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Books for Reference:

1. **B.N.Pandey** : South and East Asia (1945-1979) Prob
2. **Pramod K Mishra** : South Asia in International politics
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UNIT – III

TOPIC-1

INDIA & BHUTAN, SRILANKA AND MALDIVES

INDIA AND BHUTAN BORDERS

- **Treaty of Sinchula**
- The Bhutan–India border is the international border separating Bhutan and India. The border is 699 km (434 m) long, and adjoins the Indian states of Assam (267 km; 166 m), Arunachal Pradesh (217 km; 135 m), West Bengal (183 km; 114 m), and Sikkim (32 km; 20 m).



Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1949

- The Treaty provides for, among other things, perpetual peace and friendship, free trade and commerce and equal justice to each other's citizens.

- In 2007 the treaty was re-negotiated, and provisions were included to encourage Bhutan's sovereignty, abolishing the need to take India's guidance on foreign policy.
- The updated treaty, besides providing close cooperation on national issues, provides for stronger cooperation in cultural and economic fields.

HISTORICAL TIES

- India and Bhutan have been sharing ties since 1910 when Bhutan became a protectorate of British India, allowing the British to "guide" its foreign affairs and defence.
- When India declared independence in 1947, Bhutan was among the first nations to recognise it. Since then, the relationship between the countries has become stronger, especially because Bhutan also has a historically tense relationship with China.
 - Besides sharing a 699 Kilometres border, India and Bhutan also share deep religious cultural links. Guru Padmasambhava, a Buddhist saint played an influential role in spreading Buddhism and cementing traditional ties between people in both nations.
 - India opened an office of a Special Representative in Thimphu in 1968, Bhutan reciprocated in 1971. The two offices of special representatives were upgraded to full-fledged embassies in 1978
- The basis for bilateral relations between India and Bhutan was formed by the Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1949. However, Article 2 of the treaty critically gave India a role in guiding Bhutan's foreign policy. Hence, some changes in the treaty were made in 2007.
- The new treaty says that Bhutan can import arms as long as Indian interests are not harmed and there is no re-export of the weapons, either by the government or individuals.
- Article 6 and 7 in the current treaty encompass the issue of 'national treatment' and equal privileges for citizens on each other's soil.

Bhutan's Significance to India

Geographical Significance:

- Bhutan shares border with four Indian States: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim.
- Nestled in the Himalayas, Bhutan serves as a buffer between India and China.
- Security of Bhutan's present borders especially its western border is very important for India.

Economic Significance:

- Bhutan provides a market for Indian commodities and is a destination for Indian investment.
- Also for India, Bhutan is a rich source of Hydropower.

Political Significance:

- A politically stable Bhutan is important to India. An unstable and restive Bhutan can provide a safe haven to anti-India activities and anti-India militant groups.

Areas of Cooperation

Trade:

- The trade between the two countries is governed by the India Bhutan Trade and Transit Agreement 1972 which was last renewed in November 2016.
- The agreement establishes a free-trade regime between the two countries and also provides for duty-free transit of Bhutanese exports to third countries.
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. In the period from January- June, 2018, trade between two countries stood at Rs. 4318.59 crore.
- Major exports from India to Bhutan are mineral products, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipments etc. whereas major items of import from Bhutan are electricity, ferrosilicon, Portland cement etc.

Economic Assistance:

- India is Bhutan's leading development partner. Since the launch of First Five Year Plan of Bhutan in 1961, India has been extending financial support to Bhutan's FYPs. India has allotted Rs 4500 crore to Bhutan's 12th FYP.

Water Resources:

- India is playing an important role in development of hydro-power projects. This not only provides Bhutanese with electricity for domestic use but also revenue from surplus electricity exported to India.
- So far, Government of India has constructed three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan. Currently, India is helping Bhutan in the development of power plant on Mangdechhu River.
- This hydropower cooperation comes under 2006 Agreement on Cooperation in Hydropower. Under a protocol to this agreement, India has agreed to assist Bhutan in the development of minimum of 10,000 MW of hydropower and import of surplus electricity from same by year 2020.
- Also, there is a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management between India and Bhutan.

Border Management:

- There is a Secretary-level mechanism on border management and security related matters between the two countries.

- There is also a Border District Coordination Meeting (BDCM) Mechanism between the bordering States and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to facilitate coordination on border management and other related matters.

Educational and Cultural Cooperation:

- A large number of college going Bhutanese students study in India. Government of India provides number of scholarships to Bhutanese students.
- Regular cultural exchanges take place between the two countries. One of the basic objectives of India Bhutan Foundation established in 2003 is to enhance people to people exchange in cultural field.

Indian Community:

- About 60,000 Indian nationals live in Bhutan, employed mostly in the hydro-electric power construction and road industry.
- In addition, around 8000-10,000 daily workers enter and exit Bhutan everyday in border towns.

Multilateral Partnership:

- Both India and Bhutan are founding members of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) that deals with economic, social and cultural development of South Asian Region.
- Both of them also share other multilateral forums such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) etc.

Challenges

- There have been instances when India has meddled in Bhutan's internal affairs. This has led to negative perception of India in the minds of Bhutanese.
- There is a growing feeling in Bhutan that India's development of Bhutan's hydropower production is driven by self-interest as it is getting Bhutan's surplus power at relatively cheap rates.
- Bhutan's concern regarding profitability of its Hydropower projects in the wake of India's shift to renewable sources of energy like wind, solar etc.
- From internal security perspective, illicit establishment of camps by militant outfits in the dense jungles of south-east Bhutan is a cause of concern for both the nations.
- China's continuous claims to important border areas such as Chumbi valley and Doklam and its continuous efforts for establishing strong diplomatic and economic relations with Bhutan have been continuous source of concern for India.

Military Ties:

- India has strong military and economic ties with Bhutan. The Indian military “is virtually responsible for protecting Bhutan from external and internal threats” and to this end, the Eastern Command of the Indian Army and Air Force have integrated Bhutan’s defence into their role and responsibilities.
- Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) trains Bhutanese security personnel as well.

UNIT-III**TOPIC-2****INDO SRI LANKAN RELATIONS****INDO LANKAN ACCORD****Signed in 1987.**

- Popularly referred to as the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord, after its architects Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene.
- It sought to collectively address all the three contentious issues between India and Sri Lanka: strategic interests, people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
- This accord saw the induction of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka.
- According to the terms of the accord, Sri Lankan forces would withdraw from the north and the Tamil rebels would disarm.
- The accord was expected to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War by enabling the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.

1. Diplomatic Cooperation:

- Diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka are marked by visits of high level Government functionaries.
 - A notable diplomatic event in the recent past was our Indian Prime Minister's address to the Sri Lankan parliament in 2015
 - India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was established in 1992. The commission facilitates discussions relating to bilateral affairs of both the countries
 - India and Sri Lanka signed a civilian nuclear energy deal in 2015. The agreement aims at cooperation to explore nuclear energy for peaceful purposes

2. **Fishermen Issue:**

- The constant and frequent issue of fisherman and recently Indian fishermen were picked up by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen dispute is inevitable between neighbours. Indian Fishermen entering Sri Lankan water is not with any particular intention. What is important is that the two governments and the fishermen associations of both the sides must take care of these incidents and can be contained.
- Both countries have **signed an MOU** to equip the fishermen and give them nets and necessary things to help them carry out their trade better and more peacefully.
- Sri Lanka has taken the position that big fishing trawlers should not be used which is scientific and without which we may lose the fish yield.

3. **Economic Cooperation:**

- India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed in 2010. India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner
- India is the source of one of the largest foreign direct investments in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is also a potential source of foreign investment in India

4. **Defence and Security Cooperation:**

1. Colombo and New Delhi have long history of security cooperation. In recent years, the two sides have steadily increased their military-to-military relationship.

2. India and Sri Lanka conducts **joint Military ('Mitra Shakti') and Naval exercise (SLINEX)**.
3. India also provides defence training to Sri Lankan forces.
4. A trilateral maritime security cooperation agreement was signed by India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to improve surveillance, anti-piracy operations and reducing maritime pollution in Indian Ocean Region.
5. In April 2019, India and Sri Lanka also concluded agreement on countering Drug and Human trafficking.
6. In the aftermath of the horrific Easter bombings, Sri Lankan Prime Minister thanked the Indian government for all the "help" given.
7. The alerts issued by Indian agencies before the attacks had warned specifically about the use of radicalised suicide bombers attacking churches and the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

5. Development Assistance:

1. The war between Sri Lankan Government and LTTE came to an end in 2009. The armed conflict led to many casualties and internal displacement
2. As an immediate response India provided all war relief measures including food, medicine etc.
3. As a long term measure, India announced reconstruction of 50000 houses to provide shelter to Internally Displaced People (IDP).
4. India is one of the largest provider of development credit to Sri Lanka. As of 2016, a total of USD 1284 million has been provided by India. The credit is mostly provided for the Sri Lanka's infrastructure development
5. India has provided medical equipment and ambulances to hospitals in Sri Lanka

6. Cultural and Educational Cooperation:

1. India and Sri Lanka signed a cultural cooperation agreement back in 1977
2. India Sri Lanka foundation was setup in 1998. It aims at technical, scientific, cultural and educational cooperation by engaging civil society organizations of both the countries
3. India cultural centre in Colombo promotes Indian culture by providing courses in Indian music, dance, yoga etc.,

4. India provides scholarships to qualified Sri Lankan students in Undergraduate and research studies
5. Tourism is one of the important areas of cooperation. Sri Lankan tourists are one of the top ten visitors to India
6. Sri Lanka is also a partner in Nalanda university project of India
7. India and Sri Lanka commemorated the 2600th year of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha (Sambuddhathva Jayanthi) through joint activities.
8. The two Governments also celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Anagarika Dharmapala in 2014.
9. The People of Indian Origin (PIOs) comprise Sindhis, Gujaratis, Memons, Parsis, Malayalis and Telugu speaking persons who have settled down in Sri Lanka and are engaged in various business ventures.
10. Government of India formally launched the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme for Sri Lankan tourists on 14 April 2015 to increase the people to people contact.

Developments in Sri Lanka

1. Sri Lanka has progressed in the **Health sector**. When they became independent, they were supposed to be one of the worst affected regions affected by malaria. Now they are declared **malaria free**. This is a lesson to be learnt for India.
2. **Social development indicators** are quite high in literacy, health indicators, etc. They have made considerable progress.

Significance of the relations:

1. India shares a common cultural and security space with the countries in the South Asian region especially Sri Lanka.
2. Sri Lanka's location in the Indian Ocean region as an island State has been of strategic geopolitical relevance to several major powers.
3. As a prominent Asian nation with critical national interests in South Asia, India has a special responsibility to ensure peace and stability in its closest neighbourhood.
4. India should shed its big brother image and actively take part to rebuild the war-torn country.
5. India needs the support of Sri Lanka to emerge as a Blue water navy in the Indian Ocean and also in pursuing the permanent membership in United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
6. China's string of pearl's strategy is aimed at encircling India to establish dominance in the Indian Ocean.


7. Post 2015, Sri Lanka still relies heavily on China for Port city project and for continuation of Chinese funded infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka.
8. Sri Lanka's location can thus serve both commercial and industrial purposes and be used as a military base.

UNIT-III

TOPIC-3

INDIA AND MALDIVES

10 REASONS WHY MALDIVES IS IMPORTANT FOR INDIA




1 Strategically located in the Indian Ocean, Maldives archipelago comprising 1,200 coral islands lies next to key shipping lanes which ensure uninterrupted energy supplies to countries like China, Japan and India

3 As the pre-eminent South Asian power and a 'net security provider' in the Indian Ocean region, India needs to cooperate with Maldives in security and defence sectors

7 Under Yameen, radicalisation grew rapidly and it was often said that archipelago accounted for one of the highest numbers of foreign fighters in Syria in terms of per capita. India can ill-afford a neighbour which fails to check Islamic radicalisation

2 Since China started to send naval ships to Indian Ocean roughly 10 years ago –and right up to Gulf of Aden in the name of anti-piracy operations – Maldives' significance has steadily grown and now it's at the heart of international geopolitics

4 China's massive economic presence in Maldives is a major concern for India. With the country now said to owe 70% of its external aid to China, many believe that Yameen has done to Maldives what Rajapaksa did to Sri Lanka. India had to push back at some stage and the current political crisis

8 India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links. India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in 1965 and later established its mission at Malé in 1972

5 A large section of population which supports the opposition parties like Nasheed's MDP wants India to act against Yameen

9 There are 25,000 Indian nationals living in Maldives (second largest expatriate community). Indian tourists also account for close to 6% of tourists Maldives receives every year

6 Maldives is also a member of Saarc. It is important for India to have Maldives on board to maintain its leadership in the region. Maldives was the only Saarc country which seemed reluctant to follow India's call for boycott of Saarc summit in Pakistan after the Uri attack

10 India is also a preferred destination for Maldivians for education, medical treatment, recreation and business. According to MEA, more and more Maldivians are seeking long term visa for pursuing higher studies/ medical treatment in India

India-Maldives relations

- India and the Maldives have had bilateral relations for centuries.

- Maldivian students attend educational institutions in India.
- Patients from the Maldives come here for super speciality healthcare.
- A liberal visa-free regime extended by India has aided the patients.
- The Maldives is now a major tourist destination for some Indians and a job destination for others.
- Given the geographical limitations imposed on the Maldives, India has exempted the nation from export curbs on essential commodities

Development of bilateral relations

- Both nations are founding members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South Asian Economic Union and signatories to the South Asia Free Trade Agreement.
- Operation Cactus: It was an attempt by a group of Maldivians led by Abdullah Luthufi and assisted by armed mercenaries of a Tamil secessionist organization from Sri Lanka, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), to overthrow the government in the island republic of Maldives on 3rd November 1988. The coup detat failed due to the intervention of the Indian Army, whose military operations efforts were code-named Operation Cactus.
- Drinking-water crisis in Malé: Maldives urged India for help following the collapse of the island's only water treatment plant, India came to rescue by sending its heavy lift transporters like C-17 Globemaster III, II-76 carrying bottled water.
- The humanitarian relief efforts by the Indian side was widely appreciated in Malé across all sections of people even the Vice-President of Maldives thanked the Indian ambassador for swift action.
- The current situation between India and the Maldives:
 - India stands ready to work with the Maldives to strengthen maritime security and help expedite the inclusion of its Indian Ocean neighbour in the Commonwealth again.
 - India invites the country to join the International Solar Alliance.