

# Neoliberal Space and Border Connectivity in India's Northeast

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## Abstract

India's North Eastern Region shares critical border space with China, Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh, and arguably expresses the potential to play a pioneering role in strengthening India's border connectivity. In this connection, the Act East Policy in 2014 has made significant contributions to the infrastructural perception of the region by developing effective cross-border linkages. Building cross-border linkages is a neoliberal economic imperative. This economic imagination that is characterized by competition, productivity, profit, free enterprise, individualism, market determinism and social progress has not been confined to the city space. It also covers the border space where the scope for cross-border integration for shared economic growth is quite expansive. Connectivity, therefore, becomes an urgent material framework that unfolds the neoliberal economic determinants to find secure ground. Therefore, this paper explores the potentials of Stilwell Road, Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport (KMTT) Corridor, and Moreh-Tamu Corridor in securing the geopolitical, geo-economic, and geo-cultural dividends keeping in view the embedded constraints therein.

**Keywords:** NER Border Space, Connectivity, Stilwell Road, Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Corridor, Moreh-Tamu Corridor, Geopolitics

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