

## **18BPO64C- INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY- UNIT -5**

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### **UNIT-5: INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS :**

**INDIA AND PAKISTAN:-** India has a very long frontier with big and small neighbours. Pakistan, china, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma are our immediate neighbours. The happenings in these countries will affect India someway or the other. Countries having common borders often have conflicts and disagreements about their boundary lines. India also has some problems of this kind.

Under the British rule, our country had contained two parts. These were the British India and the Indian India. The British India contained the provinces which were under the direct control of the British rulers. At the time of independence, the British India was divided into two countries of India and Pakistan. This partition was made because of communal compulsions. The Hindu- Muslim communal riots caused untold sufferings to the people so as to make them leave their homes. These people had to live as refugees. This situations created a lot of bitterness between India and Pakistan. Besides this, there were also other problems between these two countries.

The Indian independence act,1947, allowed the rulers of the princely states to join either India or Pakistan or to remain independent. Consequently, the princely states including Kashmir joined India. But Pakistan claimed that Kashmir should go to it because the majority of the Kashmir people were Muslims. Immediately after partition, some armed tribals from Pakistan crossed over into Kashmir. Later, the Pakistani army intruded into Kashmir. These events led to a war between India and Pakistan. India took the issue to the UN. Later, peace was restored by UN mediation.

There were two more wars with Pakistan later on. One was in 1965 which ended by the Tashkent agreement. This agreement was signed by the Indian prime minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri and General Ayub Khan. Another war broke out between the two countries in 1971 over the question of Bangladesh. When Pakistan was created, it had two parts, namely West Pakistan and East Pakistan. These two parts were very far away from each other. A strong nationalist movement began in East Pakistan in 1970-71. In the beginning, it demanded autonomy of East Pakistan and later independence. The rulers of Pakistan tried to put this movement down by military force. Lakhs of people from East Pakistan were coming to India as refugees. Consequently, a war broke out between India and Pakistan. In 1971, the Indian forces and the Bangladesh liberation forces won the war. The Bangladesh war created bitterness between the Indo-Pak relations.

Later, the prime minister of India and Pakistan, Indira Gandhi and Z.A. Bhutto met in Simla and signed an agreement on July 3, 1972. According to the Simla agreement both India and Pakistan agreed to solve their problems peacefully. However, in recent years there has been tension in the relations between the two countries. This is due to Pakistan's help, encouragement and training of terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab .

**INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS- LATEST DEVELOPMENTS:-** In February 2021, India and Pakistan issued a joint statement for the first time in years, announcing that they would observe the 2003 ceasefire along the line of control. The countries have agreed to a strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the line of control and all other sectors with effect from the midnight of February 24-25, 2021.

In the latest bilateral brief between India and Pakistan, India stands by its “Neighborhood first policy” and desires normal relations with Pakistan in an environment which is free of terror and violence.

In 2019, Article 370 of India’s constitution was scrapped off, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Following which, the bilateral relations faced a severe blow . It was followed by Pakistan expelling the Indian High commissioner in Islamabad and suspension of air and land links and trade and railway services.

There was no forward movement in bilateral ties in 2020 due to the mistrust between the two countries, especially on the Kashmir issue.

India, on February 15,2019, withdrew most favoured Nation status to Pakistan. Thus India’s relations with Pakistan remain uneven because of Pakistan’s intrusive attitude.

**INDIA AND SRI LANKA:-** Sri Lanka is the southern neighbor of India. India has good neighbourly relations with Sri Lanka. They have been living as friends and co-operating as two equal sovereign states. They are bound together through strong historical and cultural links. Sri Lanka became independent on February 4, 1948. Since then Sri Lanka and India have been successful in resolving their bilateral issues and in promoting trade, economic, industrial and cultural relations. However, there have been some misunderstandings between India and Sri Lanka on the issue of Sri Lanka Tamils.

The Tamils went in large numbers to Sri Lanka in search of job. Many of them settled down on the island of Sri Lanka and became the citizens of Sri Lanka. The Tamils have been charging that they are discriminated by the Sri Lanka government. They had also demanded more autonomy. The government of Sri Lanka has been very much concerned about the activities of some extremist groups of Tamils. Such groups, particularly

the liberation tigers of Tamil Elam have claimed a home land of their own. The movement for Tamil autonomy in Sri Lanka created some tension between the two countries.

India has always followed a good neighbourly policy with Sri Lanka. As members of the south Asian Association for Regional Co-operation , India and Sri Lanka play an important role for their mutual progress.

**INDIA- SRI LANKA RELATIONS:-** Geopolitical location in the Indian Ocean region as an island state has been of strategic geopolitical relevance to several major powers.

It was the massive Chinese involvement during the Rajapaksa tenure that garnered the deepest controversy in recent years between these two countries .

China's string of pearls strategy is aimed at encircling India to establish dominance in the Indian Ocean. India and Sri Lanka have Political relations, commercial relations, cultural and educational relations, defence and security Co-operation.

**ISSUES AND CONFLICTS:** In recent years, china has extended billions of dollars of loans to the Sri Lankan government for new infrastructure projects, which is not good for India's strategic depth in Indian Ocean region.

Sri Lanka also handed over the strategic port of Hambantota, which is expected to play a key role in China's Belt and Road initiative, to China on a 99 – year lease.

However, the relation between Sri Lanka and India are improving. In order to allay Indian concerns that the Hambantota port will not be used for military purposes, the Sri Lankan government has sought to limit China's role to running commercial operations at the port while it retains oversight of security operations.

India is also investing into Sri Lanka's infrastructure development in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

India is also planning to build port Trincomalee Port to counterweight the Chinese developments at Hambantota port.

**FISHERMEN ISSUE:** Both countries have agreed on certain practical arrangements to deal with the issue of bona fide fishermen of either side crossing the international Maritime Boundary line. Through these arrangements, it has been possible to deal with the issue of detention of fishermen in a humane manner.

As both countries have a democratic setup there is scope for broadening and deepening the ties.

Both countries should try to work out a permanent solution to the issue of fishermen through bilateral engagements.

Mutual recognition of each other's concerns and interests can improve the relationship between India and Sri Lanka.

### **INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS:-**

India was one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.

### **DEFENCE COOPERATION**

Various joint exercises of Army (Exercise Sampriti) and Navy (Exercise Milan) take place between the two countries.

**Border management:** India and Bangladesh share 4096.7km.of border, which is the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbors.

The Indian Bangladesh land boundary agreement (LBA) came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.

**Cooperation over Rivers:** India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers. A bilateral joint Rivers commission (JRC) has been working since June 1972 to maintain liaison between the two countries to maximize benefits from common river systems.

**Economic Relations:** Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. India's exports to Bangladesh for financial year 2018-19 stood at US 9.21 billion USD and imports from Bangladesh for the same period stood at US 1.22 billion USD.

Bangladesh has appreciated the duty- free and quota free access given to Bangladesh exports to India under south Asian free trade area (SAFTA) since 2011.

**Cooperation in connectivity:** Both countries jointly inaugurated the newly restored railway link between Haldibari (India) and Chilahati (Bangladesh).

Welcomed the signing of the second addendum to the protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade.

**Cooperation in power sector:** This has become one of the hallmarks of India- Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh is currently importing 1160 MW of power from india.

**Partnership on Multilateral forums:** India thanked Bangladesh for supporting India in its election to the United Nations security council.

Both countries agreed to continue working together towards achieving early reforms of the UN security council, combating climate change, attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and protection of the rights of migrants.

**Recent Development:** Recently, India and Bangladesh signed seven agreements and also inaugurated three projects to deepen their relationship.

The use of the Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India, particularly from north-eastern India.

Use of Bangladesh's Feni river for drinking water supply in Tripura. Resolve the refugees (Rohingyas) crisis. India also offered collaboration in therapeutics and partnership in vaccine production. India assured that vaccines be made available to Bangladesh when produced in India

**Emerging Disputes:** There should be efforts to resolve pending issues concerning sharing of waters, resolving continental shelf issues in the Bay of Bengal, bringing down border incidents to zero, and managing the media.

Bangladesh has already raised concerns over roll out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, an exercise carried out to identify genuine Indian citizens living in Assam and weed out illegal Bangladeshis.

Currently, Bangladesh is an active partner of the Belt and Road initiative that Delhi has not signed up to.

In the security sector, Bangladesh is also a major recipient of Chinese military inventory, including submarines.

(For extensive reading refer books)

