THE 21ST CENTURY MARITIME SILK ROUTE ECONOMIC BELT

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MARITIME SILK ROAD...

- The maritime silk road(MSR), officially the 21st century maritime silk route economic belt.
- It was 1st proposed by Chinese president Xi Jinping in October 2013.
- The "Silk Road Economic Belt" is a Chinese initiative to integrate economies of Asia and Europe along the Eurasian corridor with Chinese economy; through the development of transport infrastructure and communication networks involving railways, roads & fiber optics highways that would connect South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia and Europe with an integrated land corridor.

EURASIA...

- Eurasia is the combined continental landmass of Europe and Asia, with the term being a portmanteau of its two constituent.
- It is located primarily in the northern and eastern hemisphere.
- It is bordered by the Atlantic ocean on the west, the pacific ocean to east, the arctic ocean on the north and by Africa , the Mediterranean sea , the pacific ocean to south.

PROPOSALS OF MSR...

There are seven proposals proposed by China for this:

- To sign China-ASEAN good neighbor treaty.
- To get maximum benefit from China and ASEAN FTA.
- To Conclude RCEP by 2015. China led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), is the FTA between ASEAN and China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand) to eliminate trade barriers.
- Regional financial cooperation (to prevent subprime/ BoP crisis) for e.g. China gave maximum funding to BRICS Bank's emergency fund against Fed Tapering.
- Maritime cooperation is already working on Gwadar (Pak), Hambantota (Sri Lanka) and Chittagong (Bangladesh) and there is Proposal for Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor.
- Security cooperation.
- People to people contact for culture, science and environment.

OBJECTIVES OF CHINA...

- Chinese aspirations will be playing an enhanced role at regional and global levels as this MSR project will increase investment in china and also of other countries those are involved in this project as this will connect all the countries.
- It is First step towards establishing Chinese hegemony at regional and global levels as it will show its powers and products at international level.
- Instead of US \$ or Euro, the local currencies, Renminbi (official currency of the People's Republic of China) to be dominant means of economic deals as it will be used for the transactions.

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- It will increase trust and regional peace and stability as well as the culture and constitute community of interest with political mutual trust , integrated economies and inter-dependence as there will be more export and import from the countries
- It will extend from Asia to Middle East, East Africa and Europe.
- There will be freedom of movement, ideas, goods, and capital and will become path of commerce, peace and stability as MSR will connect many countries so it will ease trade, business and investment.

BENEFIT FROM MSR

- MSR could be a potential boost and catalyst for infrastructure development in ASEAN region as it will constitute a vital linkage in connectivity between the two.
- Regional connectivity will become stronger with the fast developing transport network and several commendable proposals initiated by china such as the 21st century MSR as it will connect the countries.

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- It will lead to development of Chinese for e.g. particularly Xinjiang province which is seeing a lot of ethnic violence arising out of social problems like poverty, unemployment, backwardness etc. may reduce.
- China hopes to gain closer cultural and political ties with other countries along the silk Road. Economic Growth will be there as enhanced, connectivity will boost China's trade with entire Eurasian continent.
- It showcase a softer side of China & gain an upper hand over regional powers such as India & Japan as now they may be dependent on each other.

EFFECT ON INDIA...

- Chinese influence in Indian neighbors such as Nepal, Bhutan may increase as Chinese product will make its place in the market
- India's influence at regional level might be reduced as competition may increase and comparatively good's price is low.
- If India participates in the initiative then its trade might be boosted with Eurasian economies as they now will be connected to India.
- China may fund infrastructure development in India too so as to increase their demand and profit.

CONCLUSION...

Maritime silk road is not just an economic way but also a philosophy which consists the spiritual factors. Though this every nation will display their own structure, diplomacy and culture, and their duty to work for peace , wealth and stability for the whole nation.

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