

Seminar at Kolkata on 17 September 2012 on Indo Myanmar Relations and Development of India's North East

Opening Address

1. Gen SRC. 1600 kms border – states Nagaland, ALP, Manipur, Mizoram – indirectly states of Tripura and Assam – India wrong policy – now corrected & improving. China entered when rest ostracised Myanmar – China maj say and presence – difficult for India to displace her – however relations with India improving. Look East policy started by Narsimha Rao failed. NEER India's front line for Look East policy due failure of all agencies and Govts. India draw lesson from China and Yunnan – India must devp NEER as China is devp Yunnan. Must also devp Myanmar's West Seaboard to open up NEER and infrastructure (Rail, rd, air, IWT) in NEER – Tripura also important.

Panel 1 - Amb R Bhatia, Amb Alope Sen and Mr Sanjay Pulipaka

2. Amb Rajiv Bhatia. (Moderator). Thank u and intro to ICWA. Advice to MEA – don't agree to all his pts.
3. Amb Alope Sen. Issues in Myanmar foreign Policy. Criticism of Concept Note – one – why such ref to China, Counter China; Two – why not linked NEER to Myanmar and SE Asia; three – failure pte sect. India foreign policy cannot be reactive to China. Reqt to devp own policy factoring our str such as soft power. Borrow China's Yunnan strat. If NEER has to be gateway to SE Asia initiative must come from states. Govt must be only enabler – pte cos must be more pro - active. Myanmar maj changes – elections 2015 – the more changes – will reform process succeed. Many countries still cautious before investing. Aung San – now part of the pol – let's see what she succeed in doing. Changes need to be watched. India is no longer privileged – she will have to compete with all others for a piece of the cake
4. Sanjay. Pol Transition in Myanmar – implications for India. Myanmar changing. Pace of Reforms to be seen as Mil cont Parliament – effects of Arab Spring? NLFD only cont 7% seats – Aung contradictory remarks – fault lines between Mil, NLFD, tribal communities in North. Ethnic conflict in North – ethnic parties more powerful than NLFD or Mil in their states. Will violence affect democratisation. Violence in Rakhine state may affect India's devp plans. Tribals on both sides of border – what is effect of grant of autonomy on either side. China invested heavily – very imp player. Myanmar fear of outsiders – applies to India also. Investment environment hence risky. Scale of India's sp too ltd.
5. Mod. Myanmar has lot of complexity. Must take note and do the necessary.
6. Prof Jayanta Ray. Thailand China all have high investments in Myanmar – why not India? Devalued their currency giving greater opportunity. More banks for credit needed. Border infrastructure to be upgraded, shipping to be improved.
7. Prof S Bhattacharya. Myanmar Govt giving protection to Indian Engrs. Know so little about Myanmar – must study more. Do much more for Myanmar.
8. Mr Rakesh Shah. Govt must enable mov no direct flts, shipping – no direct sailing – speed of policy implementation – line of credit still to be implemented.
9. Mr Laluma – why are our investments so little?
10. Sanjay. Agreed with Prof J K Ray, Prof Bhattacharya, Mr Rakesh Shah. Need to find out from Pte sect as they are investing abroad. Possibly due to pol uncertainty
11. Amb Alope Sen. Reluctance business coming to Myanmar. Comns must be devp. Can't blame everything on Govt.

12. Mod. Lateness of India –wisdom by hindsight – then realistic policy followed. From 2000 things improved. India came back to Myanmar. Still pitfalls. Relations from both sides. No Indo Myanmar relations in Myanmar – need for two way conversations between scholars of both countries. People to people must increase. Myanmar imp with or without NER– NE must devp on own with or without Myanmar.

Panel 2. Maj Gen Arun Roye and Lt Gen J R Mukherjee.

13. Maj Gen Roye. Hist of Myanmar – demand of minorities – autonomy & acceptance religious cultural indep. 54 new constitution – shut off from outside. NLFD won elections in 90 not accepted by SLORC. 97 SLORC dissolved & SPDC created. 2007 reforms planned. 10 elections NLFD gained str. Strat loc and resources. Myanmar br to ASEAN for India and for China to Bay of Bengal. Brit rule distinguished between Burma proper and minorities who were given autonomy. Minorities live astride borders. No ethnic gp Armies agreed to join Border guarding force demands. KIA led offensive against Myanmar Army. Konkan gp attacked by Tatmadaw in 2009 – refugees fled to China. Reloc vills, taxes etc led to gps continue battle. Govt Cfs 1989 to 97 with 17 Gps. Linkages with IIGs – I&M and ULFA with Kachins, trg and wps – coop between Armies also however sp to Aung resulted in non coop between forces. Safe havens for IIGs in Myanmar – irritant in relations. CI ops diluted. More mil to mil contact
14. Lt Gen J R Mukherjee. Review of sit all over NER - Assam – must look at undivided Assam – the hub – if NE is to devp ,Assam must be devp. Lower Assam BAC area - ethnic clashes between Bodos/Muslims/others. Same time clashes in Rakhine province by Budhists with Rohingyas (Bangladeshis) – 50,000 refugees into India – more Muslim refugees. Muslims all over India retaliated against NE people acting through a form of cyber. NDFB also active in lower Assam. Sanctuaries partially in BD – bal in Myanmar. Central Assam – Karbianglong – militants still active – extortion, firing on civ vehs and kidnapping. Lower Assam - Dimasa belt militants active – clashes with Zemi Nagas and Kukis – bloodshed, extortion, kidnapping, ambushes. Rd to Dimapur and Silchar passing through area. Hailakundi and Karimganj – Brus, thrown out of Mizoram congregating here and carrying out forays into Mizoram as also Muslim Extremists. All this is on the trade routes. Upper Assam – resources all there – oil, tea, forest resources. ULFA (ATF) under Paresh Barua carrying out extensive extortion. ULFA (ATF) taking sanctuary along with NSCN (K) in Myanmar Sagaing and Kachin province along with 2500 militants of total 14 IIGs. Paresh Barua at Ruili on Myanmar/China border entering Myanmar every sec week and carrying out illegal arms and narcotics trade with China on behalf of all militant gpsd. **Myanmar signed CF Agreement with Khaplang giving partial autonomy** and therefore allowing other militant gps unhindered sanctuary. How does the IA deal with these militants. **The Stilwell road must not be reopened** as it opens a back door into ALP and Assam with Northern Myanmar as good as being part of China. Nagaland – no such word as a Naga – different tribes who do not get on with each other – different factions based on tribal entities – NSCN (K) split into Khetovi and Khaplang factions; Nscn (IM) split with the Zemi naga and Zeliangrong factions, NSCN (U); NFG: everyone in Nagaland pays taxes irrespective who they are – so does this happen in Manipur; go to Moreh from Nagaland – traders repeatedly pay taxes. Double what he should pay is paid – tremendous violence and bloodshed.

Sanctuaries of all factions in Myanmar, kachins taking sanctuary in Lohit when under pressure. Manipur 42 different militant gps. 3 gps – Nagas (Tangkhus), Meitei the Manipuri plainsmen, Kukis. Everyone fighting to control the illegal trade at Moreh. Legal trade about 1 Billion – illegal at least 40 to 50 Billion. ALP – mass inter factional violence between NSCN factions lots of bloodshed and Maoists getting active again. Meghalaya – GLA (Garo) active again and trying to break away from Khasis. Mizoram- Hmars and Brus active again because Mizos not giving the a fair deal. Aizawl – rest and recreation centre for all militant gps. Tripura – cont CI NLFT will get more active towards next years elections. If present Govt in BD losses next elections we will have anti India Govt sp IIGs again. If trade with Myanmar is to flourish all this will need to be cont.

15. Prof J K Ray. Agrees with self. Illegal immigration sp by Govt Assam as vote bank.
16. Nirja Mukherjee. AFSPA why – normal answer. Why has Army not cont proliferation of IIGs.
17. Col Ashish Das. Refuting above spkr – AFSPA required to protect Army and to give them Police Powers . Indian Govt not doing enough for NE
18. Self. Why has CI carried on so long in the NE? Armed Forces are instr of state and does what it is told to by the Govt who frame policy – for effectiveness CI must be wholehearted wih all instruments of state participating. Army mov in only when Govt agencies subverted – the Army pushed in and given powers under AFSPA. Army inducted under such circumstances is bound to have some excesses. When inducted into Manipur mistake made was to favour one gp over the other.
19. Mr manas Ghosh. Why were CMs of NE states not taken to Myanmar alongwith PMs delegation to Myanmar like was done for BD
20. Self. Agree with you – lost opportunity
21. Mr Lalhuma. Didn't advocate opening Stilwell rd. Also made out scenario in NE to be extra bad – in actuality in spite of this we must devp. Good things also happenings
22. Self. Second pt agreed – pl take msg back to Nagaland Govt that they must bring sit under cont. Security and devp must go hand in hand. Stilwell Rd – fait accompli Myanmar already given contract to Chinese to devp rd. Why do u need it the rd didn't exist earlier. For trade with China use Tezu – Walong – Rima – Chengdu/Kunming. PLA have two gp Armies earmarked in Yunnan. Our side through.
23. Mr Lalhuma. Can always cover it
24. Mr K Bhattacharya. All insurgents have arms – why isn't this cont?
25. Arun. Efforts always to stop.

Panel 3 – Mod Lt Gen J R Mukherjee (Retd); Mr Ranjit Barthakur, Chief Economic Advisor to CM Assam; Mr Falguni Rajkumar, former Secy GOI, Secy NEC, from Manipur; Mr Lalhuma, former CS Govt of Nagaland, now CIC Nagaland; Mr Benjamina, IDAS, Chief Controller Finance Ord Factories Bd, former Registrar Mizoram University; Mr Tapir Gao, Gen Secy BJP and former BJP MP from ALP to Lok Sabha. Views of States.

26. Mod – intro to spkrs
27. Mr Ranjit Barthakur – Pop NE 40 mn & Myanmar 60mn. Myanmar in Centre between huge pops of China, India, BD, SEAsia. Not easy to make NE a hub – trade bal – Myanmar 4 Bn NE 1 Bn. Cultural linkages extensive – don't only look at negatives – need to create a strat then invest – rd in Myanmar bad – lesson look within – make NE str only then can you trade without. Myanmar changing

landscape – help Myanmar in Nation building – also look at trade – as difficult to do business in Myanmar as in NER. Went with PM to set up IIT – explained problems of setting up – similar to NER. Agreed to give scholarships to Myanmar students. Set up Co in Myanmar to give Indian Cos advice on how to trade with Myanmar in Nov this yr. Entry Strat reveals - IT good scope, tech vocational trg, str financial services. Business opportunity strat – mtg with Exim Bank – Agro based industry, tea, bamboo, paper, pharma, tourism, very strong in NER. Shan states assist in tea industry – 93 hectares tea – small growers similar to Assam – tea is similar to Assam tea - Assamica. Myan trade landscape lends itself to imports – trade imbalance – opportunities in all types of infrastructure. Edn and IT can start to help Myanmar imdtly.

28. Mr Falguni Rajkumar - Manipur. Gen Mukherjee pessimistic about NER – glass not half empty – it is half full – good points – elections, govts functioning – democracy – problem due to large no of ethnic gps living closely – hence they fight – must learn to live with each other. Ethnic clashes all over. Look East policy biased towards NER – GOI looks at the entire East of India rather than NER. Look south towards BD; look North towards China; Look East - states bordering Myanmar. NER Aryan culture ends and SE Asia culture starts Manipur hist through geographic lays of terrain down Chindwin valley – culturally similar to Myanmar. India asserting Aryan culture on peoples who r different. Manipur always involved with kingdom of Ava. Kabaw valley (Chindwin) given wrongly to Myanmar. LEP has never been for NE. Cannot compare NER to other parts of Country – trade just 1% of total Myanmar trade. **NE people do not want to be only transit area** for goods from rest of India – capability only for primary products. Agriculture only. Rds through NER for transit only not acceptable. Must devp NER. NER people angry for this reason. Isolating Myanmar isolated NER. Why devp Friendship rd – goes South. Stilwell rd is different – Kaladan – multi mode tptn route very difficult – impracticable. Look East Policy not for NER
29. Mr Lalhuma. Wish seminar in NER – invite u for seminar at Nagaland. Gen mukherjee conveyed dark side – things not that bad – we have learnt to live with it – founder of insurgency in NER. Hope conflict will get resolved – if Mizoram Accord successful – hopeful will succeed in having peace in Nagaland. If Father of insurgency falls in line rest will also do so. 230 kms border with Myanmar – backward areas bordering similar area in Myanmar. Readymade for insurgency – large pop nagas in Myanmar. Flys live astride border – cross movement of border immaterial. Think about resolving this positively. Develop both sides for interaction. Moreh Kohima route used by Japs in 40s still not devp. Still very important. Insurgency – must talk about devp irrespective of deterrents – LEP has done no good for NER – policy faulty – if any state becomes a mini Yunnan the SE Asians will take us more seriously – at the moment nothing to take note of. Talks to resolve insurgency on – hopeful of a solution. Steps to take – start small rather than big – informal trade across border – low level – have strat to increase this; more cultural exch – invite them - affinity will grow – trade delegations; locate social services – schools hosps close to border to allow greater interaction; small power projects; have master plan for infrastructure devp. Give money for devp – NEC only 650, DONER half of that, only half yr available, monsoons, landslides. Nagaland has lots of minerals – possibility of agreement for trade in minerals. Let GOI use public sect to devp NER. New strat for conflict resolution.

30. Mr Tapir Gao. I am political fd – core issue of the problem is pol will – we must coop with Myanmar – India devp – Myanmar wil be interested. Gen Mukherjee was blunt – but he should have blamed us as the core issue is pol solns. Weekly market with Myanmar across in Myanmar and India. Same culture, ethnicity on both sides. Marrying across the border, same in Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram – must explore jtness in tribal problem resolution. If we can think of doing this with Pak we must do it NER. Proposed car rally all MPs thru Pangsau refused – core issue to be resolved is pol will to resolve problem. Insurgency profiting due to political sp. Elections due to sp of insurgents – many rds shown complete – do not exist – no accountability. Every state to take initiative to cont this. Do not confine to Myanmar only look at other border states. We must engage with Myanmar and other neighbours – no question of ostracising them.
31. Mr Benjamina. Mizoram 722 kms borders – 404 with Myanmar, 318 with BD and borders with other states. Pop 10 lacs, literacy 91.8%. Bamboo flowering incl in LEP to prevent as same was cause for insurgency. Myanmar relationship historical related to ethnic and cultural similarity with 25 lacs pop of similar origin across. Trade – struggling for basic needs. Zowkathar badly maint other trade informally continueing. Biggest lake of Mizoram considered by Mizos to be in Myanmar. Trade started with Myanmar. '94 Agreement 40 items approved for trade. Feeling Myanmar drag its feet due to large no of Zou pop in Myanmar and the activities of the Chins. Agreement for trade at Zowkathar Rhi – upgrade rds; the kaladan multimodal tptn project. Land customs stations still to be commissioned. No meaningful trade at moment. Connecting rds on both sides, banking, internet, tpt facilities required. Another proposal for Zorenpui customs station for Kaladan project. Kaldan will transform connectivity for NER 826 kms Sea 529kms, 126 by river bal by rd). Involves improvement of port, dredging river, doing rd. Civ society to be consulted to make it succeed. Mizoram likelihood large oil deposits – to be devp. Hopeful of becoming gateway to East.
32. Self. Stilwell rd never existed - built only in 41 by US to sup Chinese. No trade route here. Route to China – Tezu – Walong – Rima – Chengdu or Kunming – only ½ km to be linked – 200kms shorter - Stilwell rd not reqd for trade with China. Traditional route always Moreh or Zowkathar. Problem of NER pol – no amount armed force can resolve problem. Have to stop killing, kidnapping and extortion if trade is to succeed – can only be done politically. Must devp infrastructure- Moreh route must be done up as also the Bishenpur route. Kaladan project good but doomed to failure as hydroprojects being constr on Kaladan hence parallel rd will have to now be constr. Rds in Mizoram to be improved. Existing NH to Mizoram difficult. Must devp railways and NH thru Tripura upto Manu and then along Mizoram foothills to link onto the Kaladan axis. NER str is human beings – English spking in country – Meitei – tremendous – exploit it Myanmar, power plants, small industry, must remember undivided Assam. Tripura – exploit it, sports, tourism, golf tourism, edn devp ethnic gps astride border – 2% Chins, 2% Nagas on Myanmar side – if u want to solve the insurgency problem on both sides must put our heads together.
33. Gen S Roychowdhury – small scale industry in Tripura good – follow their example.
34. Dr. Foundation for connection on edn and other purposes
35. Mr Ranjit Barthakur and Falguni. – triple IT already started, Tata Institurte of Social Sciences, IIM Colleges; healthcare. Animal husbandry. Now conc on Myanmar.

36. Mr Benjamina. Starting courses for Myanmar students
37. Prof J K Ray. Pol will reqd to resolve problem.
38. Mr R Barthakur. Pop 40mn going upto 55 mn by 2022 – unemployed 10 mn if we cant find jobs and will become insurgents. Must resolve hence econ activity reqd. Integration imperative.

Special Session – Commodore Brian Thomas, IN, Bay of Bengal /Andaman Islands – Importance and Maritime Scenario.

39. Cont/use of sea age old competition. Follow Law of the Sea – National jurisdiction upto 12 miles Territorial Waters; upto 24 miles Contiguous Z (Customs); Exclusive economic z upto 200 Miles; Continental Shelf. Ships follow trs – Sea L of C. Indian Ocean – power play – geostrat presence for protection strat comodities. Entry and exit through limited areas. Huge global tfc – energy on one side – user on the other – blockinkage possible. Oil tptn – Straits of Hormuz and mallacca. Land option – economically possible only thru’ pipelines – sea \$1 and overland 12\$. Piracy – initially Malaca straits – now off Somalia – good business. Bay dominated by India – Lakhshadeep and Andaman and Nicobar – total cont – 25 miles from Myanmar Coc o islands. Dispute over maritime bdy with both India and Myanmar. Area Cyclone affected. Over use fish stocks – Bay of Bengal Community creating an eco system preservation project. India’s role towards sea – exploit it. India land locked look – now changing. Over 1200 islands – 13 maj 1300 minor ports – some minor better than maj ports. Huge no fishing vessels – poached by foreigners EEZ 2/3rds of land mass. Protection by Naval assets; Andaman and Nicobar Command to cont Mallacca. Bengal troubled coast incl Sundarbans (40% with India). Porous border – illicit trade across rover and sea border, un mapped, open for infilt. Myanmar and Sri Lankan boats intrude – fishermen universally intrude with attacks on Indian boats by BD and Sri Lanka. Myanmar – large coast 2400 kms and large no islands no of coastal and river ports. . Small no of ships – use riverine IWT well, so do BD – India do NOT. BD/Myanmar maritime bdy sorted out. Oil blocks in area now resolved. Regional players come in to Sitwe, Kyuakwe island China, Dawai Port Thais, Singapore wil lose imp. China gets presence to Indian ocean, access through Myanmar to Yunnan. Chinese worried about being blocked by India at Mallacca – stop mov thru Mallacca and move same thru Myanmar. India bilateral trade by sea but small – prefer sea route avoiding perils of NER – go maritime route. Encourage same. Get our own port and infrastructure in order.

Panel 4. Mr Sumit Mazumdar, MD TIL, President ICC; Mr R S Joshi, President FINER; Mr Rajesh Prasad, Owner Horticulture Firm.

40. Mr Sumit Mazumdar. Myanmar India’s Gateway to SE Asia. Opportunity through NER tremendous. Been in Hy eqpt sect in Myanmar. Reqt of Business in Myanmar to make profit in 96 not properly understood. Had to conduct English classes for emp – tremendous enthusiasm to learn – hence tech trg and Eng trg. Problem banking and telecomn. Big customer Govt – functioning thru tender. Doing business in conjunct with local businessman – credit never a problem. Chinese very active in all big projects – super markets – but Chinese with mainly Chinese products. Still lot of Indians – businessmen must get aggressive to achieve results – NE will benefit – provided they also attempt to do so. Myanmar lots of tourist spots, excellent restaurants – good for holiday – upto India and us to get a piece of the pie.

41. Mr Rajesh Prasad. Runs floriculture business. Not worked yet in Myanmar but done lots of business in SE Asia – floriculture farm in Aizawl and Shillong, export flowers not very successfully. Scenario in SE Asia – flowers Kunming very big centre, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam also big – India on par in tech. Mainly grow and sell – China has floriculture problem in winter due to cold. China gets lots of incentives – Vietnam with Dutch total mgmt. Buyers pick up flowers direct from farms. Kunming – roses, Malaysia chrysanthemums, Thailand – orchids. Ship flowers by air or very short sea journey. NE problem – export takes too much time and flowers wither. Have to compete with above big players into SE Asia. Have to get into thick of it and compete. Govt must give incentive. Cambodia says invest – we will give land. BD good market and getting flowers from above countries. Will now examine options in Myanmar. Now mainly selling in India due connectivity problems. Maj labour problem – try to bring Mizos from neighbours – issues arise on who is a Mizo. Also growing strawberries. Scope for Chrysanthemums, anthuriums – very good market – problems due to lack of tptn infrastructure. Shillong – Lillium, Zebras, - looking at exports thru Sylhet as more flts out. Set up farms at Champhai – can look at exports from there but much more infrastructure reqd. Rds non existant. Takes 3 days to Mandalay. Can offer Myanmar tech, set up in Myanmar, export to Myanmar. Amb Sen said must have pure econ but not possible – part of is pure spirit to devp NE. Good but difficult venture – easier to do business in S India – Govt must help us otherwise new business will not succeed – help by incentive and infrastructure. NER has traders but few entrepreneurs – help needed.
42. Mr RS Joshi. Chairman FINER, Member PM's TF on MSME. Devp NE with or without Myanmar. Things improving with NE and related to Myanmar after PM's visit. NE exporters need to now only with only 25% of export obligation with qualify for meeting 100% criteria. Also exporters from NE will qualify for 1% more incentive. NEIIP 2007 very good now – took 2 yrs for it to be implemented incl removing glitches – policy good – however unilateral changes made – by 2008 promised ,100% cetral excise refund – curtailed – promised 100% free regime – now changed. Rules of game changed. 30% capital investment subsidy without ceiling excellent but stopped. Even Saraighat, BG, everything only after crying – need not only funding but monitoring mechanism in place. Policy good – extended to others – funds meant for NER diverted. Sunset clause for rest of country now applied to NER. Law & order problem – not that bad – media exaggerates. Should not be only transitory – let it not only be trading hub – let value addition take place in NER and incentive be given. Policy NER Vision 2020 – reqt prioritise what first what next – more action less discussion. Youngsters done wonderful job – all over India in talent and ethically – very good with plenty in IT. However don't want to come back – boost service sect for NER – youngsters will come back. Further, have single economic Z treat as single state for economics only. Local barriers from state to state – entry tax for import into Meghalaya. Become force to recon with. LEP – people to be told policy for them. Rd Namtola to Khanmayi need. PSU investment needed in big way – very limited presence such as BHEL – the pte sect will come – pte sect say things on policy not stable for region hence no investment. Insurgency will go if there is devp. Be ambassador of goodwill for NER. Cultural heritage spend more. Let us have practical workable solutions – make locals the stake holders and part of the project. Whatever is promised Delhi should honour.

43. Dr C J Thomas, Dir ICSR, Shillong. Research on Indo Myanmar Relations – doing research and publications made. Recent – border trade NER other on conflict & devp. Presentation focus on trade and coop with Myanmar need for balanced and bold action. Imp of Myanmar to India – 1600 land border – geo econ and geo strat interests – border trade official since 1994 at Moreh – failed miserably within few yrs. Policy prescription to resolve problems. With things improving in Myanmar revisit trade policy – chges needed - 1. chg in mindset – policy focussed on China and Pak reorient towards Myanmar. 2. Myanmar invisible neighbour – engage Govt, NGOs and Democratically elected – people to people contact – seminars visits needed in India and Myanmar. 3. NER universities to draw in students from Myanmar – have academic exch pgme – have seats earmarked for them. 4. Chg investment policy – speech given by PM in Yangoon – measures not implemented in timely fashion – investment must flow from big players like Tatas into Myanmar – they do so in othercountry. 5. Chg adversity into opportunity – culturally, ethnically similar – need to do much more to interact. 6. Chg from conflict resolution appch to utilisation of opportunities appch. 7. Must not try to match China instead exploit it's own capability. Win hearts of Myanmarese by putting their devp first. India must help Myanmar out.

44. Mr S Mazumdar – closes down

Special Session – Presentation by Myanmar CG Mr U

45. Thank you. Share views from Myanmar perspective. New Govt since Mar 11 – new democratic institutions being set – Parliament now a force to be reckoned with. Govt giving priority to poverty alleviation, economic devp and national reconciliation. Relations back to time of Asoka only ASEAN country having bdy with India. Imp role in devp of NER. In order to fulfil India's LEP needs following for NER and to make a hub – 1. Well defined and proper demarcated bdys; security, stability and peaceful border areas; good connectivity, possibility rail connectivity; land and waterways and sea connection; control of X border tfc. Business opportunity – 135 different ethnic gps, lots of natural resources, agriculture, exports fish, forest products, extensive mineral and gems – 70 Indian and 65 Cos from both countries engaged in trade. Agreement since 70 onwards – till date. System of Market info to be devp. Trade vol now 2010/2011 – 1.2 Bn US \$. Incr steadily. Bilateral trade to be doubled 2015. India is Myanmars main export market. Great potential for increasing border trade – at moment only 1% of total trade. BIMTEC held this yr in Cal – Indian's always at home in Myanmar. Indian FS – focus of trade. Delegations visiting regularly And opportunity being examined. Potential for lots of jt ventures. Myanmar's relation with both India and China on even keel. India promised to help Myanmar in Devp. Foreign policy indep and non aligned. Revive old good relations. Remarks – thanks Mr S Mazumdar for portraying Myanmar in good light. Insurgency – do not allow insurgents to take sanctuary – need to discuss – no Rohingya's in Myanmar – some Bengalee nationals – keep Gen Mukherjee progress on report to Myanmar. Fisherman only due to drifting.

46. Prof S Bhattacharya. How to help poor Myanmarese pilgrim to visit. More exch of Academics – Start Myanmar study conf.

47. CG. Being done.

Mr Rajiv Bhatia – Closing Address.

48. Attended many deliberations on Myanmar since 1990s – very enthusiastic participants. Maj issues as follows – imp of NER exam – strat imp of NER – imp for India's foreign policy – centrality in Indo Myanmar Relations NER must be made str and at peace with itself. Narsimha Rao launched LEP primarily to exploit NER potential but does not apply. Must develop NER. Devp strat partnership with India and S E Asia. Idea that the two Govts get together to resolve ethnic problems astride border needs detailed debatable. Security question imp, lot of issues imp and take wholistic view to resolve problem. Connectivity imp but simultaneous economic devp imp. Ideas thrown up will be examined and incorporated. Do our own contribution and hope the Govt will take note of measures required to be taken by them – monitoring of progress of PM's vision. Submit report quickly.
49. Thank u
50. Vote of thanks by Maj Gen Arun Roye.