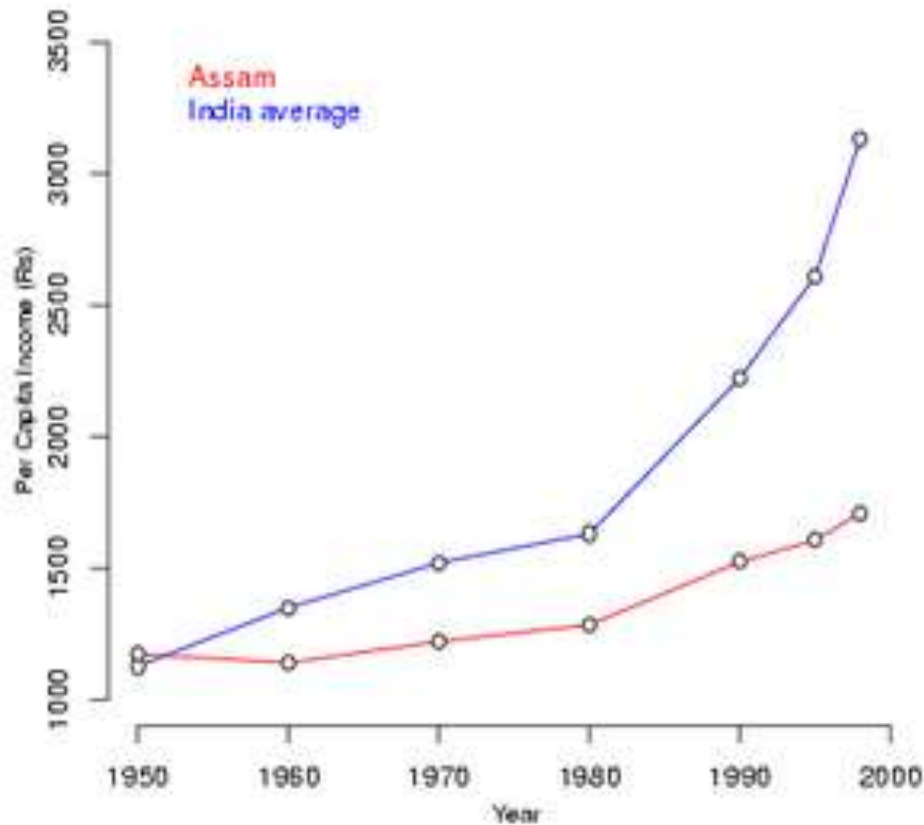
ACTING ON ACT EAST



LOCATION IS THE KEY



Historical Per Capita Income at Fixed Price (1980–81)



The per capita income of Assam was higher than the national average.



Mongolia

China

Nepal

Bhutan

India

Bangladesh

Myanmar
(Burma)

Yunnan
Province

Laos

Vietnam

Taiwan

China's Perspective of Similar Terrain

“To build an international corridor opening to the ASEAN region, China should make good use of the geographic advantage of Yunnan province”.

From The Belt and Road Initiative vision document released in March states.

Bridge Ahead Strategy China – 2009

- 1. Yunnan : A similar Geo-Strategic area for China.**
- 2. Yunnan Province has 2000 kms. with the borders of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.**
- 3. Yunnan province Headquarters Kunming : gateway to South/ South-East Asia.**
- 4. Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam have opened Consulates in Kunming; Australia – Trade Office.**

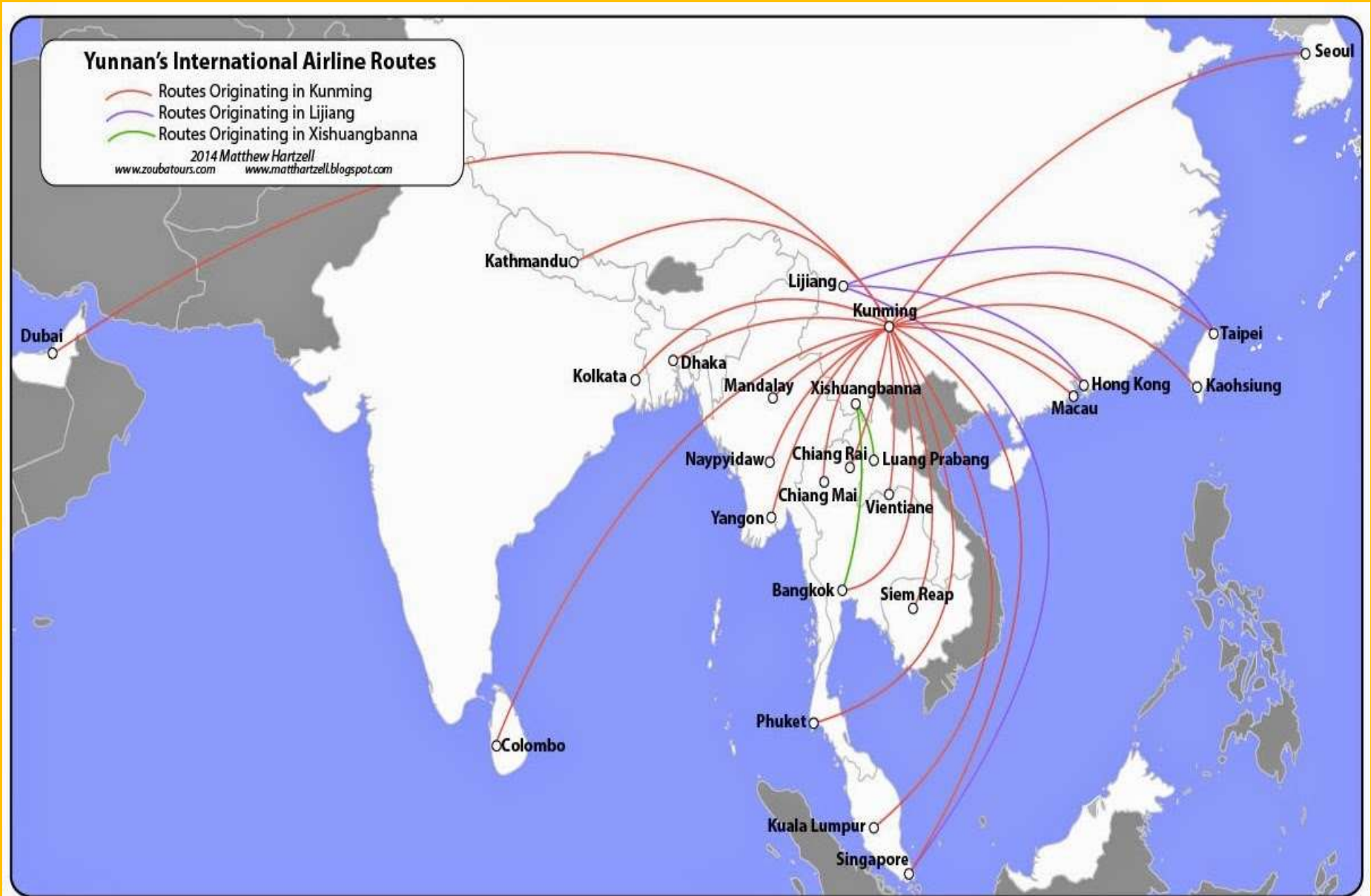
Bridge Ahead Strategy China - 2009

- 5. Yunnan, like North-East, has 25 ethnic nationalities different from China's. Dominant Han population. Has 50% of China's 53 non-Han groups.**
- 6. Kunming tourists : 40 million: 1 million foreign tourists: 40 billion Yuan revenues. 10% of GDP from Yunnan.**
- 7. Spent billions of dollars on rail, river and air transport infrastructure.**
- 8. New airport in Kunming in July, 2012: Flights from all the countries including China, Eastern Airlines from Kolkata.**

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPLY LINES ALONG THE CHINA-MYANMAR BORDER



Air Connectivity



Railway Connectivity







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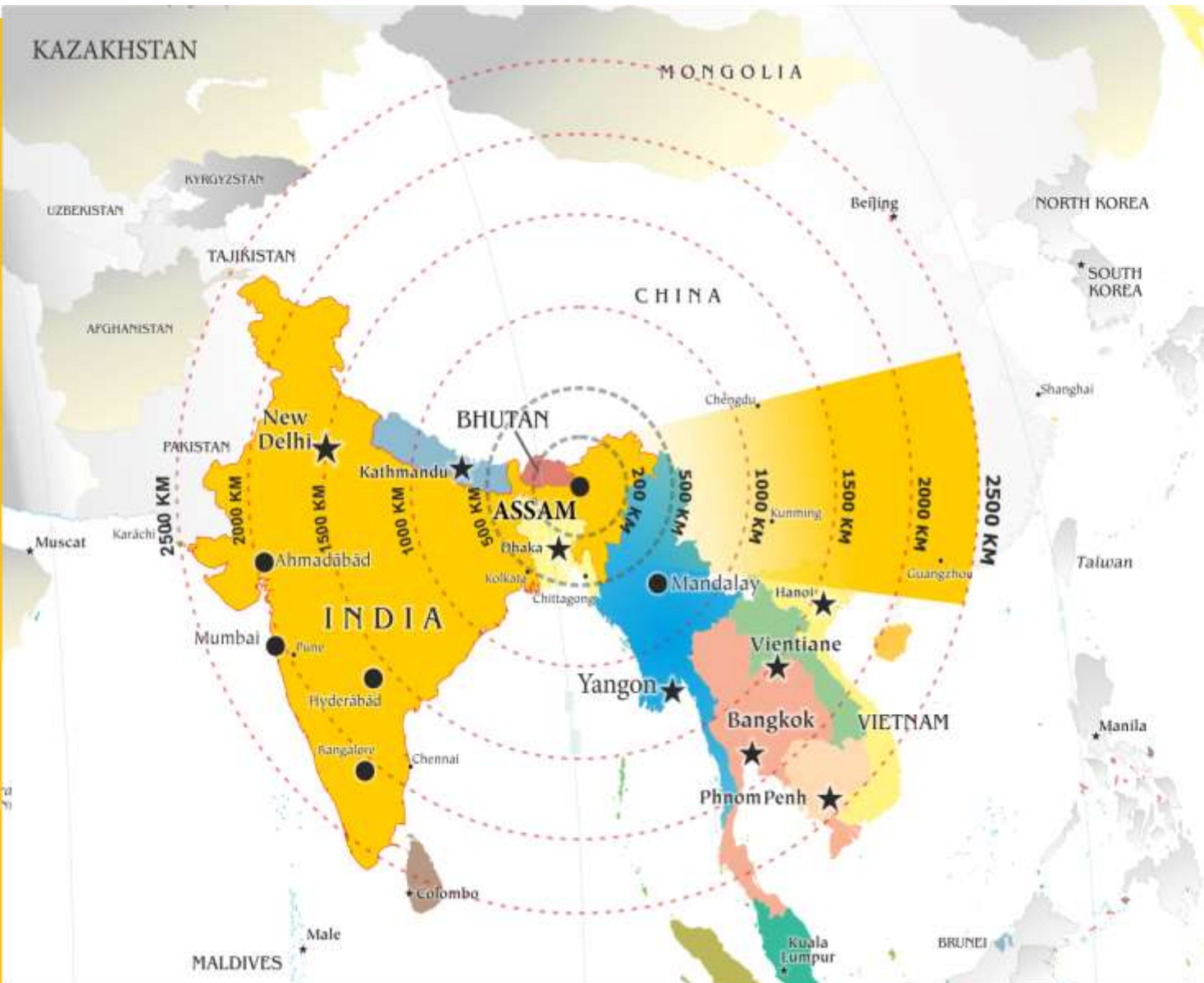
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India's North East & South East Asia

Assam: Strategic Advantage



| FLIGHT DISTANCE FROM GUWAHATI (IN KMS) | |
|--|------|
| SYLHET | 156 |
| THIMPU | 248 |
| DHAKA | 303 |
| KOLKATA | 525 |
| MANDALAY | 662 |
| KUNMING | 1107 |
| YANGON | 1126 |
| VIENTIANE | 1447 |
| NEW DELHI | 1500 |
| HANOI | 1547 |
| HYDERABAD | 1671 |
| BANGKOK | 1680 |
| CHENNAI | 1885 |
| AHMEDABAD | 1961 |
| MUMBAI | 2071 |
| PHNOM PENH | 2133 |
| COLOMBO | 2482 |
| KUALA LUMPUR | 2772 |
| SINGAPORE | 3319 |
| JAKARTA | 3929 |

Way Forward

Assam as the pivot for Act East

Way Forward

- 1. Move away from incremental thinking.**
- 2. Change the perspective from domestic to regional.**
- 3. Paradigm shift : Centrality of Assam vis-s-vis ASEAN.**
- 4. Guwahati as the central point of all regional activities similar to Kunming of Yunan.**
- 5. Recalibration of Foreign policy.**
- 6. Multi Ministerial approach.**
- 7. All plans of Ministries must have the regional connect perspective.**

Way Forward

Air

- **Extend UDAAN Scheme to ASEAN countries within**
- **2 Hrs flying time.**
- **A new mega Airport.**
- **Guwahati should have maintenance & repair and night parking facilities.**
- **Air links with all ASEAN capitals (plus Dhaka)**
- **At least 200 Domestic/International Flights with Guwahati as the hub.**

Way Forward

New Look of Assam

- Twin city at Guwahati with the new airport.
- World Trade Centre at Guwahati.

Way Forward

Road Infrastructure

- **401 Kms of NH 39 from Golaghat to Moreh needs 4 laning**
- **612 Kms of road from Guwahati to Chittagong port needs four laning**
- **Early completion of Asian Trilateral highway.**
- **Re-open Stillwell road up to Kunming**

Road Connectivity



Asian Highway-2

Road Connectivity

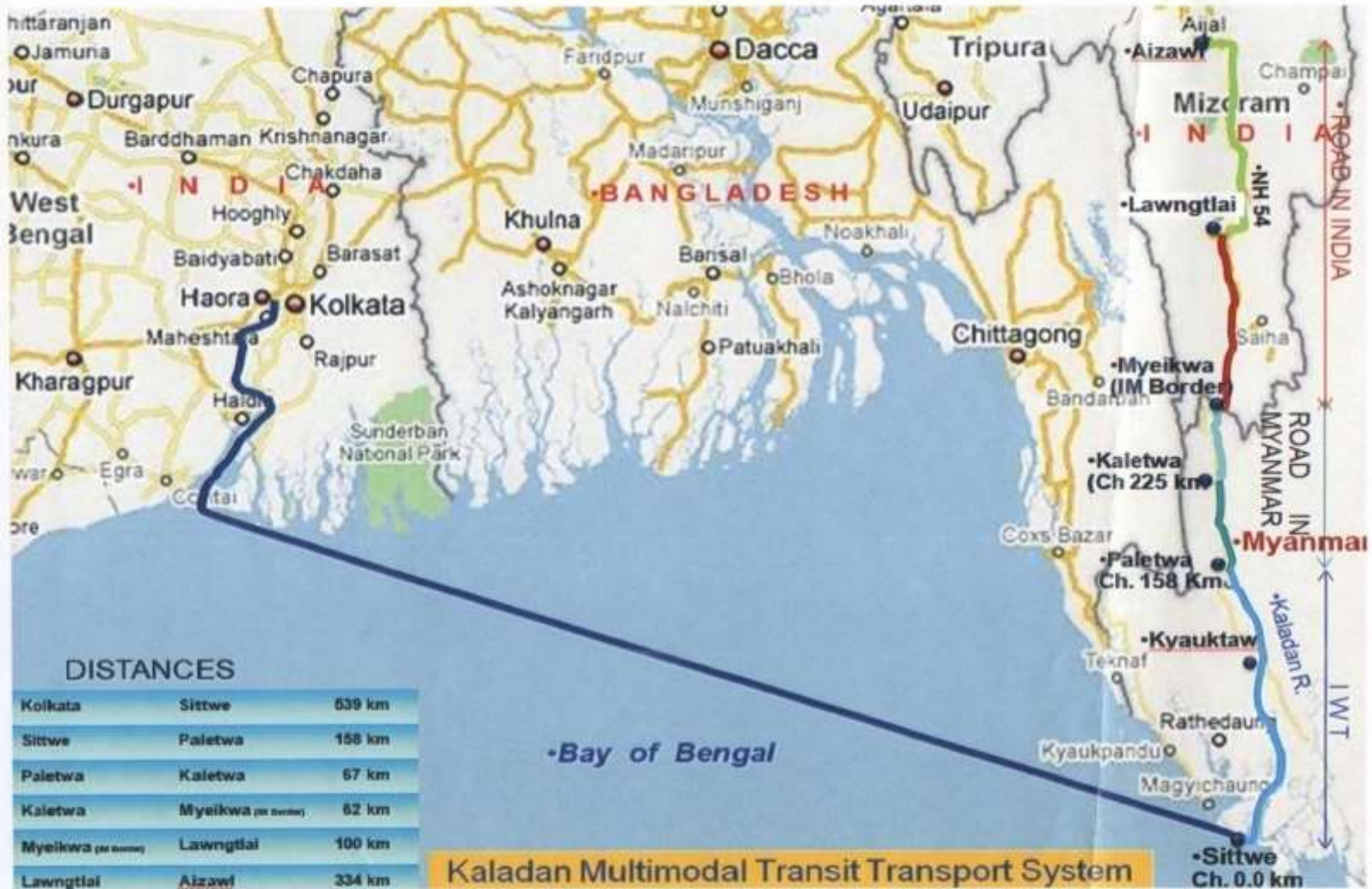


Way Forward

Water Infrastructure

- **Must have access to Chittagong/Mongla ports**
- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Chittagong and Mongla ports needs to be expedited by Ministry of Shipping.**
- **5 Port cities on Brahmaputra.**
- **Night Navigation facilities on Brahmaputra.**
- **24/7 x 365 movement of barges on Brahmaputra.**
- **Early completion of Kaladan Project**

Kaladan Project



Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport System

Kaladan Project

Port Access/ Waterways



Chittagong port development/road connectivity to India

Way Forward

Liberalize Commerce

- **Remove restrictions on land trade with Bangladesh.**
- **Review SAFTA agreement for reducing tariffs.**
- **Strengthen Border Trade Centres/ICPs.**
- **Sign Motor Transport Agreements for free movement of trucks.**

Way Forward

Industrial Development

- **6th Industrial Corridor of the country running through Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur.**
- **Industrial corridor to run parallel to trilateral highway**
- **Create a huge Land Bank for Industrial Growth.**
- **Focus on Industries based on local resources and exportable to the region.**
- **IT Connectivity from Cox Bazar.**

IT Connectivity



IT gateway for North-East

Way Forward

Diplomacy

- Open the Consulates of all ASEAN countries in Guwahati.
- Easy Visa Regime for free movement.
- Recalibration of Foreign Policy.

Way Forward

Education and Cultural

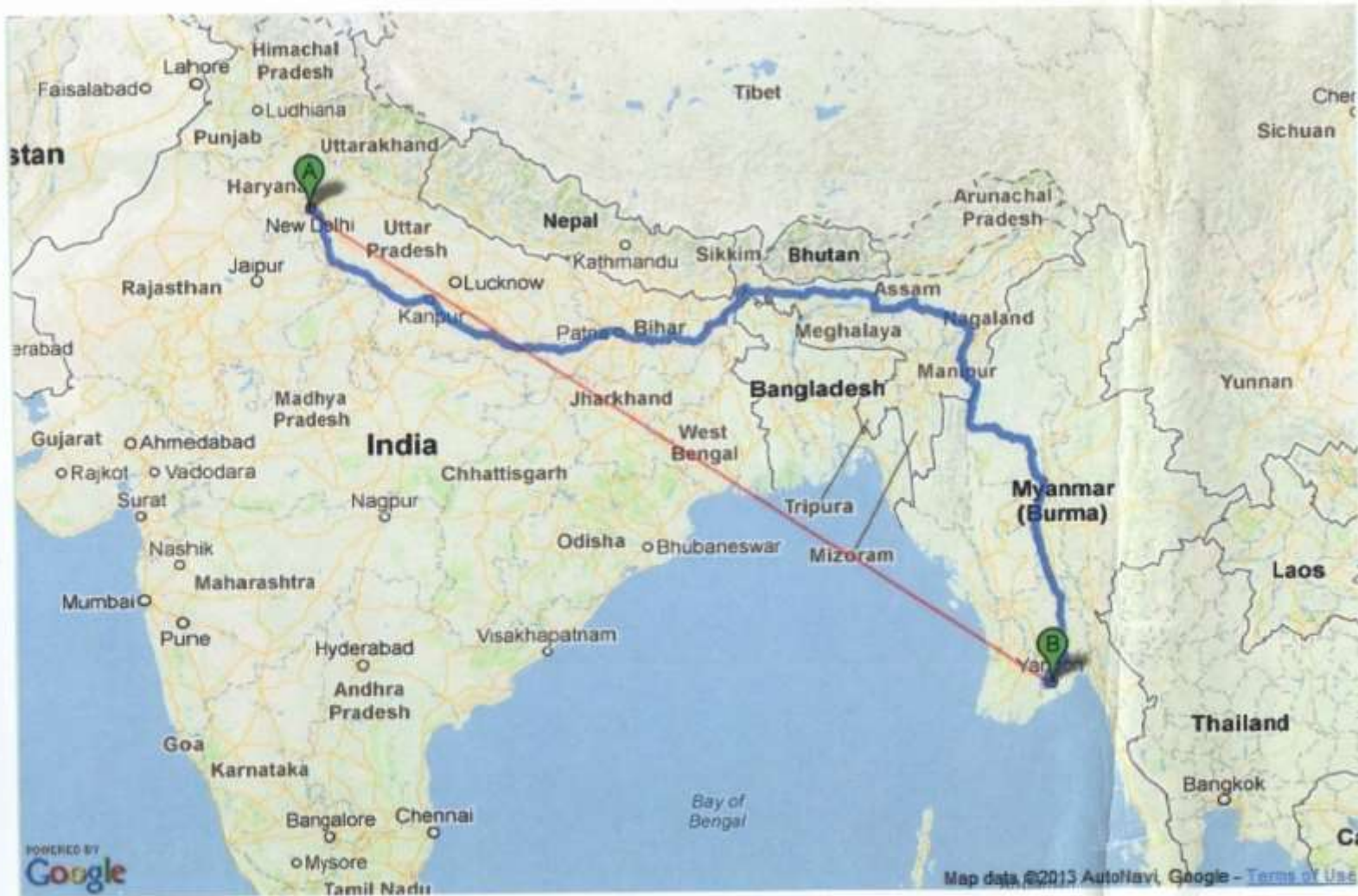
- Close ties of Assam Universities with leading Universities in ASEAN
- Chapter of South Asian University in Assam
- Deepen cultural exchanges
- Student exchange programs

Action continued....

Way Forward

1. Stop incremental thinking.
2. Start thinking India's north east as : Centre of ASEAN : a new member of the Tiger economies
3. Change the perspective from domestic to regional.
4. Paradigm shift : Centrality of North East *vis-a-vis* ASEAN.
5. Guwahati as the central point of all regional activities like Kunming of Yunnan.
6. Recalibration of foreign policy.
7. Multi Ministerial approach.
8. All domestic plans of all Ministries must have an regional connect.
9. Complete relook at NEC and Ministry of North East.
10. Disband DONER and NEC and

Road Connectivity



India-Myanmar/road

Road Connectivity

| Sl. No | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involve- ment of Ministries | Imple- menting Ministry |
|--------|---------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Asian Highway No. 2 | <p>India Myanmar Bilateral Highway (1360kms) – Moreh – Mae Sot</p> <p><u>Phase I</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamu Talewa Kalemyo (TKK) • 160 Kms (132 Kms complete : 28 under progress) • 71 Bridges now being initiated <p><u>Phase II</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalewa – Yagi 132 kms on process • Yagi–Monywa by Myanmar Government | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Myanmar 2. Thailand 3. Manipur | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Surface Transport | MEA |

Port Connectivity

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involvement of Ministries | Imple- menting Ministry |
|---------|-----------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2. | Kaladan Project 2004. | <p>Sittwe port to Zorinpui in Mizoram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Integrated Port and Inland Water Port Terminal at Sittwe • Development of Navigational Channel along Kaladan river from Sittwe to Paletwa (158 kms) • Construction of IWT – Highway Transport Terminal at Paletwa • 6 IWT barges, 300tons. • On India Side, Construction of 100 kms of new road from Lawngtlai on NH 54 to India-Myanmar Border (SARDEP-NE Phase A). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mizoram 2. Myanmar | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M/o. Surface Transport 2. M/o. Shipping 3. Inland Waterways authority of India 4. MEA | <p>NHAI/ MOREH</p> <p>MEA</p> |

Road Connectivity (*Contd/-...*)

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involvement of Ministries | Imple- menting Ministry |
|---------|---------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 3. | Stilwell Road | <p>Ledo (Assam) – Pangsua Pass (Arunachal) – Maitkyina – Kunming (1033kms)</p> <p>A. China promised – Myitkyina – Pangsua Pass-No progress (312kms)</p> <p>B. Road into Myanmar from Pangsua – (140 kms) to be developed by India.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Myanmar 2. Arunachal Pradesh 3. Assam | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Surface Transport 3. M/o. Environment & Forests | None |

Port Access/Waterways

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involvement of Ministries | Implementing Ministry |
|---------|---|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | National Water No.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night navigation • Port infrastructure • Maintenance of draft | India and Bangladesh Brahmaputra to Bay of Bengal | 1. Assam 2. Bangladesh | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Shipping & Inland Waterways. 3. States of Assam | NWAI |
| 2. | Chittagong Port development / Road connectivity to India | Chittagong Port to Meghalaya/ Tripura | 1. Bangladesh 2. Meghalaya 3. Tripura | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. NHAI 3. M/o. Shipping & Inland Waterways | None |
| 3. | Sittwe Port to Mizoram | Sittwe Port access to India | 1. Myanmar 2. Mizoram 3. Assam | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Shipping & Waterways 3. M/o. Surface Transport | MEA |

IT Connectivity

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involve- ment of Ministries | Imple- menting Ministry |
|---------|---------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | IT gateway for North-East | SEA-ME-WE-4 Consortium cable to India from landing station in Coz Bazar, Bangladesh | 1. Bangladesh 2. All states of North-East | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. IT | None |

Railway Connectivity

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involvement of Ministries | Imple- menting Ministry |
|---------|--|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Akhara – Agartala (20 Kms.) | India- Bangladesh | 1. Tripura- India 2. Chittagong 3. Bangladesh | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Railways 3. State Govt. of Tripura | |
| 2. | Jiribam – Moreh, Myanmar, Manipur (350 Kms.) | India- Myanmar | 1. Manipur 2. Myanmar 3. Assam | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Railways 3. State Govt. of Manipur | |
| 3. | Broad gauge conversion up to Silchar | With India | 1. Assam 2. Nagaland 3. Tripura | 1. State Governments of Assam, Tripura & Nagaland 2. Ministry of Railways | |

Air Connectivity

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involvement of Ministries | Implementing Ministry |
|---------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Augment Guwahati, Imphal Airport | North-East India to all countries of South-East Asia | 1. India and all countries of South-Asia | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. M/o. Civil Aviation 3. M/o. Home Affairs | None |
| 2. | Flights to Bangladesh, Kunming, Laos, Tripura, Cambodia, Bangkok | North-East India to all countries of South-East Asia | -do- | -do- | |

Diplomacy

| Sl. No. | Project | Connecting | Countries/ States | Involve-ment of Ministries | Imple-menting Ministry |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Encourage China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan to open Consulates in North-East | North East India to these countries. | All countries of South Asia + 5- 6 States of North-East | 1. M/o. External Affairs 2. States 3. Partner countries | MEA |

Background

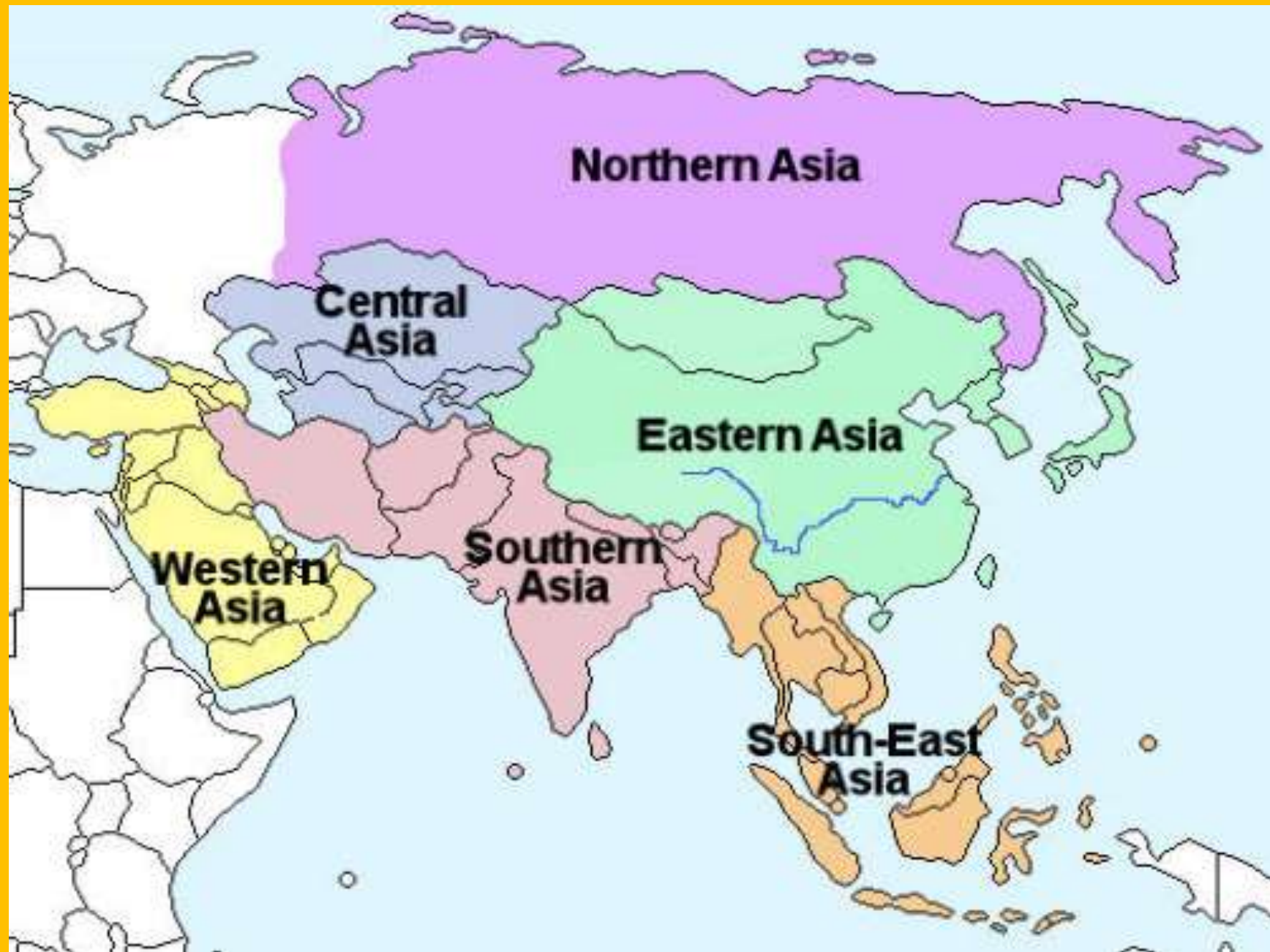
- 1. The only way to move forward for economic integration of North-East is to 'connect' North-East with South-East Asia.**
- 2. It has borders with China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar directly and through Myanmar to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.**
- 3. Key factors for integration is 'connectivity'. Land routes, water and air need to be linked up and fast.**

Background (*contd./-..*)

- 4. Key projects are identified in this note which have economic, political, diplomatic and financial implications.**
- 5. The solution to this is speedily execute these projects which cut across the states and countries on a 'mission mode'.**
- 6. Since most of these projects have multi-ministry dimensions, a strong body needs to oversee these projects.**

Background (*contd./-..*)

- 7. For these projects, India needs to spend a lot of diplomatic, financial and political leadership capital. Emphasis is on diplomatic and political leadership without which this cannot be translated.**
- 8. Almost entire trade with South-East and East-Asian countries is through Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.**
- 9. If these projects can be steered and completed, North-East India will never look the same again. Economic gains would be unimaginable.**



Northern Asia

**Central
Asia**

Eastern Asia

**Western
Asia**

**Southern
Asia**

**South-East
Asia**



COMING CLOSER



MARK ROAD ROUTE

Agartala, Badarpur, Shillong, Guwahati, Siliguri, Kolkata: 1,650 km

Agartala, Dhaka, Kolkata: 646 km

MARK RAIL ROUTE

Agartala, Badarpur, Lumding, Guwahati, Siliguri, Kolkata: 1,590 km

Agartala, Dhaka, Kolkata: 499 km



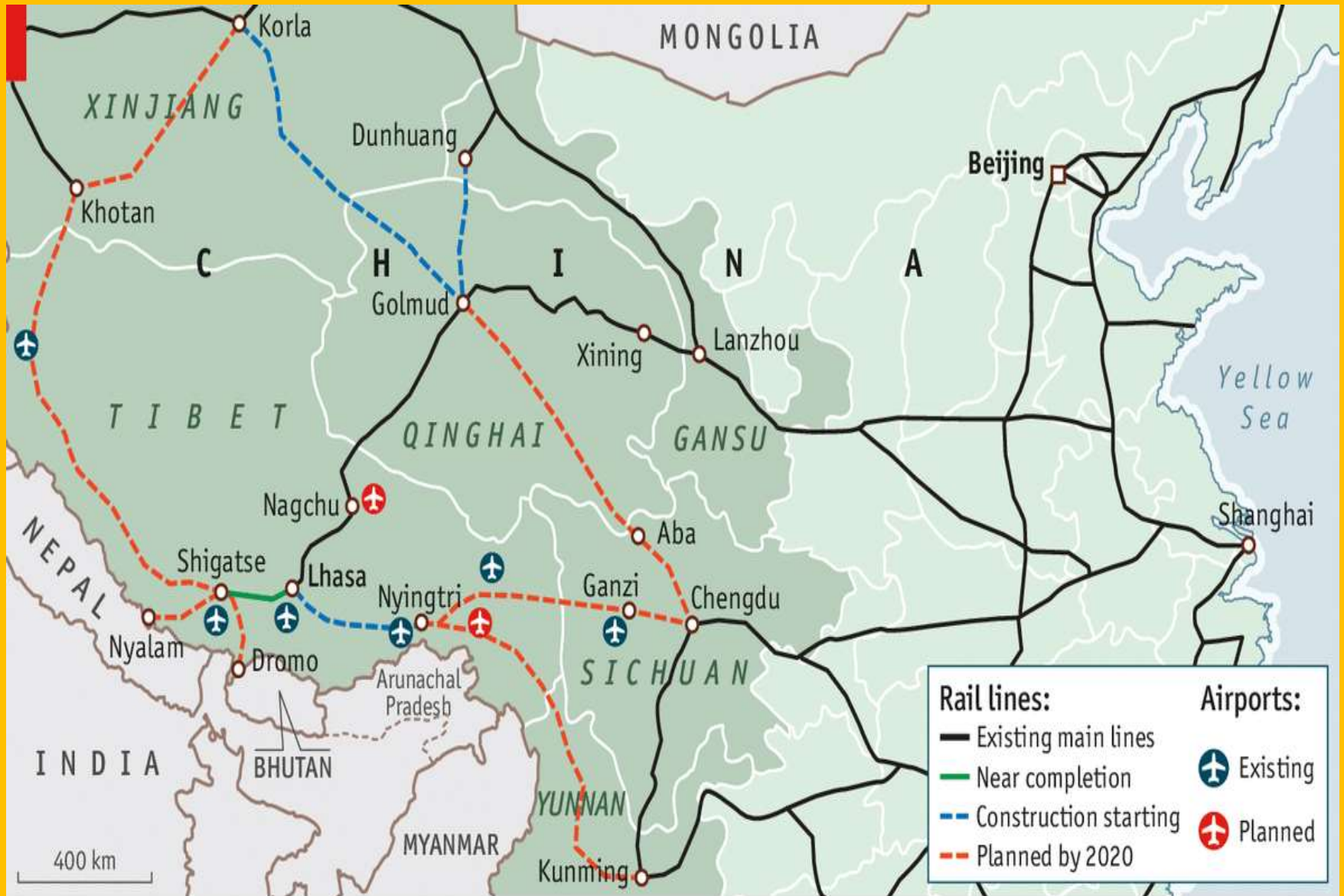
INDO - BANGLADESH PROTOCOL ROUTES

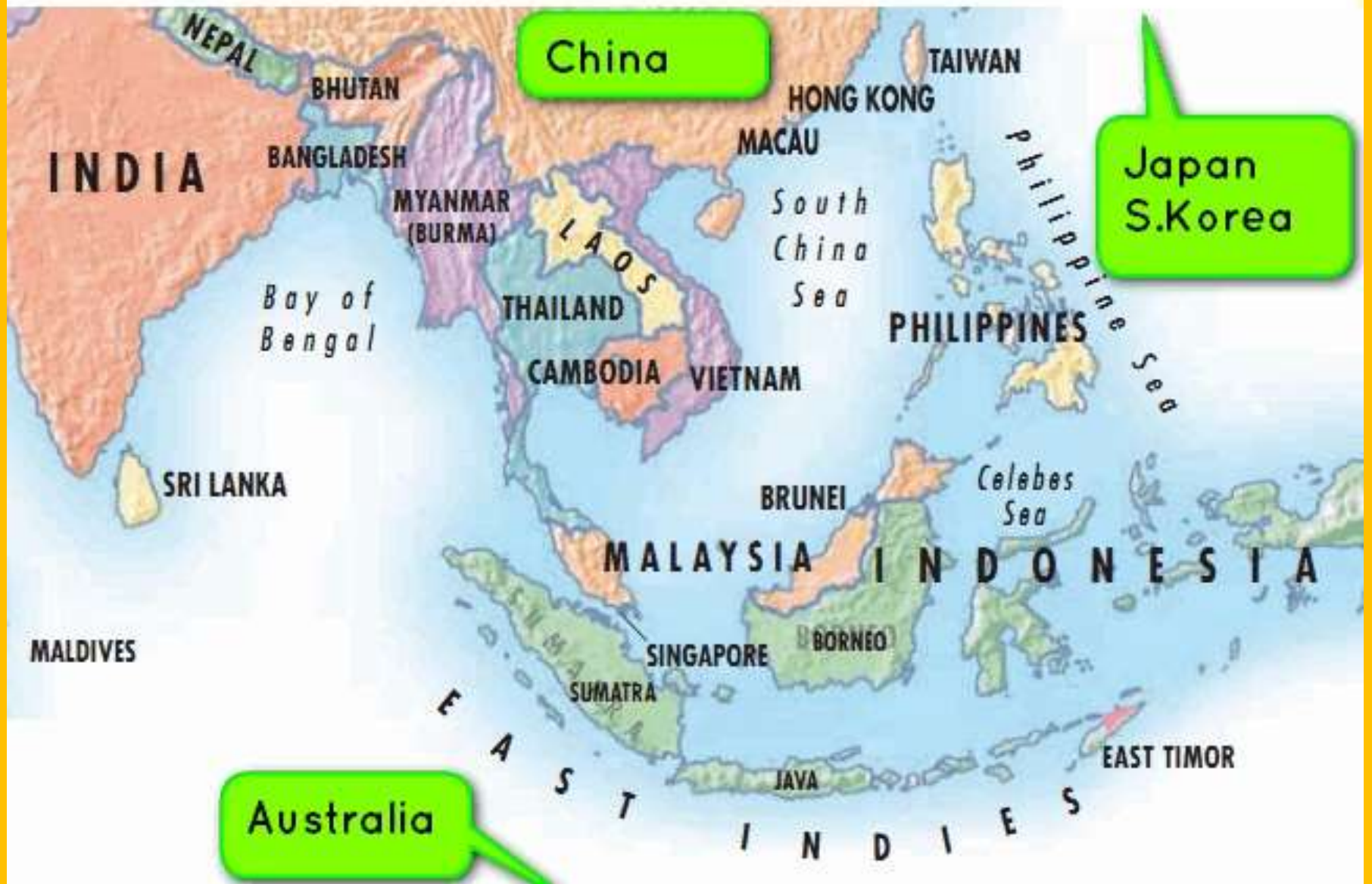


Railway Connectivity



Railway Connectivity





China

Japan
S.Korea

Australia

■ Signatories of the the SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement



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Thank You