

INDIA AND NEPAL BILATERAL RELATIONS

Nepal flag known as a double-pennon, crimson red the symbol of bravery also represents the colour of the rhododendron, Nepal's national flower, while the blue border is the colour of peace.

Geographical Factors: Geography links India and Nepal's security and there is a permanency in this factor

Trapezoidal Shape, 800 x 200 Km, India Nepal Border 1751 Km

Five India States: UP (651km) - Bihar (601km)- Uttkhd (303 km) –Sikkim (97.8)- WB (96 km)

The Anglo-Nepal war of 1814 and the subsequent treaty of peace signed in 1816 resulted in the delimitation and the delineation of the border between the two countries. **Treaty of Sugauli** 1816 between Nepal and British India created Border and Current Shape 15 Aug 1947. and Border regulated by SSB

One of the most vital reasons of insecurity for India is the presence of China, which shares 1,439 kilometers of border with Nepal. Nepal and China had also signed a boundary agreement after much dispute on 21 March 1960



Three Physiography Region: Himal, Pahad, Terai.

Himal: Mountain Range in Great Himalaya Range. Area of Imp Peaks

Pahad: Lower Himalaya Range, Mahabharat Range, Population density high in VALLEY,

Terai or Southern Lowlands- Plains area, high population, Shivalik area, three main rivers: karnali, Gandaki, Arun, Kosi



- World Water resources 2.8 % in Nepal and in India 4 %

Nepal Electricity Generation is dominated by hydropower, 88 hydro plants

- Only about 40% of Nepal's population has access to electricity.
- over 85% of the population of Nepal has access to electricity
- No Oil, Gas and Coal Deposit
- The bulk of the energy need is dominated by fuel wood (68%), agricultural waste (15%), animal dung (8%) and imported fossil fuel (8%).
- Most of Nepal's hydropower plants are run-of-the-river, which causes electricity supply to fluctuate according to the season
- The Nepal earthquake in April 2015 is estimated to have destroyed at least 14 hydropower dams in the country
- Inadequate access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity is a fundamental reason for Nepal's poor economic competitiveness'.
- it is important for Nepal to increase its energy dependency on electricity with hydropower development
- This contributes to deforestation, soil erosion and depletion, and increased flooding downstream in the Ganges plain



Political Factors: Nepal is a federal republic comprising 7 provinces and 77 districts

Important cities: katmandu, Pokhara, Bharatpur, Biratnagar, mahendranagar, Lumbani

Demography: 81% Hindus, 9% Buddha and 4.4% Islam

Nepal Kingdom declared 1768.

State Declared 18 May 2006

Republic Declared 2008.

Constitution 2015

Prime insister: KP Sharma Oli, third time, from 2018, On 13 May 2021, he was re-appointed as prime minister after the opposition failed to form a majority government

Economy Factors:

- Service Sector 48.5 %, Agri 36% and Industry 15/4% of Nepal GDP. Agriculture and Industry are contracting and service sector is increasing.
- 75 % workforce employed in agriculture, service 18%
- Agriculture Produce mainly in Terai region, bordering India.
- Nepal Export mainly Carpet, leader goods, jute : mainly to Europe
- Nepal main importer India, UAE, China.
- Nepal's main imports from India are petroleum products; motor vehicles and spare parts; rice and medicine



➤ CHALLENGES

1. Increase in employment
2. Severe shortage of skilled labour
3. Weak -- infrastructure, Education and Health Sector
4. Illiteracy and poverty
5. Human Trafficking due to Open border: Maoist, Naxal
6. Fake Indian Currency
7. Child labour
8. Poor Investment structure.
9. For India, the ISI of Pakistan using Nepal as a launching pad for terrorist activities in India : grave concern
10. The Maoist insurgency in Nepal is another issue of concern.

Why British never Colonized Nepal?

- ❖ **Geographical condition - Nepal:** Hilly covered with dense forest creating difficulties for the British army in fighting the war.
- ❖ **Gurkhas were great warriors, and it was complicated to get victory over them: I**
- ❖ Not important for them: No Strategic Value, No resources, No access to sea, only good for Tibet Connection.
- ❖ Though British East India Company attempted to capture Nepal thrice but never successfully captured Nepal. Later a Peace treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Nepal was declared sovereign country.
- The hereditary Rana autocracy ruling Nepal followed a policy of isolation and maintained these arrangements as the continuity of their regime depended on British support.
- The Ranas sought the support of free India in return for being sympathetic to the latter's security concerns.

- ✓ **About Nepal:** A country that has the potential to meet the entire shortfall in power of South Asia is now dependent on import of power from India.
- ✓ **Unsettled domestic political situation in Nepal is a matter of concern.**
- ✓ Urgent need for Nepal to address the political unrest in the terai region, where **Madhesis(Indian origin Nepalese of the Terai region)** have been voicing their concerns, many of which are genuine. Madhesis who have familial connection with people of Bihar and UP, have, for long been denied equal rights and are a suppressed lot

Why Nepal is important for India?

- **Strategic importance:** Nepal is a buffer state between India and china.
- **Internal security:** Nepal shares a long open border with India. There is alleged link between Naxalits and Maoist in Nepal.
- **Socio-economic development** of bordering states especially Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- **To counter terrorist activities** close to border areas: Many hard core terrorists had been apprehended in Nepal close to India's border.

Significance of Nepal for India

- Nepal is a buffer state between India and China
- Nepal shares a long open border with India. There is alleged link between Naxalites and Maoist in Nepal.
- Socio-economic development of bordering states especially Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- To check the growing influence of china in Nepal. Chinese are planning to construct road and rail link as part of silk route project.
- Nearly 30 lakh Nepalis (some 10 % of Nepal's population) are employed in India; this includes some 50,000-60,000 soldiers.
- Nearly 8 million Nepalese citizens live and work in India
- Around 6,00,000 Indians are living/domiciled in Nepal.

CONNECTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

- Government of India's **development assistance to Nepal** is a **broad-based** programme **focusing on creation of infrastructure at the grass-roots level**, under which various projects have been implemented in the **areas of infrastructure, health, water resources, education and rural & community development.**
- development of **border infrastructure** through upgradation of 10 roads in the **Terai area;**
- development of **cross-border rail links** at Jogbani-Biratnagar, Jaynagar-Bardibas; and establishment of **Integrated Check Posts** at Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalgunj built with GoI assistance
- The total economic assistance earmarked under '**Aid to Nepal**' budget in FY 2019-20 was INR 1200 crore
- **Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala** in Kathmandu.
- Apart from grant assistance, Government of India has extended **Lines of Credit** of USD 1.65 billion for undertaking development of infrastructure, including post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

- 'India-Nepal **New Partnership in Agriculture**' was launched with a **focus** on collaborative projects in agricultural **research, development and education**. This is an important and timely initiative as vast populations of the two countries predominantly depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood.

Development Efforts: road and rail: boost physical + economic +Social and cultural connectivity.

1. **Postal Highway** being constructed in Southern Plains of Nepal. 14 road packages under Postal Highway Project.

Postal Highway also called **Hulaki Rajmarg** runs **across the Terai region** of Nepal, from **Bhadrapur in the east to Dodhara in the west**, cutting across the entire width of the country. Since 1950, the Government of India has been supporting infrastructure development of Nepal. India has provided financial assistance for construction of various highways, roads, bridges, airports, etc as part of its multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme. With this payment, a total of NPR 2.35 billion stands released to the Government of Nepal out of the total grant assistance of NPR 8.00 billion committed by the Government of India.

2. **Railway Service Agreement:** A **136 km railway line to Kathmandu –Raxual** from India was recently announced once operationalized, it will significantly enhance the already rich people-to-people interactions. The agreement also allows the Indian Railway's freight services to bring goods to and take goods from other border points besides Raxaul/Birgunj. **Six cross border railway lines have been proposed** between India and Nepal till date

DEFENCE COOPERATION: S

- China's proclamation on September 10, 1949, that Tibet was part of Chinese territory
- On October 7, 1950, the Chinese occupied Eastern Tibet.
- With danger to Nepal's territorial integrity being detrimental to India's security, stability in Nepal became a top priority for India

To meet Both countries security concerns, the Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950, Signed --

- India and Nepal have **wide-ranging cooperation** in the defence sector
- India has been **assisting the Nepal Army (NA)** in its **modernisation** by supplying **equipment and providing training**.
- Assistance during disasters, joint military exercises, adventure activities and bilateral visits are other aspects of India's defence cooperation with Nepal
- The 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise **SURYA KIRAN**' is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal
- The **Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army are raised partly by recruitment from hill districts of Nepal. Currently, about **32,000 Gorkha Soldiers from Nepal** are serving in the Indian Army
- **Disbursement of pensions and organise welfare programmes** for re-training, rehabilitating and assisting exGorkha soldiers and their families.

WATER RESOURCES COOPERATION: Imp areas of Bilateral Relations

- Water resource is considered as the backbone of Nepali economy.
- A large number of small and large rivers flow from Nepal to India and constitute an important part of the Ganges river basins. These rivers have the potential to become major sources of irrigation and power for Nepal and India.



➤ Three tier bilateral mechanism established in 2008, to discuss issues relating to cooperation in water resources, flood management, inundation and hydropower between the two countries, has been working well



In addition to Mahakali/Sharda (West), Gandak/Narayani (South) and Mechi (East) are two other rivers which demarcate the border between India and Nepal. Around 600 kilometres of the India-Nepal border is defined by rivers: the Mechi in the east, Mahakali in the west, and Naryani in the Susta area.

- **Sharda Dam** Construction 1927: Emerge from Kalapani Area, West of Nepal- India Border,
- Kalapani Area- Kali river- Sharda in India, Flow in UP Terai Area- then merge in Ghaghra river- Ganga
- **Kosi Agreement** 1954
- **Gandak Agreement** 1959, Tanakpur Agreement 1991
- **Mahakali Treaty** 1996, Pancheshwar Dam Project 1996: Mahakali in Nepal and Kaliganga in Uttarkhand.
- The \$2.5-billion **Budhi Gandaki** project, on a river Gandaki/Narayani/Gandak in central-western Nepal, is increasingly becoming the centrepiece of this tug-of-war between India and China
- \$1.5 billion, 900 MW **Arun III hydro-electric** project in the Sankhuwasabha district of eastern Nepal is likely that India will buy a large chunk of the power that is produced by the Arun III project, being built by the Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)

Border disputes The origin of river Mahakali forms the basis of Kalapani territorial dispute. According to the 1816 treaty of Segauli signed between British India and Nepal, the western boundary of Nepal is marked by the river Mahakali.



❖ the Kalapani area 372- 400 km² is of strategic significance in South Asian diplomacy as it serves as a tri-junction between India, China and Nepal. Nepal is a “buffer state” between the other two countries— both with great-power aspirations in the region

➤ **Kalapani** is a territory disputed between India and Nepal, however administrated as part of Pithoragarh district in the Uttarakhand and Sudurpashchim Pradesh in Nepal.

➤ It is situated on the Kailash Manasarovar route, at an altitude of 3600

meters

- **Location:** Area at **India-Nepal-China tri-junction** in Western Nepal, So, the region holds strategic importance from the defence point of view.
- The Sugauli Treaty signed by Nepal and British India on 4 March 1816 locates the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India. Key to the disagreement over Kalapani is the origin of River Kali.
- Kalapani has been controlled by India's Indo-Tibetan border security forces since the Sino-Indian War with China in 1962 Kalapani was regarded as a ‘safe zone’ for Indian troops to be stationed, as its high altitude of 20, 276 feet was “effective defence 12 against the Chinese.
- Nepal has called for the withdrawal of the Indian border forces from Kalapani area
- In 2015, the Nepalese parliament objected an agreement between India and China to trade through Lipulekh Pass, a mountainous pass in the disputed Kalapani area, stating that the agreement between India and China to trade through Kalapani violates Nepal's sovereign rights over the territory

Another major area of dispute between India and Nepal: **Susta:**

- Susta is an area under territorial dispute currently in Tribenisusta, **Lumbini Zone, Nepal** and near **Nichlaul, Uttar Pradesh, India**. The area under dispute totals over 14,500 hectares (140 km²) and is controlled by Nepal.
- In eastern Susta, the Narayani river forms the Indian-Nepali border. But several large floods have reshaped the river, causing a 14,500 hectare Indian encroachment into Nepal. Here, again, Nepalese are sensitive to the perceived threat to their sovereignty. According to reports, lands disputes among locals are usually won by Indian nationals who have the support of the armed Indian Border Police Force.
- ✓ South Asia’s first cross-border petroleum products pipeline, constructed and funded by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., connecting Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal, 69 km pipeline, **having a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum, will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable costs to the people of Nepal**
- ✓ Due to the open border, people are entering the Indian Territory by taking diesel and petrol from Nepalese areas and are selling them in the border Indian area. Nepal petrol is available for 78 and diesel 66 per litre.
- ✓ There are a total of 70 border posts in India and Nepal,



✓ The 456-megawatt Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project This makes Nepal a power surplus country capable of exporting electricity,” The project, entirely financed from domestic financial institutions and companies, has set a new milestone in the hydropower development of Nepal. It took 11 years to complete the project.

✓ Inauguration of a new road linking Dharchula in Uttarakhand to Lipulekh Pass as a new route for the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, 2020 had inaugurated : Lipulekh Pass

✓ Following this, the Government of Nepal, published a new political map of Nepal and has claimed the territories of Kalapani,

Limpidhuriya and Lipulekh which the Indian State calls its own.

CULTURAL Factors: Important Landmarks of Buddhism(eg lumbini) is located in Nepal which foregrounds its cultural significance to India. Buddhist circuit that covers lumbini-bodh gaya-sarnath-kusinagar

Conclusion: India Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders, historic Socio cultural and civilization links , economic ties and deep rooted People to People contacts.

Despite the above mentioned strains in the bilateral relations, strong people-to-people contacts, thousands of years of relations between the societies, cultural and familial ties and geographical proximity have been sustaining the diplomatic relations between India and Nepal. The leaders of both the countries should come up with more pro-active measures to unleash the growth potential of both countries by utilizing the natural and human resources in an effective manner.

In your opinion, which country has strategic advantage in Nepal – India or China? Critically examine. (200 Words)

Recommendations to Improve Relations

- India needs to formulate a comprehensive and long-term Nepal policy.
- Conventional security certainly cannot be the sole basis of India- Nepal relations. Therefore, the 1950 Treaty should be revisited to not only address Nepal’s concerns but also to include India’s concerns about non-conventional threats that have emerged in recent years
- Transparency levels about project details have to be improved in order to allay peoples’ misconceptions.
- Participation of the private sector in hydro-power development and power trading should be encouraged, and finance can be mobilized jointly by involving the private sectors of both countries.
- The capacity of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) needs to be enhanced for effective patrolling and regulation. Special attention should be given to the intelligence-gathering capacity related to border issues of security forces in the region.

- Extension of educational facilities on the Indian pattern should be considered as a long-term strategy.
- India should undertake capacity building programmes
- Reviving the border dialogue mechanism at the FS level is the only way to find a solution to the border disputes.

INDIA BANGLADESH RELATIONS



Indian states that share borders with Bangladesh are: Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura.

State	Total Length (in Km)
West Bengal	2216.70
Assam	263.00
Meghalaya	443.00

Tripura	856.00
Mizoram	318.00
TOTAL	4096.70

GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS:

- Shares land borders with India to the west, north, and east, Myanmar southeast, and the Bay of Bengal to the south.
- The People's Republic of Bangladesh is divided into **8 administrative divisions** and **64 districts** (Bibhag). Barisal, Chittagong (Largest), Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh (Smallest), Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet.
- 98% Bengali, 2% Minority, 90% Islam, Official Religion
- Bangladesh is a **riverine** South Asian country.

- major portion of Bangladesh is located on the fertile Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta at the confluence of the **Ganges (Padma), Brahmaputra and Meghna** Rivers and their tributaries
- Bangladesh is separated from Nepal and Bhutan by the **Siliguri Corridor** and from China by Sikkim in the north.
- 20% of the country is covered by forests and 12% is covered by hill systems
- After Dhaka, Chittagong – is the **second-largest** city of Bangladesh. A major sea port and a coastal city, it serves as the **largest sea port**, thus playing a vital role in the economy of Bangladesh. Mongla port Second busy port.
- **Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Comila, Barisal, Mymensingh** Imp cities

Formation of Bangladesh: East pakistan from 1947- 1971

- Consist of Partition area of Bengal and Assam from British India
- Bengali People resented about West pakistan domination(2200km) and Imposition of Urdu Language
- Protest Start Under Leader Sheikh Mujibur Rehman
- **Struggle against :**
 1. West Pakistan Domination and Urdu Language Imposition
 2. Demand fair representation for Bengali Culture and language in Administration + Political Power.
 3. Demand East Pakistan Autonomy
- 1970 Election won by Awami League of Sheikh Rehman
- But Sheikh arrested, General Yahya Khan military rule imposed in East Pakistan
- He Suppressed Mass Movements of Bengali People
- Large Scale migration to India
- Refugee camps are converted into **training camps** for the Mukti Bahini.(Freedom Fighters)
- So India Support East Pakistan Independence, Financially and Military .
- Pakistan Surrender 1 Lakh troops 16 December 1971
- Formation of Bangladesh 26 March 1971
- Russia bound to Help India in case of external Aggression because of 1971 India Russia Treaty- Leonid Brezhnev and Indira Gandhi

India's links with Bangladesh are civilizational, cultural, social and economic – a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts.

Importance of Bangladesh for India

❖ **Geopolitical importance of Bangladesh**

Can connect North East: The **Siliguri Corridor** in West Bengal, with a width of 21 to 40 kilometers connects the North Eastern region with the main part of India. The **transit system through Bangladesh to Northeast** will help to **tap vast energy resources of land locked regions of India** and thus contributing for development of that region

Each of these states is **land-locked** and has **shorter route to the sea through Bangladesh**. Currently, Kolkata port is mainly used by these states for both domestic and imported cargo.

Large Muslim population. Can be tapped by terrorist organisations

❖ **Success of Act-East policy**

Can act as a bridge to South East Asia and beyond

❖ **Socio-economic development of North-East**

Shorter routes to connect mainland with NE

Power sharing and transmission lines via it

To contain insurgency in North-East – Ensuring that no anti-India terror or insurgent activities can be carried out from its soil.

❖ **To reduce the influence of china**

A “neutral” Bangladesh also ensures containment of an assertive China in this region, including along the strategic sea-lanes of the Bay of Bengal. It will also help to counter China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) strategy.

BANGLADESH CONCERNS:

- Less land , More Population, 8 Most Populous country- China, India, USA, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan , Nigeria- Bangladesh
- Poverty , illiteracy , Corruption, Inadequate Public Infrastructure and Terrorism , Poor Governance and Weak Institutions
- Deforestation, Soil degradation and Land degradation, Floods and Cyclones effect
- Arsenic content in Soil and in drinking water.
- Rohingya refugees from Myanmar Rakhaine Province.
- Climate Change and Rise of Sea Level: Impact Bangladesh low lying areas.
- Power Supply Issues, Dumping of fake currency notes, Cattle Smuggling.
- Bangladesh has small reserves of oil and coal, but very large natural gas resources. Commercial energy consumption comes mostly from natural gas (around 66%), followed by oil, hydropower, and coal
- 2,400 MW Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant, Pabna district, by 2023, it will be the country's first nuclear power plant.

MAJOR ISSUES:

- ✓ Illegal migration since the 1971 Liberation war of independence of Bangladesh
- ✓ Border Management: The Indo-Bangladesh border is notorious for smuggling, apart from trafficking in arms, drugs and people
- ✓ Bangladeshis and Rohingyas played a major role in smuggling of narcotic substances on India-Bangladesh border in northeastern state of Tripura during 2019, a BSF intelligence report said. Ex Yaba Drug Tablet, Ganja (marijuana), phensedyl, liquor and cattle
- ✓ Bangladesh uses China card to supplement its bargaining capacity against India.
- ✓ Water-sharing: India- Bangladesh share 54 trans-boundary rivers – Major irritant is sharing water of river Teesta.
- ✓ Land Issues

- ✓ Anti-India sentiments : Presence of various anti India groups like Harkat-alJihad-al-Islami (HUJI), Jamaat-e-Islami, and HUJI-B

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF INDIA FOR BANGLADESH:

- Both countries signed several bilateral instruments in various sectors including hydrocarbons, agriculture, trade, development projects, and conservation of heritage
- The two prime ministers also jointly unveiled a postal stamp issued by the government of india to commemorate the birth centenary of bangabandhu sheikh mujibur rahman
- Two bilateral projects, beautification and city development project in rajshahi city and construction of khalishpur collegiate girl's school in Khulna were also inaugurated.
- In addition to the above high level engagements between the two countries, there have also been several interactions at senior official level in various bilateral mechanisms. The multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries ranges from traditional sectors of tourism, health and education to frontier technologies of nuclear science, space, and information technology



Water Sharing Disputes: India and Bangladesh share **54 trans-boundary rivers**, big and small. In 1972, India and Bangladesh established the **Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)** with the aim of working together in harnessing the rivers common to both the countries for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

Ganga River Dispute: In 1996, a 30-year agreement was between the two nations. However, the major area of dispute has been India's construction and operation of the Farakka Barrage to increase water supply to the river Hooghly. Bangladesh complains that it does not get a fair share of the water in the dry season and some of its areas get flooded when India releases excess waters during the monsoons.

Farrakka Barage: across the Ganga river located in Murshidabad, West Bengal. The Ganges river splits into two rivers - Bhagirathi-Hooghly River and Padma River.. 70% of the total population of Bangladesh and about 50% of the Indian population live in the Ganges basin; Farakka barrage has been criticized for the floods in Bihar as it is causing excessive siltation in the Ganga

To **resolve trans-boundary water dispute**, important international treaties in this regards

1. **The Madrid Declaration 1911:** discourages harmful modification or unilateral alterations of Rivers and promotes creation of commissions
2. **Barcelona Convention 1921:** establishes the priorities in using and managing of water resource. In 1950 Nepal recommended Ganges should be declared as an international river by India under the Convention
3. **The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers (1966):**for organizing international drainage basins: o a reasonable and equitable share in the beneficial uses of the waters of an international drainage basin

Berlin Rules on Water Resources 2004

Established in August 21, 2004 in Berlin is an important law for modern time. It is the most updated form of all International water laws and includes sustainability to minimize environmental harm.

Thalweg Doctrine in International Maritime Law /Thalweg Principle states that river boundaries between two Countries may be **divided by the mid-channel if the water-body is navigable**



Barak River in News:

1. It is also called as **Surma River** which flows in **North-eastern India and Eastern Bangladesh.**
2. It rises in the **Manipur Hills** in northern Manipur state, India, where it is called the **Barak**, and flows west and then southwest into Mizoram state.
3. The river next splits into two branches, the **Surma (north)** (Surma valley -in a rich tea-growing valley) and the **Kusiara (south)**, which enter

Bangladesh and turn southwest.

4. The river flowing through the states of **Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam** in India and into the Bay of Bengal via Bangladesh
5. The **principal tributaries of the Barak** are all in India and are the **River Sonai (Tuirial River), the Jiri, the Tlawng (Dhaleswari / Katakak), the Longai and the Madhura.**
6. **Tipaimukh Dam** is a proposed embankment dam on the Barak River.
7. At Bhairab Bazar, in east-central Bangladesh, the **river enters the Old Brahmaputra** and becomes the **Meghna River**, which flows south past Dhaka and **enters the lower Padma River.**

Barak River Contension

- Bangladesh has been demanding to stop the construction of the Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric Power Project on the Barak River on the eastern edge of Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh says that the massive dam will disrupt the seasonal rhythm of the river and have an adverse effect on downstream agriculture, fisheries and ecology of the region.
- **TIPAIMUKH DAM**

Construction of the Tipaimukh Dam is another contentious issue between India and Bangladesh. Tipaimukh Dam is a **hydel power project** proposed on the **river Barak in Manipur**. Bangladesh's objection :They argue that this may affect the seasonal rhythm of the river and have an adverse effect on downstream agriculture and fisheries of Bangladesh.-- eastern Sylhet district.

- Teesta issue: 414 km River length (151 Km Sikkim+ 142 Km Sikkim West bengal Border+ Bangladesh 121 Km.
- **Source in Sikkim:** glacial lake, Khangchung Chho, is located at the tip of the Teesta Khangse glacier which descends from Pauhunri peak; **flows through the northern part of West Bengal in India before entering Bangladesh**, where after **crossing through about 45km of irrigable land, merges with the Brahmaputra River** (or Jamuna when it enters Bangladesh). The **Ranggeet River** is the main tributary of **Teesta River.**
- Teesta river is a major source of irrigation to the paddy growing greater **Rangpur region of Bangladesh.**(its rice bowl cannot be cultivated for winter crops due to excessive withdrawal of water by India.)

- Bangladesh has sought an equitable distribution of Teesta waters, on the lines of Ganga Water Treaty of 1996
- In 2011 India and Bangladesh finalized an arrangement, by which India would get 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5% while remaining 20% would flow unhindered in order to maintain a minimum water flow of the river
- This agreement was not signed due to opposition from chief minister of West Bengal.--fearing that the **loss of higher volume of water** to the lower riparian would cause **problems in the northern region of her state**, especially **during drier months**.
- Recently, there were reports that **Bangladesh** is discussing an almost **\$1 billion loan from China** for a **comprehensive management and restoration project** on the **Teesta River**.

Joint Rivers Commission: agreed to collect data and prepare water-sharing agreements for seven rivers — Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudhkumar, and Feni.

- **Feni River** which forms part of the India-Bangladesh border, originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
- The MoU stands to benefit *Sabroom town on the southern tip of Tripura*. The present supply of drinking water to Sabroom town is inadequate. *The groundwater in this region has high iron content*. Implementation of this scheme would benefit over 7000 population of Sabroom town.
- According to the Indian government press release, there has been no water-sharing agreement between the countries on the Feni previously.
- In Tripura, a 150-metre long, 4-lane bridge across the Feni is being built between India and Bangladesh, where the river forms the border between the two countries. Once ready, it would connect Tripura with Chittagong port in Bangladesh, which is only 70 km away from the Indo-Bangla border, and would play an important role in the proposed economic corridor through India, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar.
- *India wants Bangladesh should allow India to implement its 14 projects on Feni River. India in exchange will help Bangladesh resolve river erosion on the Bangladesh side.*
- Tripura Chief Minister announced the setting up of state's first-ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Sabroom. It will be the first ever SEZ of Tripura, mainly to attract Bangladeshi investors. Rubber based industries like tyres, surgical threads, textile and apparel industries, bamboo industries, agri-based processing industries are expected to be set up at the SEZ.



The Zemu glacier which gives birth to the Teesta River is located in which of the following biosphere reserves?

- a. Manas Biosphere Reserve b. Kaziranga Biosphere Reserve
c. Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve d. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve

Feni river flows through: a. Tripura and Myanmar b. Tripura and Bangladesh

c. Mizoram and Bangladesh d. Assam and Bangladesh

Recent Development in Relations : Connectivity

- ✓ **Power agreement and internet service** – India will supply 100 megawatt (MW) of electricity to Bangladesh from **Palatana Project in Tripura** in return for 10 Gigabits per second Internet bandwidth to North East. Bangladesh is currently importing 1160 MW of power from India.
- ✓ **Sundarban Moitry** - A joint exercise between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).
- ✓ To enhance people to people contacts, the frequency of two passenger trains, i.e., Maitree Express and Bandhan Express
- ✓ Maitree Express: Dhaka to kolkatta, Khulna to kolkatta
- ✓ Inaugurated the newly restored railway link between Chilahati (Bangladesh) and Haldibari (India) on 17 December 2020.
- ✓ Sampriti Exercise : between Two Armies/f India-Bangladesh CORPAT ‘Bangosagar’ exercise
- ✓ Bus Services : Kolkata- Dhaka+ Shillong -Dhaka+Agartala Kolkata via Dhaka
- ✓ Feni Bridge (Maitree Setu) connecting LCS Subroom (Tripura) and LCS Ramgarh (Bangladesh) has been jointly inaugurated on virtual platform by both the Prime Ministers on 09 March 2021.
- ✓ Border Haats on India-Bangladesh Border
- ✓ ICT enabled Integrated Check Post to enable greater economic integration and significantly improve the connectivity between India and Bangladesh

Human resource developmenta and Cultural Cooperation is a key component of India’s development cooperation efforts in Bangladesh through its several ongoing training programs and scholarships.

- Training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Service officials from 2019 at **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie**.
- Bangladeshi police officials are also being trained on various modern policing and new investigative techniques of this information age
- training for 1500 Bangladeshi judicial officials since 2017 at **National Judicial Academy, Bhopal** and also in State Judicial Academies
- In addition, 200 **scholarships are awarded by ICCR** (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) every year to students from Bangladesh for pursuing under-graduation, post-graduation and M.Phil/PhD courses in educational institutes of India including the IITs and NIITs.
- **The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka** plays an important role in celebration of common cultural links between the two countries
- As part of bilateral assistance, the Government of India has extended medical assistance, surgical masks,, Hydroxychloroquine medicine tablets and RT-PCR test kits, conducting various online training modules to train the health professionals of Bangladesh
- In January 2021, the Government of India gifted 2 million Covishield (Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines) to Bangladesh to assist in its efforts to fight against the pandemic. The Government of Bangladesh, BEXIMCO Pharmaceuticals Limited of Bangladesh and the Serum Institute of India (SII) have signed a trilateral MOU to procure 3 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the SII

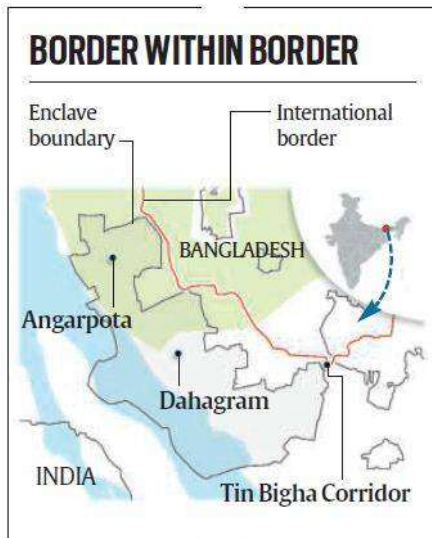
Land Issue:

- Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujbhir Reham first attempted to resolve territorial disputes through 1974 Treaty.
- Land Boundary Agreement Protocol was signed By M. Singh and Sheikh Hasina in 2011
- An **enclave** is **the fragmented territory of one sovereign power located inside another sovereign territory**.
- LBA Signed 2015 between Sheikh Hasina and Modi formally **exchanged 162 enclaves** = Under the Agreement (LBA), 111 border enclaves will be transferred to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 that will become part of India
- India received a total of 7110 acres of land and exchanged 17160 acres of land to Bangladesh. This remained a major concern of **opposition from the north-eastern affected states and west Bengal**. Also, most of the area concerned is **occupied by the tribes of the NE states** and hence the swapping takes away their land rights leaving them more vulnerable.

IMPLICATIONS

- It will secure the long stranded boundary and enable to curb the **illegal migration, smuggling** and criminal acts cross the border.
- It would help those **stateless citizens** by granting the citizenship from their respective countries.
- It would help **settle the boundary dispute** at several points in Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, and west Bengal.
- It would **improve the access to the underdeveloped north-eastern state** and would further enhance the developmental works in the region.
- It would help to **increase the connectivity with the south-east Asia** as part of India's North-eastern policy.
- This legislation will redraw India's boundary with Bangladesh by exchanging enclaves in Assam, West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya
- Maritime Area: The UN Tribunal's award has clearly **delineated the course of maritime boundary line** in 2014. this help Both countries to ratify LBA 2015. It may be noted that India has already settled its maritime borders with Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. Settle Maritime boundary will open the door for **exploration of oil and gas** in the Bay—the site of **huge energy reserves**. **Economic prospects** of the Bay region. Myanmar discovered **7 trillion cubic feet of hydrocarbon deposits** in the region. This was followed by **India's discovery of another 100 trillion cubic feet of natural gas**. Bangladesh government **divided its claimed territorial sea and EEZ into 28 sea-blocks and leased them to multinational companies to meet its growing energy needs**
- The verdict has **recognised India's sovereignty over New Moore Island** and **received nearly 6000 sq km** of the contested zone where the island had once existed. The verdict is also good news for millions of **fishermen** in both the countries. Both the countries could **enhance cooperation** in the **conservation of the rich bio-diversity of the Sunderbans**. the verdict could help **boosting coastal and maritime security** in the region
- India has set eye on developing the **Payra Port** in Bangladesh, which will help to **reduce the traffic in Chittagong**. This can provide India with better accessibility to her North East

The Tin Bigha corridor, a strip of land in India on the border with Bangladesh was leased to Bangladesh on 26 June 1992 so that it could access the Dahagram–Angarpota Bangladeshi enclaves within Indian Territory.



The Dahagram-Angarpota enclave, barely 200 metres inside Indian territory, will remain in Bangladesh after the historic land boundary agreement is implemented between the countries.

Residents of this enclave are connected through mainland Bangladesh by a tiny strip of land in Indian Territory, known as the 'Tin Bigha Corridor'

(BPDB) The Maitree super thermal power project is a 1,320MW coal-fired power station under construction in Rampal, South West Bangladesh. The power plant is being developed by Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (BIFPCL), a 50:50 joint venture between India's state-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENTS

The following steps should be taken to improve relation between India and Bangladesh.

- Agreement on water sharing should be given priority. Early resolution of the Teesta issue is necessary.
- 1. Security cooperation between the two countries has been good. But there is need for institutionalizing this cooperation so that it does not remain restricted to the tenure of a particular government in either country. In this regard, a beginning could be made by signing the bilateral extradition treaty.
- 2. Connectivity should be given top most priority. Both the countries should work together to operationalize it. An agreement for transit is essential for development of trade and commerce. India can also ask for more transit to revive South Asia Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ), which consists of NE India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 3. There is need for addressing the issue of illegal migration. In this regard innovative measures should be taken to resolve the problem, being extra careful to ensure that illegal migrants do not acquire voting rights and Indian nationality.
- 4. People-to-people contact needs to be encouraged; hence liberal visa system should be put in place.
- 5. Trade relationship has improved significantly between the two countries. India has provided zero duty access of Bangladeshi products thereby addressing the tariff related issue to a great extent. The two countries should now consider an agreement on non-tariff barriers.
- 6. Indian investment should be encouraged in Bangladesh through visits of trade delegations, trade fairs, and bilateral assurances on protection of the interests of potential investors.
- 7. Progress can be made by cooperating on common challenges like disaster management, food and energy security.
- 8. To explore the energy deficit of Bangladesh to open new projects for Indian companies.
- 9. To help in ICT revolution in Bangladesh, which can extend to North East India.

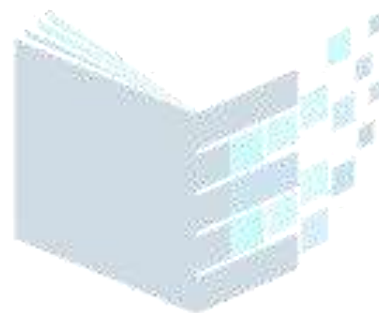
10. Greater involvement of people and wider public debate on foreign policy issues will discourage conspiracy theories and distrust.
11. Implement the no-firing policy fully. Ensure accountability to ensure that the image of India as an enemy ceases to exist.
12. Fencing needs to be completed speedily and monitored effectively, which will improve trade and other security concerns.
13. India and Bangladesh need to strengthen their military ties. They are being revived after a long gap but much more can be done in terms of increasing visits, contacts at various levels as well as by selling military hardware. Apart from initiating joint exercises, India should consider the China model of gifting hardware in the initial instance, and offer technical expertise that Bangladeshi military is in need of. They have to be weaned away from Pakistan and China. There can be no overnight successes but sustained efforts are essential. Improve FDI in Bangladesh (Pakistan enjoys more FDI than India)



Golden Jubilee year of our independence: Bangladesh's Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina has sent 2600 kg of Haribhanga mangoes to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also CM of Wb, Meg, Tripura.

Apart from India, Bangladesh has sent mangoes to Bhutan and consignments will also be sent to the leadership of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan.

Haribhanga Manogies are cultivated in northwestern part of the country, with Rangpur district being the key region. In the past, PM Hasina has sent 'Hilsa' fish, one of the most favoured, to the Indian leadership.



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