

## **BCIM: Cooperation and Challenges**

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The proposed Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar-Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) involving four nations has generated much interests as well as concerns. One of the major policy initiatives among national governments in Asia in recent years is directed towards developing sub-regional, regional and trans-regional corridors with the aim to further connect and integrate their economies. The forum sought to create a platform for discussion among the major stakeholders regarding issues concerning trade and growth in the region, strengthen cooperation and institutionalize the arrangements to deepen BCIM ties. Issues relating to ethnic insurgencies, refugee crisis, drug smuggling has the potential to derail the project. The project has not seen much activity in recent years owing to the reluctance of the stake-holders to effectively address these concerns. The proposed corridor failed to receive the encouragements of the governments that it required and instead remained a Track II (unofficial) initiative for a long time. Within this context, this paper attempts to understand the current status of the corridor and assesses whether it has managed to break the long impasse that has plagued it for so long.