

INDIA - BANGLADESH

TREND IN RELATIONS

There are two major political parties in B. Awami League & BNP - Bangladesh Nationalist Party. India is one such country which has played critical role in liberation of Bangladesh from exploitative rule of Pakistan. Despite India's role it has failed to develop all party consensus in Bangladesh wrt maintaining good relations with India. We're comparatively better relations with Awami League, BNP & its partners, Jamaat-e-Islami continue anti India programme. On other hand, China which resisted creation of Bangladesh, did not recognise independent Bangladesh, Today, enjoys all party consensus wrt maintaining good relations with China. It is true that China has bigger pocket wrt. market but the way India has dealt with neighbours, in past, has created feeling of insecurity among smaller countries.

- Juggernaut doctrine
- India Gandhi - India
- Monroe doctrine
- Bullying big brother attitude

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

1. Panchsheel

2. Indira Doctrine & Rajiv Doctrine : also known as India's Monroe Doctrine.

Nehru represented Idealistic approach to India's FP, whereas during times of Indira Gandhi & Rajiv Gandhi, though India continued the rhetoric of Panchsheel, Indian actions were interventionists. It proclaimed S. Asia as a sphere of India's hegemony. Here India will actively safeguard its interests & not allow any external intervention.

3. Gujral Doctrine

It became necessary because of end of CN & loss of USSR as India's partner.

* India 'going for NEP

- Throughout the world, regional integration & regional blocks came into existence. Hence 'peaceful periphery' became IFP priority

GP is based on Panchasheel, & can be summed - Panchasheel principles + :

- i) India would not accept reciprocity from neighbours.

i) Neighbours have to assure that their territory should not be used for anti-India activities & terrorism.

There was enormous change in situation of South-Asia after pronouncement of this Doctrine.

1. Ganga Water Treaty - Bangladesh
2. VISA Liberalisation - Pakistan
3. Mahakali Treaty - Nepal.

4. Manmohan Doctrine

is not pronounced at any time but from time to time, approach towards dealing with neighbour has become clear -

- There is continuation of Nehru's Approach
- for JLNehru - 'foreign policy is mainly Economic policy. Economic Diplomacy has been key pillar to MD.'

- He has been architect of NEP, which led to introduction of L&P.

- During his first term as PM, he launched - 'Look West Policy' - Pakistan, West Asia, Central Asia

Marxist -
politics is Economic

Recently, while addressing conference of Indian Ambassadors, he emphasised

economic content, maintaining good relations with neighbours, enlarging concept of neighbourhood, he mentioned, IFP will not simply vehicle of promoting India's national interest. It'll also be vehicle of Indian value promotion abroad.

FACTORS SHAPING INDIA'S NEIGHBOUR POLICY

1. External Determinants -

policy of USA, Russia, China

2. Domestic Determinants -

most imp. being Party system in different countries. Number of times democracy in neighbouring countries have not been conducive for India's relations with neighbours.

In almost all South Asian countries, one or other party has anti-India Agenda.

Even in India, with Coalition politics advent, the type of consensus which should exist in IFP is not seen.

Significance of Bangladesh for India

1. Security Concern: arises out of long & porous border. The type of concerns are - Infiltration by terrorists, movement of terrorists in India to take shelter in neighbouring countries, organised crimes, human & drug trafficking, illegal immigration has been concern from Bangladesh both internal & external.
2. Location of Bangladesh makes it strategic link in India's communication with North East. At present, NE is connected through 20-25 km Siliguri Corridor, known as INDIA'S CHICKEN NECK, China can reach & easily control this, & cut NE from India mainland. Hence we require Bangladesh for transit as an alternate supply route.
3. Bangladesh as a vital link in India's IEP, wrt both Internal & External dimension
4. Bangladesh is also important for India's energy security. It is a link from Myanmar for transport of natural gas.

5. It also has relevance in China's - 'String of Pearls Policy.'

So India has to maintain its strategic presence in the region.

ISSUES

- Boundary & Border Issues
- Issue of Enclaves & Adverse Possessions

Boundary: India & Bangladesh never had a full blown boundary conflict as with Pakistan but does not mean, relations at border are completely peaceful. Instances of firing across border b/w BDR v/s BSF.

- problems emerge due to porous border -
2979 km land border, 1116 km maritime border, the maritime border remains unresolved.
- porous border has created India's Mexican problem, i.e. illegal immigration from B
In 1971 war, 10 million Bangladeshis came to India, majority being Hindus, fearing religious persecution, later on even Muslim migration started, approximately 1.4 m in last 10 yrs.

- The presence of foreign nationals on large scale. Many have acquired voters' cards & nation cards; these bogus citizens participating in elections have serious implications in domestic & foreign policy making.
- In Tripura demographic inversion has taken place, where tribals have become minority.
- There has been social violence in various parts of NE against illegal immigrants. Though govt of Bangladesh has no policy of promoting immigration, but has not taken any effective steps to stop this. In India there are no. of political parties which rather encourage immigration as a part of vote bank politics.
- Govt has taken initiative to construct -
 Electric Barbed Wire Fence to stop immigration. This fencing is opposed by govt of Bangladesh for two reasons -
 - 1) at no. of sites boundary does not respect international convention of maintaining a distance of 150m from Zero line.

IMDT Act.

ii) causing humanitarian tragedies, even no. of children were killed.

BDR & BSF force on persons crossing the territory. recently there has been an agreement, where they'll not use force against persons, they have also evolved - 'Coordinated Border Management Plan'.

Undemarcated Border : We're very small border left for demarcation ~ 6.5km, in three sectors

- i) 1.5km in West Bengal
- ii) 2.5km in Tripura
- iii) 2.5km in Assam

The two countries have finalised the agreement which requires ratification by Parliament.

Enclaves :

As per international law, it is territory of one country of other country or surrounded by other countries surrounded from all sides

There can be Enclaves of Enclaves, total are

162. Enclaves - 111 Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh

51/ → 50 Bangladesh Enclaves in India

REASONS FOR ENCLAVE - game of Chess b/w
Raja of Cooch Behar & Nawab of Rangpur

Behar.

Problems due to Enclave -

- biggest problem for people living in Enclaves - they need via from surrounding country to reach other parts of their own country.
- govt. do not invest in infrastructure
- presence of foreign nationals in your territory.
- country can't exercise sovereignty in practical terms.

Efforts taken so far -

- 1974, Land Boundary Agreement
b/w Indira Gandhi & Mujibur Rahman
for exchange of Enclaves.
- 2011, Protocol Agreement to Treaty emerged, by which the two countries agreed for implementation of Indira - Mujibwe Accord.

Exchange of territory / Enclaves but no movement of population, i.e. Land Swap.

India has to give 17,000 acres of land to Bangladesh & Bangladesh has to give 7100 acres to India.

119 Amendment Bill is pending in Parliament.

India has offered 'TEEN BIGHA CORRIDOR' to Bangladesh that connects - Sahagram to Angorputa - Endane

Earlier corridor was opened for 78 hours but now it is open for 24 hours.

Adverse Possessions:

controlling foreign land (not recognised like Endane)

2193 acres of Bangladesh & 2835 acres of Indian land is in adverse possession of each other.

It happens because of changing course of river. (CHAR LAND) people start living on land & cultivating it. Here also land swap is practical way of dealing with issue.

Maritime Boundary Issue

Myanmar - India - Bangladesh : lateral location.

It is easy to resolve maritime boundary if location is like India & SL; problem emerges when countries are located laterally because of which it has not been resolved. In past there was dispute on NEW MOORE ISLAND - which emerged because of cyclone BHOIA.

WB govt. named it PURABASHA, GoI named it NEW MOORE ISLAND, Bangladesh named it South TALPATTY; at present it is submerged.

Water Issue

India & Bangladesh share 54 rivers, there is agreement on 2 rivers, i.e., on -

- i) sharing of GANGA
- ii) sharing of TEESTA.

GANGA RIVER WATER AGREEMENT

~ Farakha Barrage

Reason: Bangladesh objected to creation/cons of Farakha Barrage to maintain Kolkata port navigable. In 1976, Bangladesh took it to UNGA, which directed to come with equitable arrangement.

- 1. 1996, 30 yrs agreement was signed for sharing of water during lean season. (1 Jan - 31st May).
- If flow is less than 70,000 cusec, both will get 50% share. If flow is above 70,000 cusec, India will keep 40,000 cusec.
- flow will be measured after 15 days & assessment of 10 days flow will be taken.

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Concerns :

Assessment is based on out dated data .

Water is rarely above 70,000. During monsoon, India releases too much water that causes flooding in Bangladesh causing Ecological Hazards

TEESTA WATER

length of river
is different

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In 1984, the two countries agreed to share 75% of Teesta water (with 39% for India) & remaining 25% is only for India's use, Bangladesh share is 36%, Bangladesh wants Equitable sharing of remaining 25%, which would make almost equal share of both. NB. govt -

Catchment area of Teesta in India is 83% & 17% in Bangladesh; & 29% in

- Bangladesh would be getting more than its share.

For NB, Govt should find way that ppl of B get their river due to causing suffering to people of NB.

Total length in India is 71% & 29% in B.

TIPAIMUKH DAM, Manipur

Bangladesh has objected the construction. Govt. has ensured it won't go ahead w/o consent. It has offered Bangladesh to become a share holder of the project.

TRANSIT ISSUES

India expected an agreement on transit, but so far we're to be satisfied by a temporary arrangement offered by Bangladesh. Bangladesh has permitted use of Mongla & Chittagong ports for use to - India, Nepal & Bhutan.

- Bangladesh is also constructing new Ports of Call, to - commercial develop inland water transport & transit arrangement.
- A coastal shipping agreement linking maritime ports is underway. Govt. has offered \$1 billion as a line of credit, of which \$200 million are converted into grants to develop infrastructure.
- Both countries are working to revive rail routes. Maitree Passenger Train, connects Dhaka with Kolkata. A new line, connecting Akhaura with Agartala is being developed.

• Both have gone for VISA liberalisation, 2013

- 5 yrs multiple Entry Visa for business class

- VISA on arrival for diplomatic persons & other officials

- Long term VISA for patients getting treatment abroad

- 2yr multiple entry Visa for students.

TRADE

• Trade has been in favour of India, for 2011 it was \$ 4 billion; whereas Bangladesh had \$ 350 million.

• To address Bangladesh's concerns, India has removed 46 textile items from India's negative list, as a part of its commitment with SAFTA, India has removed all, but 25 from the sensitive list. There is a positive impact of Indian initiatives. In 2013, Bangladesh trade enhanced to \$ 500 million, & is expected to reach \$ 1 billion very soon.

• India & Bangladesh started 'Border Haats', esp. border at Meghalaya & Tripura

- Bangladesh receives 500 MW of electricity from India
- Bangladesh has been connected with 'Eastern Grid' - Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam. This integration is imp. because of utilization of hydroelectric potential of AP.

- In Sep, 2011, MMS's visit, India entered into -
 'Comprehensive Framework Agreement on Development'
 covers - protection of Sunderban
 - mangrove conservation
 - tiger protection
 - capacity building

- Bangladesh has offered itself as a 'Bridge' as well as 'Telecom Hub' connecting India with NE.

CHINA - BANGLADESH

- 1971: China opposed creation of Bangladesh
- 1972: China used veto to block Bangladesh's membership to UN.
- 1976 onwards - Bangladesh under military regime & developed distance from India because of Farakhabarrage, China & Bangladesh came near. Recently, China has made huge investments in SEZs of Bangladesh.

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- China supplies military needs to Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh offered Sonadia port to China
- China involved Bangladesh in Kunming Initiative