

India – Bangladesh Relation: Recent Issues and Understanding

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Abstract

Relation between India and Bangladesh began even before the formation of Bangladesh. After India's independence in 1947, a large Muslim state comprising East and West Pakistan was established either side of India. The people of East Pakistan resented the domination of West Pakistan and imposition of Urdu language. East Pakistan Protested against West Pakistan under the banner of Awami League, led by Sheikh MujibarRahaman. In 1970, The Awami League, campaigned for east Pakistan's autonomy from West Pakistan and won all the seat in East Pakistan. But West Pakistan retaliated and killed thousands of East Pakistanis. This led to huge scale migration to India created a refugee problems in India. The government of India supported East Pakistan. This resulted in a war between India and Pakistan in December 1971 that ended with surrender of the Pakistani forces in East Pakistan and the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country. This article highlight recent trend and selected issue in Indo-Bangladesh relation such as Rohingya issue, NRC and CAA issue, Islamic fundamentalism issue and post pandemic issues.

Keywords: India-Bangladesh relation, liberation war of 1971, Seikh Mujibar Rahaman, India-Pakistan War, Rohingya Issues, CAA, NRC, Pandemic, Post Pandemic.

Introduction

India-Bangladesh has historical geographical, cultural, social and economic ties since 1971. Bangladesh wholeheartedly recognizes India's contribution during liberation war 1971. Popular perception about Indo-Bangladesh relation is that it gets a new momentum when Bangladesh Awami League and Indian Nation congress(INC) regime in Power because of a historic old friendship between two Parties. It was the Indira Gandhi of INC who spread her arms and embraced world forsaken Bangladesh during and after liberation war. But unfortunately though when Bangladesh National Party(BNP) forms the govt. of Bangladesh, Dhaka-Islamabad friendship Strengthen to a larger extent instead of Dhaka-Delhi. There are also some Issues with conflict and cooperation on Bilateral relationship. India-Bangladesh relation began on a positive note in the year 2020, the exchange of New Year greeting between Prime MinisterModi and Prime Minister SeikhHasina(1st January 2020)

Statement of the Problem

India and Bangladesh has common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, racial affinities, common economics and Political history. The Population of Bangladesh and India state such as West Bengal Tripura speak common language. Bangladesh and India share 4,096 km long International border fifth longest Border of the world, including 262 km in Assam, 856 km in Tripura, 318 km in Mizoram, 443 km in Meghalaya, and 2217 km in West Bengal.

Bangladesh's importance for India's security and prosperity cannot be overestimated in 2019, the number of Visas issued to Bangladeshi citizen crossed the marked of 16 lakh. The COVID 19 Pandemic has had an enormous impact on lives and livelihood of people across the globe. Developing economics such as India and Bangladesh are among the most significant to affected. In this situation the relationship between two neighbors is very important.

Review of Literature

Dixit (2000) has focused that now days relation between these two countries has some stagnation due to border problems, the postponement of SAARC summit etc.

Sukla (2007) has focused that India-Bangladesh relation have been negatively affected as the delay is proving the Teen Begha corridor to Bangladesh. Now this matter has solved.

Dutta (1999) According that, trade is an important component of diplomacy between two nation.

Pattanaik (2012) Bring out perspectives from India and Bangladesh on various important.

Kumar (2011) describes cultural and economics linkage between India and Bangladesh.

Bhowmick, Soumya (Sept, 2020) India-Bangladesh partnership in Post Pandemic Economics Recovery.

Trivedi Ramesh (2008), Has focused the dispute on Berubarinad allocation of Teen Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh and other issues.

Tahneia Quader (2019) discussed on India Bangladesh relationship special reference to NarendraModi Regime.

Objectives of the Study

This research study has following objectives-

1. To examine the role of India in Bangladesh Economy and development.
2. Cattle export, which was banned by India, and its impact on Bilateral relationship.
3. To understand the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism in Bangladesh and its impact on bilateral relation between two nation.
4. India-Bangladesh Bilateral relation Post CAA and NRC.
5. To analyze the developments in bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh in recent time.
6. To examine Issue of 'Rohinga community' and relationship between two nation.

Research Methodology

The Research work for this Research paper based on qualitative and historical research. Most of the data collected from secondary source like various Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers etc. Primary sources are interview of some International relation experts. I also take data from various government website of both govt.

Major Finding and Discussion

There was major role of India since Bangladesh creation. Bangladesh and India has signed 1972 treaty of peace. India and Bangladesh has long history of relationship. Various joint exercises of Army and navy take place in many times. Bangladesh and India share 54 common rivers. Bangladesh invited India for celebration of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence in 1971, which would be held on March 2021. India will supply 'Covid-19' vaccine in Bangladesh, it's great decision of New Delhi is a great business partner of Bangladesh due to geographical, cultural and other similarity.

Most of the Bangladesh Business and commercial activities depend on India. India has supply essential vegetable including onion to Bangladesh. But India banned export of onion from sept, 2020, resumed export of onion on January 2021 (India Narrative, 04-01-2021).

India currently supplies 660 MW per day electricity power to Bangladesh from Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Tripura border(Business line February 20,2018). India has planned to increase electric power supply to Bangladesh. Beside political relation improvement of political relationship has positive impact on cultural relationship of both countries. On the other hand China as a major power wants to make good relation with Bangladesh. It is not good for India, as China is a major competitor to India. Bangladesh commerce ministry pointed many non-trade barriers to bilateral relationship.

1. Laboratory test in Bangladesh especially for food products, cosmetics, and lather and cosmetics products.
2. Packaging requirement.
3. There are infrastructural problems on road and other transport.

Triggering these concerns are instances of reverse migration of a few hundred people who have been arrested after crossing of the border into Bangladesh. All these people have reportedly declared that they are "Bangladesh Muslims" and returned home because they no longer have any hope of getting Indian citizenship after CAA. It has great impact on Bi-lateral relationship between two nation. (RSTV Discussion, 03.01.2020)

1. India ban on cattle export helped Bangladesh attain self-sufficiency. A large numbers of farmers and traders got involved in cattle rearing reducing the dependency on imported animals,(Dhaka Tribunes ,published at 12:09 am, august 10th, 2019).
2. Many news report showing that large detention centers built in Assam. Muslim migrant fears to this news. Bangladesh basically Muslim dominated country, so bilateral has with Bangladesh are at risk of going down hells, if this issue is not managed with sensitivity (Insight Editor, 25 march, 2020).

Bangladesh media has widely covered India's citizenship Amendment act(CAA). Dhaka describes the citizenship amendment act as an internal matter of India. However there are some who disagree. Some experts in Dhaka see the CAA as a global issues.

Within Bangladesh, there is a growing concern that illegal migrant living in India will be sent back to Dhaka. The sheikh Hasina government has tried to allay fears. Sheikh Hasinas government is faling pressure from within. Bangladesh is already battling the Rohingya crisis.

Many religious extremism with attacks on bloggers journalist and religious minorities. The Islamic states (IS) and other forms of fundamentalism are on the rise in country of Padma River. Bangladesh jammata-e Islami is a biggest religion based political party in Bangladesh spread very rapidly in the Country (Bangladesh). its patronage politics and strong affiliation with BNP since last decades religious minorities is also under siege. There is migration of religious fundamentalist into India to commit terrorist act via Bangladesh. We have to be for stricter in sealing the border between India and Bangladesh.

India has raised objection to Bangladesh government on religious fundamentalism there are tension between two neighbours on this matter.

Author finds that Rohingya issues dominates India-Bangladesh discussion continued support in resolving the humanitarian disaster to prime minister NarendraModi. "while thanking prime minister Modi for India's humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya, Bangladesh foreign minister sought India's support for early repatriation of the Rohingya to the Rakhine state of Myanmar " The foreign minister said in our statement. (The Hindu, published, on 7th February ,2019) the prime minister Modi said that " India Bangladesh relation have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years "

Conclusion

This paper is a short discussion about India Bangladesh relationship and some very selected scenario which would be affected bilateral relationship of Both countries. Our India is trying to develop good relation with all neighbors including Bangladesh. But several factors like domestic compulsion bilateral relation of both countries strained. Bangladesh should realize that useless demand and unhelpful attitude would be dangerous on bilateral relation. India and Bangladesh need to strengthen their ties. They are being revived but much more can be done in term of increasing visits, contact and collaboration by various departments of both countries.

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