The question is generally not about the amount of bandwith it might save.

It is more about lowering the number of HTTP requests needed to render a webpage.

Web browsers only do a few HTTP requests in parallel.

Doing an HTTP request means a round-trip to the server, which takes lots of time.

We have "fast" internet connection, which means we download fast...

What takes time, when doing lots of requests to get small contents (like images, icons) is the multiple round-trips to the server

you end up spending time waiting for the request to go, and the server to respond, instead of using this time to download data.

If we can minimize the number of requests, we minimize the number of trips to the server, and use our hight-speed connection better (we download a bigger file, instead of waiting for many smaller ones).

That's why CSS sprites are used.

**Advantages**-

1. Reduce the number of HTTP request- if we are using CDN (amazon cloudfront) for serving our static assets (images, css, js) we will be saving the cost for number of request using sprite.
2. Improving SEO- Improve intial load time of website.

**Disadvantage**-

1. If we created a larger sprite sheet it will affect the initial load time i.e., SEO.
2. We won’t be able to provide alt tag to each and every img hence no image crawling.