

A Quantitative Analysis Of Factors Influencing Connectivity's Of India And Southeast Asia: Ties That Bind

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Abstract

There can be no talk of regional economic integration without mentioning the necessity of interconnectivity. In the lack of proper connectivity, Asia's recent enormous prospects and prosperity may come to an end at its international boundaries. As a result, the article intends to examine all of the corridors that link India with Southeast Asian nations. Here we look at India's connectivity corridors, as a quick assessment of their inception. This study focuses on the influence of regional economic growth on the national economy and the economic development of the related regions. Second, it aims to identify the factors that may influence the amount of freight moving through the economic corridor. According to the study's findings, freight volume is favourably correlated with GDP and road density. Having these corridors up and running will allow the linked area to gain greater economic advantages than those nations that are not connected.

Keywords: Connectivity, GDP, India, Southeast Asia,

Introduction

It's not uncommon to see Southeast Asians see India as a result of a variety of things. Media coverage of current events, such as religious strife, political rivalry, border disputes, terrorist attacks and a host of other topics that affect the ratings of the many highly competitive television stations may have an impact on public perception of the Indian subcontinent (Naidu, 2010).

Southeast Asia may have a large and diverse Indian diaspora that influences views of India. This diaspora may have arrived in the area at various points in time and under varied circumstances. Through intergenerational marriage and the transmission of sentimental memories of their birthplace, many migrants have preserved their ethnic identity (Sinha & Pradhan, 2008). There are colonial legacies of prejudice and dominance in Southeast Asia, too, when it comes to the India: All of South Asia, as well as large swaths of Southeast Asia (present-day Afghanistan), were under British rule during the time of the colonial conquests of the British (modern Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore). The British created a narrative about the Indian population that centered around the jobs held by the "typical Indian",

embraced racially-segregated enclaves in their daily living spaces, and through strategic immigration policies, sought to help the Indian population. played an important role in consciously establishing their minority status. "Others" who had a lasting legacy in the post-colonial era (Istikomah, 2014).

It is impossible to fully grasp "India's" historical evolution, intricacies, and diversity when seen through any of these lenses, which has been in existence for more than 5,000 years in the context of human civilisation. In Southeast Asia and elsewhere, there is a growing awareness of an emerging India, which is dynamic, tech-savvy, internationally renowned professionals and entrepreneurs, and highly valued for its spirituality and yoga culture. In particular, explores potential regional advantages in the late 20th century and now (Saikia, Prova & Girls, 2010).

There has been a rapid adoption of Indian terminology like karma, yoga, and guru into ordinary conversation throughout Southeast Asia and across the world. Due to China's greater diasporic presence in Southeast Asia than India's, the region's cultural ties to China are more closely associated with Beijing's rising assertiveness in the South China Sea &

East Asia. For more than a thousand years, the archipelagos of Southeast Asia have served as a cultural nexus for Indian and Chinese immigrants, blending with the distinctive indigenous characteristics that distinguish the majority of Southeast Asian countries (Beeson, 2002). It is this conflicted emotion that many Southeast Asians have for India, both because of their strong cultural ties to India but also because of the lack of knowledge they have about the country and its people beyond what the media presents (Hawes & Liu, 2015). As a result, studying and teaching about India is both fun and demanding. After that, the article focuses on India & Southeast Asia's links and the importance of mutual respect in a rapidly reviving Asian continent (Rezitis & Ahammad, 2015).

Review of Literature

Ghatak, (2021) There can be no discussion of regional economic integration without mentioning the necessity of connectivity. Lack of proper connection might put an end to the massive prospects and prosperity provided by Asia in recent years. As a result, the research will examine the total existence of transport corridors connecting India with Southeast Asian nations. India's connectivity initiatives such as "Trilateral Highway (TH), Kaladang Multimodal Transit Transport Project, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC), Mekong-India Economic Corridor (MIEC)", etc. being researched (MIEC). An examination of the economic effect of these projects on national and local economies is central to this study. Second, it aims to identify the factors that may influence the amount of freight moving through the corridor. GDP and road density are shown to have a positive correlation with freight volume, according to the research presented in the study. The linked area will benefit more economically than the nations not connected to these corridors once they are functioning.

Shi, Yao, & Jiang, (2019) Asian and Pacific regional power connection is an intriguing case study because of ASEAN's geographic position & continuous electricity connectivity inside and outside ASEAN. In this article, the power connectedness of ASEAN is examined both inside ASEAN & between ASEAN and its surrounding nations (hereafter ASEAN

connectivity). It examines the political, legal, economic, and technological hurdles to ASEAN connection via a literature review. What, how & when regional collaboration may be able to enhance ASEAN power connection is next examined in light of these findings.

Plagemann, Datta, & Chu, (2018) From China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative to Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy," 21st century geopolitics revolves around competing connectivity agendas. A conceptual difference between two types of competition among connection initiatives is proposed to highlight the complex repercussions of the increased diversity of connectivity methods: The horizontal and vertical competitions between state-driven connectivity programmes, as well as between current or planned connectivity schemes at the national and international levels. Despite the fact that different levels of government often aim to link in different ways, we believe that tactics are not always complimentary across levels of government. In fact, the geopolitical character of relatively new & nation-state-driven policies may seriously harm long-term intra-state connectedness as well. We use the Bay of Bengal as an example of competitive connectivity investments in South Asia's subregion between India and China's Asian adversaries. Centrally conceived and implemented connection policies often drive out pre-existing connectedness based on subnational efforts or transnational social links, at least in part because of horizontal rivalry. Investing in Asia's future connection has to take into consideration both the constraints and complexities of competing connectivity options.

Trivedi, (2010) As a result of Southeast Asia's long history of social and cultural diversity, finding a place to stay is simple. Native Americans helped to mould adaptation and adoption of outside influences by seeking beliefs and practises that complemented rather than misdirected the evolution of their own cultures. The Southeast Asianists' cultural mix and indigenous customs were substantially altered as a consequence of this process. It was possible for India's particular cultural pattern to take root in Southeast Asia. These architectural and cultural wonders were interpreted by indigenous people, creating an impressive

assortment. This article examines the effect of early Indian influence on Southeast Asia in light of this context. This book examines the relationship between India and one of its oldest allies, Indonesia, and recommends measures for reinvigorating the friendship.

Smith, (2005) Despite the widespread debunking of the Indian "influence" theory, there is still some debate over the true effect of early commerce between India & Southeast Asia. It seems that Indian commerce with Southeast Asia was quite unusual before to the fourth century C.E., based on what has been discovered & the incentives for such trade from the Indian perspective. In Southeast Asia, from Bangladesh to Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand & the larger Indonesian islands, subcontinental traditions such as religious imagery and Sanskrit nomenclature, coins, and idioms used to designate leaders are present. Adopted from the 4th century, a powerful political entity on the Indian subcontinent, particularly the Gupta, established cohesive patterns of political, social, and religious structure at this time, which made subcontinental traditions appealing. Fear of Chinese encroachment prompted Southeast Asian kings to choose to use Indian political and religious symbols rather than those from nearby China.

Research Gap: There is no study till date that have assessed quantitatively factors influencing connectivity of India and Southeast Asia. Therefore, present research made an attempt to fill the gap and quantitatively analysed factors impacting connectivity of India and Southeast Asia and also assessed its ties and binds.

Objective of the study

Table 1: Demographic Analysis

Demographic Analysis			
Gender		Frequency	Percent
	Male	233	64.18
	Female	130	35.82

- To explore distinct factors impacting connectivity of India with Southeast Asia.
- To assess quantitatively factors influencing connectivity of India with Southeast Asia.
- To recommend various ways to improve relationship among India and Southeast Asia.

Hypothesis of the study

H01: There are no significant factors influencing connectivity of India with Southeast Asia.

Ha1: There are significant factors influencing connectivity of India with Southeast Asia.

H02: There is no significant relationship among India and Southeast Asia.

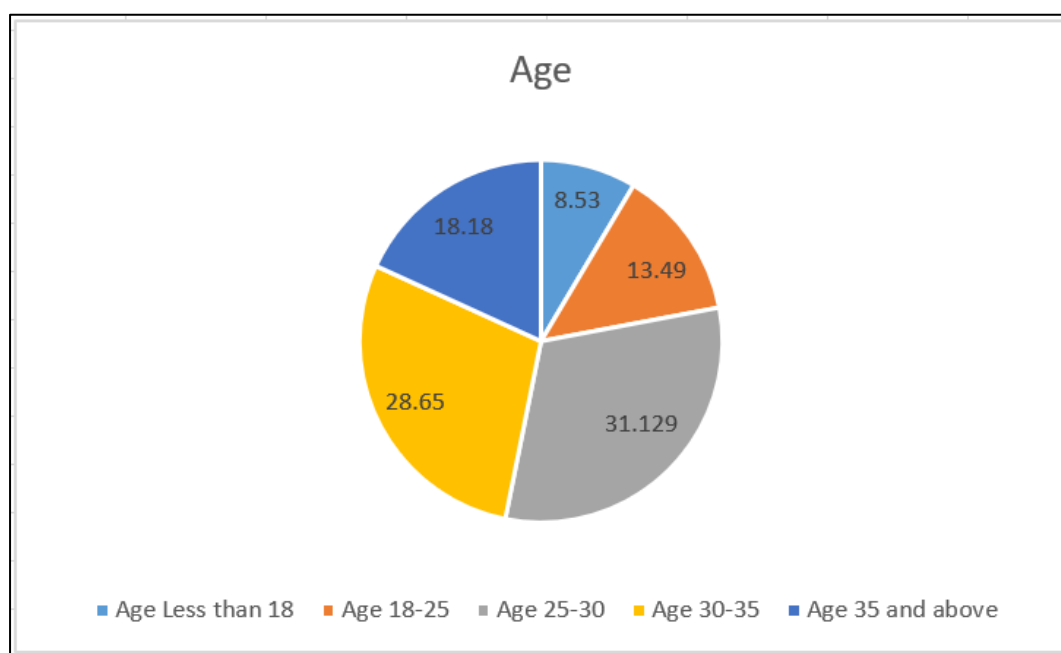
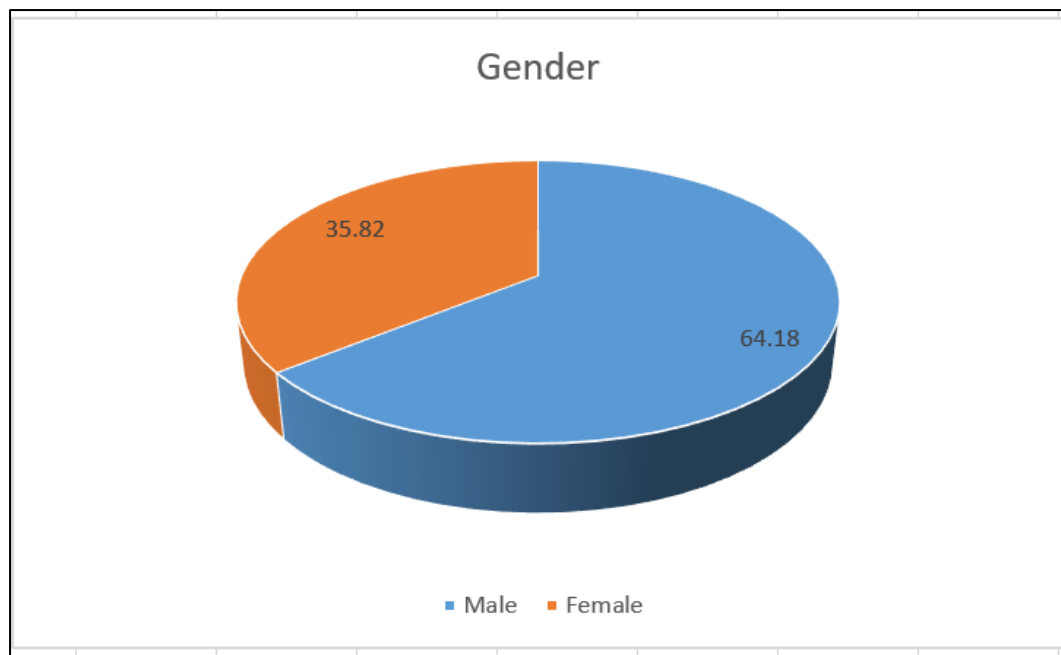
Ha2: There is significant relationship among India and Southeast Asia.

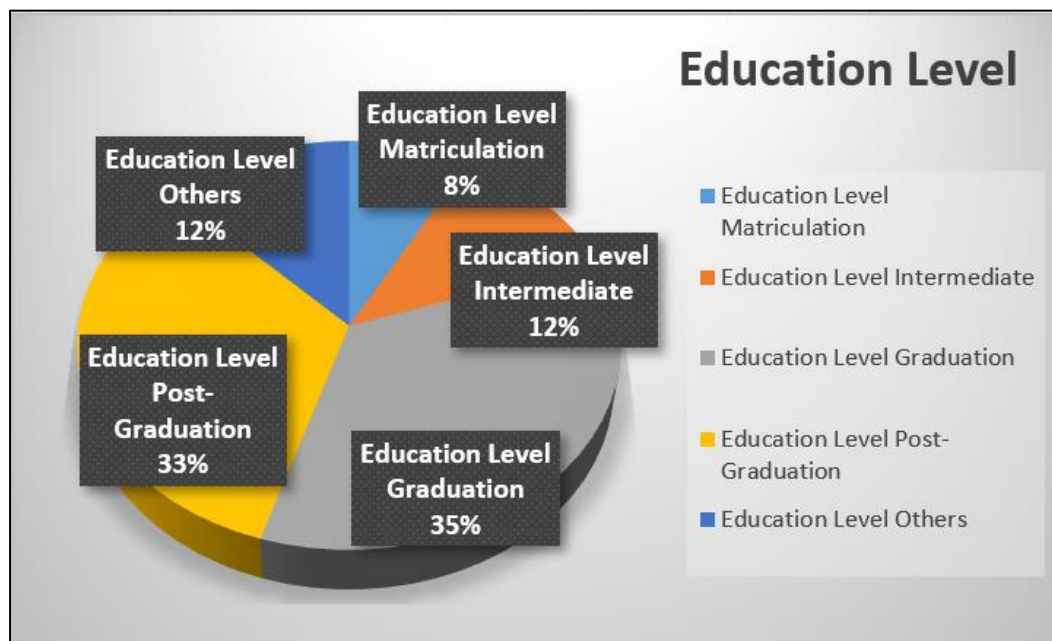
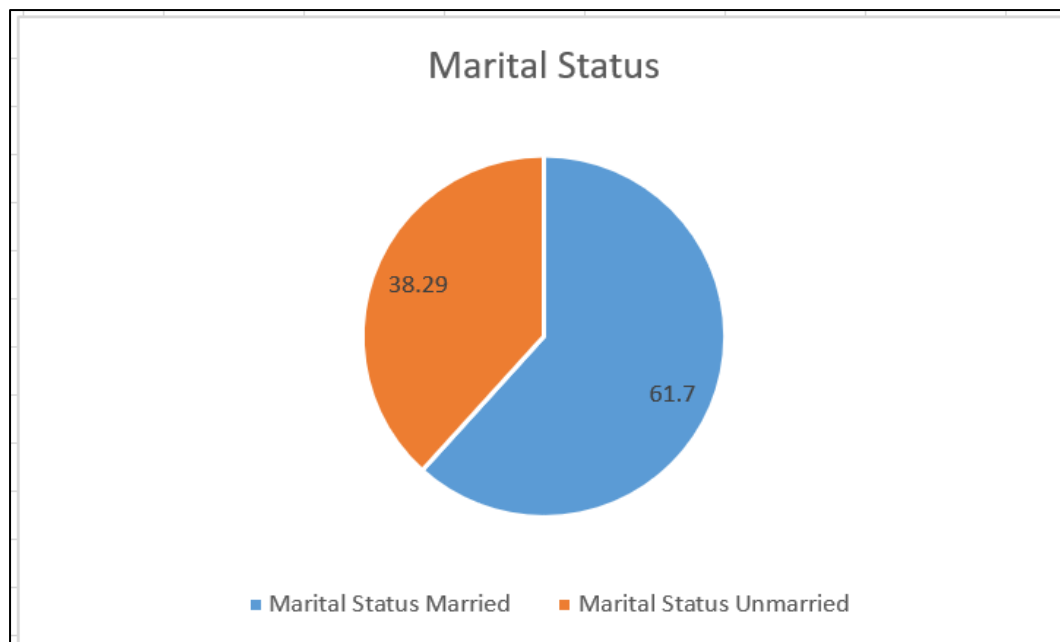
Research Methodology

The existing study is primary and descriptive. The study made an attempt to quantitatively analyse through structured questionnaire the connectivity of India with Southeast Asia. The subject for the existing research is citizens as individuals having sample size of 363 to obtain responses. The SPSS software version 23.0 was used. The variables used for the study were economic connectivity, political connectivity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Trade and commerce, Religious and cultural connectivity.

Result and Discussion

Age	Less than 18	31	8.53
	18-25	49	13.49
	25-30	113	31.129
	30-35	104	28.65
	35 and above	66	18.18
Marital Status	Married	224	61.70
	Unmarried	139	38.29
Education Level	Matriculation	29	7.98
	Intermediate	43	11.84
	Graduation	127	34.98
	Post-Graduation	119	32.78
	Others	45	12.39
Income Level	Less than Rs. 15000	11	3.03
	Rs. 15000- Rs. 20000	33	9.09
	Rs. 20000- Rs. 25000	189	52.06
	Rs. 25000 and above	130	35.81





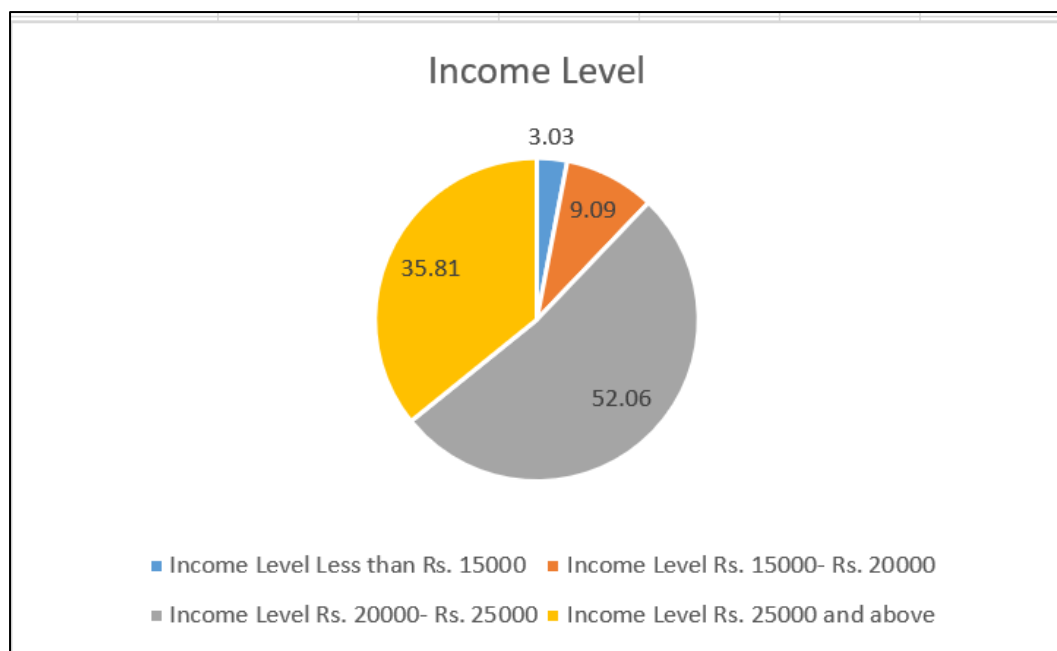


Table 1 depicted the analysis of demographic statistics and stated that majority of respondents are male having age of 25-30 years, having

married marital status, had graduation qualification and earned Rs.20000-Rs.25000.

Table 2: Reliability Statistics

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.881	6

On the basis of Cronbach's alpha of .881 (N=6), which is more than the permissible threshold limit of 0.60, internal consistency was found in

the variables studied in **Table 2**. As a result, the variables' internal consistency is obvious.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Economic connectivity	363	1	5	4.25	.847
Political connectivity	363	1	5	4.28	.855
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	363	1	5	4.27	.859
Trade and commerce	363	1	5	4.30	.842
Religious connectivity	363	1	5	4.10	.916
cultural connectivity	363	1	5	4.26	.874
Valid N (listwise)	363				

Table 3, stated the quantitative assessment of descriptive statistics and implied that "Trade and Commerce" (Mean=4.30 and Standard

Deviation=.842) is the prime reason for the connectivity of India among Southeast Asia followed by "Political Connectivity"

(Mean=4.28 and Standard Deviation=.855).
 “Religious Connectivity” (Mean=4.10 and
 Standard Deviation=.916 is the least reason for

influencing connectivity among India and
 Southeast Asia.

Table 4: Correlations Analysis

Correlations							
		economic connectivity	political connectivity	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Trade and commerce	Religious connectivity	cultural connectivity
Economic connectivity	Pearson Correlation	1	.354**	.235**	.332**	.250**	.165**
	Sig. (2- tailed)		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363
Political connectivity	Pearson Correlation	.354**	1	.305**	.243**	.449**	.175**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Pearson Correlation	.235**	.305**	1	.316**	.294**	.167**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.001
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363
Trade and commerce	Pearson Correlation	.332**	.243**	.316**	1	.277**	.199**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363
Religious connectivity	Pearson Correlation	.250**	.449**	.294**	.277**	1	.175**
	Sig. (2- tailed)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.001
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363
cultural connectivity	Pearson Correlation	.165**	.175**	.167**	.199**	.175**	1
	Sig. (2- tailed)	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	
	N	363	363	363	363	363	363

b. Predictors: (Constant), cultural connectivity, economic connectivity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Religious connectivity, Trade and commerce, political connectivity

Table 6 stated the ANOVA Analysis and stated the Regression model at (Sum of squares=234.654, df=6, Mean Square=39.109, F=296.936 and Sig.000). Residual Model (Sum of squares=46.888, df=356, Mean Square=.132, F=296.936 and Sig.000). In case of ANOVA analysis also strong impact is

witnessed. Therefore, Dependent variable which is connectivity of India and Southeast Asia is influenced from independent factors, namely, cultural connectivity, economic connectivity, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Religious connectivity, Trade and commerce, political connectivity.

Table 7: One-Sample Statistics

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Economic connectivity	363	4.25	.847	.044
Political connectivity	363	4.28	.855	.045
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	363	4.27	.859	.045
Trade and commerce	363	4.30	.842	.044
Religious connectivity	363	4.10	.916	.048
cultural connectivity	363	4.26	.874	.046

Table 7, stated the quantitative assessment of one sample statistics and implied that “Trade and Commerce” (Mean=4.30 and Standard Deviation=.842 and standard error=.044) is the prime reason for the connectivity of India among Southeast Asia followed by “Political

Connectivity” (Mean=4.28 and Standard Deviation=.855 and standard error=.045). “Religious Connectivity” (Mean=4.10 and Standard Deviation=.916 and standard error=.048) is the least reason for influencing connectivity among India and Southeast Asia.

Table 8: One-Sample Test

One-Sample Test						
	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Economic connectivity	95.157	362	.000	4.248	4.16	4.34
Political connectivity	95.287	362	.000	4.278	4.19	4.37
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	94.652	362	.000	4.267	4.18	4.36
Trade and commerce	97.364	362	.000	4.303	4.22	4.39
Religious connectivity	85.220	362	.000	4.096	4.00	4.19
cultural connectivity	92.947	362	.000	4.264	4.17	4.35

Table 8, stated the quantitative assessment of t test and implied that “Trade and Commerce” (t=97.364) is the prime reason for the connectivity of India among Southeast Asia followed by “Political Connectivity”

(t=95.287). “Religious Connectivity” (t=85.220) is the least reason for influencing connectivity among India and Southeast Asia.

Hypothesis Testing

After applying statistical tools of t test, regression and ANOVA analysis, the findings of the study rejected null hypothesis and accepted alternative hypothesis. Therefore, significant impact and strong relationship found among India and Southeast Asia.

Conclusion and recommendations

For both India and its neighbouring nations, improved and strengthened connectivity has huge benefits. The significance of connecting corridors has been examined in this research. According to research, freight traffic is likely to increase once these international routes are fully operational. GDP and road density have a favourable and considerable influence on freight traffic, according to the report. Countries that have corridors will gain from increased connectivity and the resulting increase in freight traffic. Countries may join the regional production network under an open economic framework, for example, if connection is improved. Countries that have corridors will gain from increased connectivity and the resulting increase in freight traffic. Countries may join the regional production network under an open economic framework, for example, if connection is improved. Over time, India's proximity to Southeast Asian nations will enable it to become an economic powerhouse and harness Asia's enormous potential. India and Southeast Asia's economic ties will become stronger if they have access to air and sea transportation facilities. It has also been pointed out that the importance of both physical and digital connection cannot be overlooked. Developing India's regional connectedness with Southeast Asia demands significant policy efforts. South & Southeast Asia together form a significant geographic zone in continental Asia. There have been a number of collaboration and integration projects between the two countries throughout the years. As a result, linking Southeast Asia and India is a major goal of the ambitious AEP, which aims to leverage China's economic might and challenge China's geopolitical influence. A functioning single Asian market will be possible if connection projects with Southeast Asia are completed and developed.

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