

Reengineering Policy Dynamics for Transitional Change: Paradigm Shift from Look East to Act East

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ABSTRACT: Present world is multi-polar and therefore policy dynamics require business process reengineering (BPR) to cope up with transitional change. Look East Policy (LEP) is the instrument of social change originated for reform practices in the 20th century periods. But, in the 21st century periods it has become redundant due change of world order. Accordingly, Act East Policy (AEP) has come to replace the past reform practices in terms of new mantra: 'Reform, Perform and Transform'. Thus, there is paradigm shift in policy dynamics have been made for progressive socio-economic of journey by way of BPR with the objectives of fast growth of regional economies, national prosperity and global change. This research paper is endeavored to discuss all such issues in historical perspectives pertaining to developmental parameters. Hence, the study will provide appropriate findings in sparkling manner and suggestions be noted in relativity concept to illuminate whole picture of policy dynamics, coagulating holistic aspects of change related matters for initiating social growth, forward looking tendencies and economic transformation in terms of plans, programs, policies and packages.

KEYWORDS: Collective Participation, Employment Generation, Human Empowerment, Regional Growth, Skill Development.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Societal and disruptive technological developments lead to transition¹. To cope up with transitions, long-term radical and short-term diplomatic governance principles are required systematic, selective, sustainable, and secure (4 S's) business strategies. So, transition processes should involve different stakeholders to formulate targets, pathways and actions. Accordingly, need for study on policy dynamics become essential for reinventing² things, renovating processes and realizing goals to attain policy success. As a matter of fact, it is pertinent to note that Look East Policy (LEP) is an effort initiated in 1991 by the then Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao. The main focus of this policy was to shift India's trading from the West and neighbors to the booming Southeast Asian countries. Thus, LEP marked a strategic shift in India's perspective of the world³ in order to solidify its standing as a regional power. However, the new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi upgraded the LEP as the "Act East Policy" (AEP), at the East Asia Summit held in Myanmar in November 2014⁴. Thus, AEP has made India's new relations with East Asian neighbors a foreign policy priority at a time when the United States has engaged in a pivot to Asia.

Objectives of the Study

There are two objectives of this research paper: primary and secondary. The primary objectives are related to long-term radical change elements, like – security issues, cultural connect and regional cooperation, among others; whereas, the secondary objectives are concerned with short-term diplomatic governance principles, such as trade, business, employment generation, skill building programs, people's empowerment and so on. Both the objectives are illuminated in sparkling manner under this study.

Scope of the Study

There is ample scope of this study. The resource materials of this research finding can be helpful for future decision making purposes to the planners, administrators, social thinkers, business architect, researchers and others. Thus, the whole paper will provide both intensive as well as extensive fillip to research gaps in developmental areas.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study is endeavored on the basis of historical interpretative analyses of things. Accordingly, secondary sources, like – government policy decisions, administrative orders, international contact agreements, resolutions of regional summit programs, books, periodicals, journals, newspapers, magazines, etc. are utilized. Also, field surveys and interviews are conducted on local, regional, national and international issues, and these are noted carefully and arranged sequentially. Analyses have done systematically and thereby findings, recommendations suggestions are noted with relativity approach in synthetic manner.

Paradigm Shift from Look East to Act East

Transformational ideas⁵ are necessary ingredients require accommodation, adjustments and matching behavior with reformative foundations, to initiate change in proactive manner, to underline issues of changing elements and to grow in time and space. Therefore, 'Look East' to 'Act East' has been rejuvenated in terms of new radical initiatives, profound diplomatic assumptions and realistic security measures. Thus, there have been policy dynamics paradigm shift in nature of working agenda, both in terms of LEP and AEP. But, the major difference between the two is that LEP was founded upon economic integration⁶ with the Southeast Asian countries, while India experienced an economic crisis at the fall of Soviet Union which was previously one of the most valued economic and strategic partners. On the other hand, AEP focuses for both economic and security integration in the South, Southeast and Indo-Pacific regions for good governance paradigms shift in new areas of search with objective, progressive and realistic goals at a time the United States has engaged in a pivot to Asia⁷. Again, LEP is a major thrust area of trade regime decided in an era of liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG) for opening door of business with a view to secure more investment outlays; but the AEP is a resurgent measure adopted for promoting vibrant economic cooperation, cultural ties, strategic relationships with countries in the Asia-Pacific regions along with the States of North East India (NEI) for continuous engagement at regional, bilateral and multilateral levels. Thus, dynamics in areas of policy shift is observed for alternatives from the Southeast Asian countries to the Asia-Pacific regions.

Policy Dynamics and Transitional Change: Cementing Relationships in 3 C's

LEP is limited to the Southeast region only and lagging much behind with respect to operational responsibility for cementing better relationships in 3 C's: culture, connectivity and commerce⁸. But, transitional policy shift has been made possible through AEP for not only strengthening vistas of culture, connectivity and commerce; but also in security issues, border disputes, land settlements, regional cooperation and so on in holistic approach to the South, Southeast and Asia-Pacific regions. Thus, AEP acts as game changing agenda⁹ and has strengthened fillip to the States of NEI by way of bridging gaps in all such areas. AEP has solved problems of policy paralyse¹⁰ of LEP with new road map, reform practices, performing goals in relation to regional cooperation, national prosperity and global transformation in developmental paradigms. Steady efforts have been made by the new government to develop and strengthen connectivity of the States of NEI with the ASEAN region through people-to-people contacts, trade, culture and physical infrastructure, like: airport, road, power, telecommunication, etc. Thus, AEP stimulates strong Centre-States relationships¹¹, streamlines regional economies with varied new packages and tries to transform trade, industry and commerce steadily with neighboring countries in terms of regional cooperation, bilateral contacts, and multilateral negotiations.

New Policy Issues of Look East and Act East

Look east is the policy issue surging for India's neighboring relationship with the Southeast Asian countries with external parameters concerning strategic considerations for integration of the economy¹² with the sub-regional aspects. There is debate on its findings as to the policy text. Experts say that the policy implications are only based on apprehensions and speculation, and there is very less scope for the NEI, in so far as the breakthroughs are concerned. The major issues having relevance to the development of NEI do not seek to get its place, priority and preference in the frontline for the internal security of NEI. Further, there is minimal physical growth and less attention towards developing infrastructure of NEI. Hence, policy paralyse are clear from the low economic performance¹³ in case of not only the national growth, but also institutional set up in NEI has not been preoccupied with market reform considerations. Therefore, India government under the NDA regime has chalked out new plans for working agenda. The AEP has been taken in hand with urgency of radical change consideration keeping in mind long standing demand of the regional situations in NEI. As a matter of fact, it is permeably said that culture, connectivity and commerce have been given as special priority in the new policy issues. In this way, policy dynamics create new efficacy for the States of NEI with vibrant plans, programs and packages; giving thereby impetus to growth for the regional economies in NEI. Thus, there has been paradigm shift of the progressive journey in social, cultural and economic spheres with regional, sub-regional and multilateral initiatives, e. g., the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sector Technical and Economic Cooperation¹⁴ (BIMSTEC), Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM), among others. In nutshell, new policy

dynamics created conditions for regional integration and opportunities have come for the first time in NEI for income generation and employability, though full results have yet to reach for the stakeholders in all the States of NEI. As a whole, AEP has enlarged scope in areas of people's engagement, entitlement and empowerment (3 E's) with some sort of measures, but the holistic goal remains to be seen in future prospect of the policy issues as well the government intervention in the process. ASEAN-India Summit programs, East Asia Summit (EAS), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership¹⁵ (RCEP) and many other programs from time-to-time have energized AEP to look at new version about the developmental paradigms in involving regional considerations. Thus, AEP has adopted new radical measures for both internal as well as external corrections to boost up economies, reboot national development issues and cope up with the challenge of change aspects for peace, progress and prosperity.

Development Dynamics: Setting Compass with Visions

AEP provides scope for engagements among the neighboring countries. The ASEAN-India Summit cannot be seen in isolation. It opens opportunities for the leaders to interact in a multilateral setting as well as for informal interactions on a one-to-one basis. So, dynamics of development are founded upon many programs, the 5th EAS¹⁶ (EAS) meeting, the 2nd RCEP Summit on 14 November, Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF), among others. LEP is the protectionism tool India adopted in liberalized era for opening door of business in the Southeast Asian countries. Hence, such policy packages were limited to the ground realities of business. But the visions, missions and goals of business are widened in terms of more vibrant AEP, which not only confines to security measures; but also strengthens pillars of connectivity, cultural and commerce and relationships in the South, Southeast and Indo-Pacific regions, besides border disputes, land settlements, cyber security, maritime security, border haats and many other issues concerning developments of NEI, growth of national economy, regional progress and global transformation¹⁷. The new agenda of AEP therefore increases shared values and common destiny carried forward through the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, covering the entire spectrum of political security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation in terms of bilateral contacts, multilateral negotiations and global level connections. Thus, new strategies and institutional mechanisms are open in AEP policy issues in setting compass of development dynamics by the network of government institutions, policymakers, business circles, scientists, academicians, think-tanks, media, youth and all stakeholders of the society. In coagulating development paradigms, it is permeably said that AEP has taken many challenges with visions¹⁸ for missionary journey in formulating framework of business for socio-economic development. Accordingly, skill development, start ups, Make-in-India, Digital India, smart cities, infrastructure projects, industrial, agricultural, and many sorts of programs are being taken as policy packages for revival of economy. As a whole, policies are adopted as radical reform practices to perform in thrust areas in resilient manner with a view to achieve transformative goals in holistic approach. Hence, development dynamics¹⁹ are oriented towards forward looking tendencies with policies, plans, programs and packages (4 P's) in continuous improvement and nurture of whole economy for peace, progress and prosperity in objective manner.

New Dimensions of Partnerships

Since the ASEAN-India engagement have become deeper and vibrant under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, policy paralyses of previous governments have been solved with new road map of work. Thus, there have been added new dimensions of relationships with neighboring countries. Hence, down the line, ASEAN partnership has scaled new heights²⁰. Accordingly, India has not only developed strong bilateral relations with countries such as Bangladesh, Mauritius, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, etc.; but also steering a number of sub-regional programs and projects such as the BBIN, the Trilateral Highway (TH), etc., and is actively contributing to the success of several regional initiatives. As a matter of fact, India's visions in the Indo-Pacific regions have begun with a new era of economic development, industrialization and trade. At this point of time, the 2nd 'Plan of Action'²¹ (POA) to implement the ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity started surging for newer search of opportunities with multilateral negotiations, providing thereby dynamic shift to act more positively towards the east with strategic relationships, for capability building and reinforcing economic, political, security, cooperation and other types of relationships in terms of trade, culture, connectivity, border haats, cyber security, military, maritime and many other issues. As a whole, until now already 54 activities out of 130 have been implemented in areas of political, security, economic, and socio-cultural co-operations with partnerships. The States of NEI have been taken in confidence building measures in different partnership projects under AEP to connect with the South, Southeast and Indo-Pacific regions²². The main tenets of AEP have thus been a consensus driven approach, supportive for an open and inclusive regional security architecture, besides the economic elements of relationships. In nutshell, the new dimensions of partnerships have articulated scientifically capacity as well as confidence building measures to cement better relationships, innovate things for socio-economic development

and re-engineering all potentials of growth paradigms²³ with strategic, competitive and alternatives solutions by way of strengthening information and communication system in whole spectrum of operational activities in holistic approach.

III. FINDINGS

Some important findings of this research are outlined below:

1. LEP is limited in terms of growth and potential development initiatives. Strategies of this policy are concerned with only narrow grounds of security elements.
2. AEP as new road map for multi-dynamics socio-economic activities with regional partnerships to the South, Southeast and Indo-Pacific regions needs to overcome challenges of NEI with new surges.
3. Policy shift paradigms bring in regional cooperative environment of business in matters concerning skill building programs, employment generation activities and empowerment issues, but all the stakeholders of NEI are yet to be involved more.
4. Transitional change requires not only long-term radical measures. In short-term, it requires strong administrative mind set to implement policies for taking people in confidence building which is not found with the ground realities.
5. Reinforcing the pattern Centre-States relationships should be founded up on solid ground of change parameters for realizing reform practices with surge of policy initiatives.
6. The States of NEI have been lagging behind in areas of trade, business, industry, agriculture, connectivity, tourism, security, education, health and similar other elements of socio-economic parameters.
7. AEP should adopt business process re-engineering (BPR) techniques in areas of horticulture, sericulture, yoga, aurveda, homeopathy, sports, film industry, etc. to rejuvenate the foundation of developmental goals.
8. Ethnic foods, value chain, communication system, information networking, market rationalization are needed special attention to develop economies of NEI.
9. Insurgency, cyber security, border haats, regional connectivity, bilateral contacts, multilateral negotiations require NEI-friendly measures to streamline growth process.
10. Dumping, hoarding, black marketing, money laundering, smuggling, human trafficking are required policy reforms for peace, progress and prosperity of all.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Following are the suggestions and recommendations made for illuminating balanced development dynamics:

- Keeping in mind new reform practices, NEI needs E-visa policy for attracting foreign tourists.
- Airports of NEI should be modernized with rail-road connectivity coordination, and so, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) should walk extra miles.
- People's participation should be increased for holistic development. Hence, all stakeholders are required more empowerment to transform socio-economies.
- Transparent customs clearance, transformative role of DoNER are necessary ingredients of vibrant industrial policy require resurgent schemes, strong vision, right mission and appropriate strategies for development.
- Skill building programs, eco-tourism, local artisan products should be given due importance for solving problems of employment generation, job creation and entrepreneurial activities.
- Number of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute Management (IIM), All Indian Institute Medical Science (AIIMS), State Aurveda Hospitals (SAHs), State Homeopathy Colleges (SHCs), State Agricultural Colleges (SACs), etc. should be increased in the States of NEI.
- Naturopathy Institute, Yoga Institute, Homeopathy Medicine Research Institute (HMRI), Railway Traffic Management Institute (RTMI), Regional Consulate Office, India's Mission to Regional Cooperation (IMRC) are needed to be established in NEI for future growth of economy, maintaining public health, and yield employment opportunities.
- There should be paradigm shift in policies in areas local herbal products, bio-fertilizer, ethnic food chains, vegetables, animal husbandry, jhum cultivation research programs for strengthening regional economies.
- Non Government Organizations (NGOs), Local Entrepreneurs, Business Experts, Government Agencies, etc. should work together for promoting micro, small and medium industries in NEI.
- Government should empower IITs, IIMs and SACs in acting together to adopt BPR techniques reinvent marketing strategies and increase regional productivity.

IV. CONCLUSION

Plans, programs and packages are ingredients of resurgent, resilient and reform policy dynamics issue on which depend development strategies to achieve goals in sustainable manner. Therefore, there is the need of paradigm policy shift in changing business environment. Keeping all such notions in mind, we have analyzed LEP and AEP to cope up with challenge of change in transitional aspects as the demand of time. Visions of development dynamics should reinforce things with reinventing new issues for adequate checks in bringing matching balance to socio-economic parameters in scientific temper of thought. Government policies are therefore required realistic goals for increasing human capacity building, initiating social growth and generating income through employment as well as entrepreneurs activities. LEP and AEP are charter and road map for forward looking tendencies in objective manner. Hence, mechanisms in policy issues are searched with surging visions to set compass of developmental goals with a view to eradicate local problems, initiate national growth and provide global dynamism in terms of reform, perform and transform agenda of the Centre-States relationships. Thus, there has been appropriate policy initiatives for regional partnerships to cementing healthy and better relationships incorporating the idea of human emancipation, national development and global level transformation of mankind in strategic way for peace, progress and prosperity.

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