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India-Bangladesh Relations: Past, Present and Future

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Abstract

India's contribution in the liberation war of Bangladesh was outstanding. Friendship relation exists between the two countries since the liberation war of Bangladesh. As a large neighboring country, Bangladesh has maintained good relationship with India since birth. In this age of globalization, no country can meet its demand alone. Bangladesh also cannot meet alone. Bangladesh is dependent on other countries of the world for many things starting from daily necessities. Overall, Bangladesh is more dependent on its neighboring country India. Again, India is also dependent on neighboring Bangladesh in many ways. It is through this dependence that relationships are built. Since Bangladesh and India are both bordering countries, they have developed better relations than other countries in security, military, and other matters. Historically, there are many other reasons for the friendly relations between Bangladesh and India. Moreover, Bangladesh and India being members of SAARC and BIMSTEC have developed a special friendship between the two countries. India is considered as an eternal friend due to its contribution to the independence war of Bangladesh. There have been many ups and downs in the relations between India and Bangladesh since the pre-independence period. There have been discussions and criticisms on various issues between the two countries. Various initiatives have been taken to sweeten the relationship. This paper discusses the past history of the relationship between Bangladesh and India, the current

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situation of the relationship, and how the relationship will be stood in the future.

Keywords: India-Bangladesh Relations, Military Relations, Awami League Regime, Liberation War, Maritime Boundary

Introduction

Geographically, Bangladesh is located in South Asia, between India and Myanmar. India covers the west, north, and east of Bangladesh. To the west, lies the Indian state of West Bengal. West Bengal, Assam, and Meghalaya states are in the North. In the east, there are Assam, Tripura, and Mizoram. Bangladesh has 32 border districts: 30 with India and 3 with Myanmar (www.bangladesh.gov.bd). South Asia is an important region in international politics. Due to its unique characteristics and strategic geopolitical location, the region has special significance to superpower countries. India's position at the center of the region has added a special importance to the region. Bangladesh is also playing an important role geopolitically as a country in South Asia due to its location. Historically Bangladeh was a part of Greater India (Hosen, 2008). As a result, the general influence of India in social, cultural, political, and economic spheres can be observed in Bangladesh. Again, India is also considered indispensable in forming the foreign policy of Bangladesh (Ahmed, 2008). Compared to its larger neighbor country, Bangladesh has some limitations in national and international policy-making. Keeping these issues in mind, it is considered inevitable to maintain good relations with India in maintaining the stability of Bangladesh's internal politics and maintain a balanced position in the international arena. India is also committed to maintaining good relations with Bangladesh due to its geographical location, internal stability, and strategic reasons (Jamal, 2020). The following is a detailed finding about India-Bangladesh relations under different governments, trade policies, and diplomatic efforts of the two countries. It is tried to understand Economic and military relations between these two countries also.

Methodology and Strategy of the Research

This study is descriptive and empirical in nature. It basically depends on secondary sources including research articles, journals, newspapers, and books. For doing this study, some

steps have been followed. First of all, relevant information was collected from different sources. Secondly, all the information was scrutinized thoroughly. Finally, selected information was used for analysis.

Historical Background

The most important event in the subcontinent after 1947 was the emergence of independent Bangladesh. From various perspectives, the liberation war of Bangladesh gave rise to various situations in global politics. As it affected South Asian politics, international politics was not left out. Different countries of the world take a position based on the interests of the liberation war of Bangladesh (Khasru, 2010).

If we look at the regional perspective, it will be seen that the role of South Asian countries except India was not cooperative in the liberation war of Bangladesh. Myanmar and Sri Lanka were allies of Pakistan. Nepal's role was not favorable either. So, it can be said that India's role during the liberation war and post-war period of Bangladesh as a neighboring country is very important and friendly (Mahmud, 2021).

Liberation War

After many ups and downs, the then East Pakistan was freed from the chain of West Pakistan on March 26, 1971 and emerged as an independent sovereign Bangladesh (Mahmud, 2021). Neglected, oppressed and deprived from all opportunities, the people of Bengal were forced to take up arms against West Pakistan.

The extent of Pakistan's exploitation had increased to such an extent that every moment the vast masses of Bengal were looking for ways to escape from them. The then leaders of East Pakistan understood very well that the economic, social or ideological emancipation of the people of Bengal would not be achieved if there were treaties, agreements or policies of appeasement with them.

When it became clear to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that there would be no compromise with them intellectually, politically or diplomatically, he called for a movement for the realization of rights. All the people of Bengal responded to his call (Mahmud, 2021).

On March 25, when the invading forces of West Pakistan carried out a hellish massacre called Operation Searchlight on innocent unarmed Bengalis, millions of Bengalis left the city and went to the border in search of safe haven (Blood, 2002).

In 1971- Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of neighboring country India at that time. She provided shelter for innocent oppressed and downtrodden Bengalis. She provided shelter and food to millions of refugees. During the entire war, she arranged for all the people who took refuge in his country to live and eat at their own expense (Khasru, 2010).

Not only they did sheltering refugees. During the war, she taught war tactics to millions of Bengalis and helped them with weapons. She also played a pivotal role in defeating the invading forces by its own country's forces (Khasru, 2010).

On April 17, 1971, within a week of the formation of the Provisional Government of Bangladesh, Sayed Nazrul Islam, the Provisional President of the Government of Bangladesh, wrote a letter seeking India's recognition. The Provisional Government of Bangladesh was run on Indian soil. They ran the government with the full support of the Indian government (Chowdhury, 2021).

Apart from providing training and arms to Mukti Bahini, one of the forces of the liberation war, Mrs. Gandhi traveled to different countries at that time and highlighted the massacres of Pakistani invading forces in different countries of the world. At one point, Indira Gandhi tactfully addressed Pakistan's war as a subcontinental problem and allowed her army to participate in the war as part of a direct drive out of Pakistani forces from Bengal soil (Khasru, 2010).

Mrs. Gandhi visited many countries to create public opinion in favor of Bangladesh. It is not the case that all countries have supported her claims or that they have entertained her very well. Gandhi also had to listen to abuse in an inaudible language (Khasru, 2010).

The United States has been a full supporter of West Pakistan since the beginning. In the international arena, Mrs. Gandhi maintained her country's foreign policy and entered into an alliance with the then Soviet Union. As a result of the agreement, US tried to threat India. After India's agreement with the Soviets, India participated in the war directly (Mahmud, 2021).

Mukti Bahini had full support and cooperation of the Indian Army, from the soil of Bengal till Pak forces overthrow. Jagjit Singh Arora was present at the surrender ceremony when the last invaders surrendered (www.indiatimes.com).

Post Liberation War

India not only did help during the liberation war. It also helped to rebuild the country after the war. After a long period of exploitation, oppression, and deprivation, there was no such thing as wealth in Bangladesh. As much as there was, due to the war, it turned into a heap of destruction. Bangabandhu took a loan of 100 crore taka from India and started the activities of the state (www.dailysonardesh.com). India was also a pioneer in recognition to Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign country (Khasru, 2010).

From the time of the liberation war, the Muslim countries of the Middle East strongly opposed the independence of Bangladesh. This opposition continued after the war. They did not want to recognize the independence of Bangladesh (Ferdous, 2009). India created Bangladesh's position in the international arena by recognizing as an independent and sovereign country (Sajen, 2021).

India provided $250 million to resettle refugees who had taken refuge in India during the war (www.dailysonardesh.com). In other words, India has helped to neighbor Bangladesh to maintain peace and harmony in the region. Due to India's support, the then Soviet Union was on Bangladesh's side during the Liberation War and post-war as well.

When the government was formed in post-war Bangladesh, the foreign policy of the Bangladesh government was Pro Indian. In other words, the foreign policy was adopted keeping India in good consideration, the genuine friend of the Liberation War (Murshid, 2008). However, after the ouster of the Awami League government, India's relations with other parties took a downward turn but never bottomed out.

The Bangladesh-India relationship is like an evergreen tree. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh in June 2015 and 22 agreements were signed between the two countries (www.economictimes.indiatimes.com). Currently, joint projects between the two countries are still going on.

No matter which party wins the election, India, or Bangladesh, the relationship between the two countries has never reached rock bottom.

Political and Diplomatic Relations

Considering its geographical position, Bangladesh is geo-economically and politically distinct and advantageous, which could accelerate the pace of economic development, according to World Bank experts participating in the South Asian Economic Conclave,

Bangladesh is in the most favorable position in terms of trade prosperity in South Asia. And, the current leadership of Bangladesh is aware of how to take advantage of that geographical location and they are working towards that goal.

For a country to be economically prosperous, it needs to be politically and diplomatically stable. Bangladesh maintains good relations with neighboring India as a testament to its political stability and diplomatic skills. Whatever leadership comes to Bangladesh, good relations with India must be maintained for balance. India also prefers Bangladesh for its geo-strategic position.

Since Awami League came to power for the second term under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in 2009, at least 111 agreements were signed in various sectors between the two countries (www.mea.gov.in.com). The Prime Ministers of the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation in 2017, which was signed as a Defense Treaty between the two sides in 2018. India provides Bangladesh with three lines of credit worth $8 billion, of which $500 million is for the purchase of defense equipment (Palma, 2022). After more than 40 years of delay, the Land Boundary Agreement has been implemented. Disputes over maritime boundaries have been settled through international arbitration (www.thehindu.com).

The total trade volume increased to 7.5 billion dollars. India has started supplying electricity to Bangladesh (India, 2016). India is getting opportunity to use Chittagong and Mongla ports. Bangladesh has agreed to supply water to India from the same Feni river. Export of liquefied petroleum gas to India has also been announced. Apart from that, Indian cargo vehicles are getting nominal service charge facility through Bangladesh (www.thefinancialexpress.com.bd). Bangladesh has eradicated Indian extremist groups that had bases inside Bangladesh, which has played a major role in India's security.

On the other hand, Bangladesh's long-awaited Teesta River water sharing agreement is yet to be signed. Bangladesh's concerns about the National Register of Citizens and the amended Civil Code in Assam have already been added. The killing of Bangladeshis at the border did not stop. Since 2017, India has not played the required role in the Rohingya crisis (Bhabani, 2022). The planned Sonadia deep sea port project, which is necessary for Bangladesh's trade, had to be canceled after six years of waiting in the face of India's objections.

BNP came to power in October 2001. Allies were Islamists, especially Jamaat-e-Islami (Mahmud, 2020). As a result, Indian policy makers made no attempt to hide their discomfort. Khaleda Zia's visit to Beijing in 2002 and the signing of a defense memorandum of understanding with China added to this uneasiness (www.voabangla.com). The Indian press is promoting that the main objective behind this closeness is to drag China into South Asian politics. An Indian analyst warns Bangladesh, Bangladeshi policy makers should think this through; Whether China can provide the strategic assurance they want against India.

After the formation of government in India by the United Progressive Alliance led by the Congress in 2004, there were some policy changes (www.economictimes.indiatimes.com). However, Indian perception of the internal situation of the two countries also influences their policies. The growing number of Islamist groups and a series of attacks have raised international concern, with India's accusations of illegal infiltration and the presence of insurgent groups inside Bangladesh embarrassing for the Bangladeshi government.

On the other hand, Bangladesh also continued to insist on approving land border agreements, delimiting sea boundaries, water sharing agreements on transboundary rivers like Teesta and reducing restrictions on the entry of Bangladeshi products in the Indian market to resolve the trade deficit.

India's non-participation in the 2005 SAARC Summit in Dhaka, citing security concerns, led to its cancellation, bringing the uneasy relationship into the public domain (www.thehindu.com). In April 2005, during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Bangladesh, a nuclear cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries (www.chinadaily.com.cn). Despite assurances from the Bangladesh government that the project had no strategic significance, it was considered acceptable by Indian policy makers; No such indication was found.

Undoubtedly, Bangladesh wants to have good relations with India. As a neighboring big country, Bangladesh needs India for any need. India-Bangladesh relations have had ups and downs during different regimes. Even though BNP could not ideologically align with India, Awami League has been aligning with India right after assuming power.

As Bangladesh is dependable to international aid; so, she always tries to promote her foreign relation. Although foreign policy of Bangladesh is based on friendship, but strategies were changed in various regimes

Awami League Regime

Bangladesh Awami League maintains good relations with India from the beginning. After independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was released from Pakistan jail and focused on the reconstruction of the country. India contributed immensely to the independence war of Bangladesh and continued to support them even after independence. Bangabandhu signed 25-year Bangladesh-India peace and friendship treaty within just three months of Bangladesh's founding (www.bbc.com).

At that time, the Bangabandhu government brought the refugees back to the country with the help of India. Focused on rebuilding the country's battered economy. All the Indian armies that participated in the liberation war were sent back to India (Mahmud, 2021).

Again, the daughter of Bangabandhu Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to power after winning the elections in 1996, she made bilateral agreements with neighboring countries including India (Pike, 1996). She focused on economic diplomacy and strengthened friendly relations. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Agreement at that time (Sami, 2019).

Again in 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strengthened relations with India when she came to power (Chakma, 2012). She strengthened border security with India. Trade relations between the two countries have been increased at that time. She did a defense agreement in 2017 also (www.mea.gov.in).

Awami League had distinct weaknesses towards India from the beginning, still exists, and will continue to exist in the future. Because, the reality of Bangladesh is that if this country is to be run in an orderly manner, there is no alternative to the help of the large neighboring countries. Just as India's help was essential during the Liberation War under the Awami League, India is also essential as a partner in subsequent development (Mahmud, 2021).

BNP Regime

The founder of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Ziaur Rahman brought changes in governance and foreign policy while in power. He brought about an ideological change in politics (Rehman, 2017). He also had to redefine his foreign policy as international politics was intertwined with national politics. Religion had been brought into politics by him. He

moved away from the secular policy of the Awami League and arranged politics under religious shelter (Mahmud, 2020).

India being a secular country was not ideologically compatible with Bangladesh during Zia's rule. Besides, Ziaur Rahman strengthened relations with Middle Eastern countries rather than with India, because of politics under the shelter of religion. Especially with Saudi Arabia. Relations with China and the Muslim world were better than those of India during Zia's tenure (Rehman, 2017).

Again, BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, who came to power in 1991, adopted the same foreign policy as her husband Zia. Her government tried to improve relations with the United States. She made agreements with China on various issues (www.archive.dhakatribune.com). Khaleda Zia also prioritized economic diplomacy.

BNP came to power again in 2001 but there was no change in their policies. They emphasized on developing relations with China and Middle East countries besides India (Hossain, 2008). BNP's ideological position has always given India less importance. However, Khaleda Zia tried to minimize the border dispute between BGB (then BDR) and BSF. While it is important to maintain relations with India as a neighboring country, BNP has prioritized other countries over its immediate neighbors.

Economic and Trade Relations

Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia and India's largest export market (International, 2021). India is the second largest importing country of Bangladesh. In 2011, India granted Bangladesh full access to exports of goods to India, particularly in the export of ready-made garments.

In 2017-18, Bangladesh exported garments worth around $278.68 million, which was just $55 million in 2011-12 (Moazzem, 2018).

In 2010, India provided a total of USD 1 billion in financial assistance to Bangladesh for railway, communication, infrastructure and other development, of which USD 800 million was in the form of loan assistance and the remaining USD 200 million was in the form of grants (www.economictimes.indiatimes.com).

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in 2017, after a bilateral and private meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 22 agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed between the two countries (ww.mewa.gov.in). Through these

agreements related to the increase of bilateral cooperation, an agreement was reached to provide loan assistance of 400 crores to Bangladesh (www.bangladesh.gov.bd).

One of the issues of Bangladesh's foreign relations with India is economic and trade relations. Numerous bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed between the two countries between 2009-2018. Rampal thermal power plant is the most expensive project between India and Bangladesh during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina government (www.nsenergybusiness.com).

Although Bangladesh and India have good economic and trade relations, Bangladesh has a large trade deficit compared to India (www.thedailystar.net). In terms of informal trade between Bangladesh and India, illegal goods trade or smuggling occupies a large place in the border areas of the two countries.

Table 1. India-Bangladesh trade deficit figure

FISCAL YEAR	**Bangladesh's Exports to India** (Crore Dollar)	**Bangladesh's Imports from India** (Crore Dollar)	**DEFICIT** (Crore Dollar)
2019-20	109	579	470
2020-21	127	859	732
2021-22	199	1619	1420
2022-23	200	1200	1000
2023-24	184	1106	922

Source: (thefinancialexpress, 2024)

Military Relations

India has military cooperation with Bangladesh since its inception. 1984 Indian Army personnel sacrificed their lives helping in the Liberation War (www.thedailystar.net). In order to improve the military relations between India and Bangladesh, 122 personnel of the three forces of Bangladesh participated in the Republic Day Parade of India on 26 January 2021. On the other hand, a group of Indian Army, NCC and retired soldiers participated in the Bangladesh Victory Day parade (www.banglanews24.com).

The two friendly countries signed two defense agreements during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day visit to New Delhi in April 2017 (ww.mewa.gov.in). India has no such

agreement with any neighboring country. Under this agreement, India and Bangladesh agreed to conduct joint exercises and training in the field of defence. According to Indian think tank 'Observer Research Foundation' (ORF), the purpose of the agreement was to increase military cooperation between the two countries.

The issue of defense cooperation with India is very important for Bangladesh. In May 2018, Bangladesh Army Principal Staff Officer Lt. Gen. Mahfuzur Rahman visited India and a total of four MoUs were signed to implement defense cooperation loans and expand overall cooperation between the two countries. According to this memorandum, there is an agreement to give 500 million US dollars to the defense sector of Bangladesh (www.dailystar.net).

Earlier in 2017, during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, India signed a memorandum of understanding to give 13,500 US dollars to Bangladesh as defense cooperation between the two countries (ww.mewa.gov.in). India's help is always needed to survive in this region of Bangladesh. Although the Bay of Bengal is located in the south of Bangladesh, it is constantly monitored by the Indian Navy. The Bangladesh Navy purchased two submarines from China at a low price in 2017, much to India's dismay, but India has expressed its interest in training the Bangladesh Navy in handling submarines (www.thediplomat.com).

Maritime Boundary and Water Sharing

The problem of water distribution between Bangladesh and India is not being solved. Bangladesh has been talking to India since independence to resolve water distribution issues. After a long time, in 1996, a mid-term agreement on the distribution of water in the Ganges was concluded (Hossain, 1998).

The Teesta Water Sharing Agreement was drafted at the 37th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission in 2010 (www.mea.gov.in). The Teesta water sharing agreement was the main topic of discussion during former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in 2011. But the agreement was not signed due to Mamata Banerjee's objection (www.archive.dhakatribune.com).

Although Sheikh Hasina's government has carried out extensive activities on the distribution of water between India and Bangladesh, a satisfactory situation has not yet been created.

On the other hand, India's maritime boundary dispute with Bangladesh has complicated the relationship between the two countries. The disputed area of Bangladesh with India was 25,602 square kilometers. Bangladesh filed a case in the International Court of Arbitration in 2009 to resolve the issue (www.thehindu.com). Later, in 2012, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruled that the maritime boundary dispute between the two countries ended.

Border Management and Enclaves

Border issues between Bangladesh and India has been begun since the independence of Bangladesh. One of the problems related to the border area of the two countries was the issue of exchange of enclaves. There were a total of 168 enclaves between Bangladesh and India (Ahmed, 2006). Of these, 111 are in India within Bangladesh and 57 are in Bangladesh within India, of which 51 are exchangeable

In 1974, the historic land boundary agreement was signed between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi (www.vifindia.org). According to the agreement, Bangladesh handed over South Berubari to India. But India has not handed over the three bigha corridor.

A land border agreement was signed between the two countries during Modi's visit to Bangladesh in 2015. The agreement was approved by the Union Cabinet of India (Banarjee, Roy & Gugu). After the bill was passed, the relationship between the two countries became stronger. Between 2015 and 2016, the two countries exchanged enclaves and demarcated.

Human rights violations at the hands of Indian border guards have been going on for a long time. This includes kidnapping, killing and torturing unarmed Bengalis (www.tbsnews.net). These news spread abroad and awakened the conscience of the whole world. India later expressed regret over these incidents and assured that it would not happen again (Akter, 2018).

Medical Tourism

People of Bangladesh constantly go to India for medical treatment. A large number of people from Bangladesh visit India every year due to the ease of access and quality of

medical care in India. Every year, 7 lakh Bangladeshis travel abroad for medical treatment and it costs US$ 3.5 billion. Most of them go to India (thefinancialexpress.com.bd).

India has already eased medical visas to promote cordial relations between the two countries. There are also special opportunities for freedom fighters. However, even if a citizen of Bangladesh get a one-year visa quickly in the purpose of medical treatment, he or she has to face several problems in the application.

60 percent of Bangladeshis who visit India go on tourist visas (www.risingbd.com). Although there is a medical visa system for receiving medical services, medical services can also be received on a tourist visa. In special cases, they do not impose any obstacle to see a doctor on a tourist visa.

That is, if one wants to travel in India he or she can enjoy travelling and also have the opportunity to physical check-up. Government of India has created this golden opportunity. However, even though India benefits economically through this process, the citizens of Bangladesh are getting good services as well. Earlier, it was not easy to go to India to get medical services. Considering the relationship between the two countries, India also expressed its commitment to ensure easy access to visas.

The Nature of Future India-Bangladesh Relations

If someone is in danger, the neighbor comes forward to help first. A practical example of this popular saying is India's direct support in the Bangladesh Liberation War (Mahmud, 2021). Looking at the world map, the position of Bangladesh can be clearly understood. Three sides of Bangladesh is South Asia's superpower, India (www.bangladesh.gov.bd). So, Bangladesh has no chance to be anti-India even if we think about it geographically.

Moreover, India's biggest ally in the region is the US (www.state.gov). In today's world, establishing a relationship with a country means establishing a relationship with a bloc. That is, maintaining good relations with India would mean maintaining good relations with all the countries of that bloc including the United States.

Moreover, Bangladesh is very small compared to the size of India. In this situation, it is desirable to behave like the pilot fish. That is, a pilot fish is a type of fish that is too close to a larger fish, but the larger fish cannot eat it.

Being a large and powerful neighboring country, India's influence also exists in Bangladesh's internal politics. Again, Bangladesh needs India's help to maintain its internal stability and consolidate its position in the international arena.

Due to Bangladesh's geo-strategic location in South Asia, India needs Bangladesh very much in this region. That is why India will give priority to Bangladesh in the future as well.

The economic and trade relationship between India and Bangladesh is also very large. Starting from daily necessities to many technology products are also exchanged between these two countries. So, good relations are very important to meet the needs of the people of the two countries.

Almost every country in the world today is adopting a reality based foreign policy. Bangladesh is not out of it. The current government's foreign policy is dominated by economic diplomacy. At the same time, coming out of the ideological place and giving priority to the reality.

No matter which government comes to power in the future, it is expected that friendly relations between the two countries will continue keeping in mind geopolitical strategy, economic diplomacy, regional security and other issues.

Conclusion

Finally, India and Bangladesh have had good relations since the birth of Bangladesh. Both countries sincerely prefer each other in economic, military, commercial and cultural matters. However, Bangladesh has a trade deficit compared to India. This trade deficit is unlikely to decrease. It is never possible for two countries to agree hundred percent on a matter. Bangladesh and India are also unable to reach consensus on many issues. The biggest conflict between the two countries is over the issue of water distribution. It is not expected to be resolved in the near future. Besides, numerous agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed between Bangladesh and India since independence These agreements have been made considering the interests of both countries. Defense agreements and enclave exchanges are among them. No matter which government came to power in Bangladesh and India, relations with India never reached rock bottom. Maybe the relationship deteriorated due to ideological reasons or policy changes but the relationship did not end. India's contribution in the War of Liberation, help in the reconstruction of the

country after the War of Liberation and assistance in various matters, there is no scope for severing ties with India. Although anti-India mindset has been created for a temporary period due to several reasons, basically the relationship between the two countries is as green as a tree. The relationship between India and Bangladesh has existed in the past as well as in the present and will continue to exist in the future. Because, geopolitically and economic diplomatically Bangladesh has no second option instead India. Besides, India needs Bangladesh badly for geo-strategic location and trade.

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