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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON INDIA BANGLADESH RELATIONSHIP WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

Since Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took office in January 2009, the bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh have consistently improved. In 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the cooperation, characterizing it as a "golden period." Bangladesh plays a pivotal role in India's "Neighborhood First" and "Act East" policies, contributing significantly to the maintenance of peace and security in the Northeast region of the country. Nevertheless, despite their reciprocal benevolence, there is a degree of skepticism regarding the future of the relationship.

KEYWORDS: India, Bangladesh, International, Relations.

INTRODUCTION:

During the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, shared historical, cultural, and geographical ties established the friendship between India and Bangladesh. India played a pivotal role in backing Bangladesh's struggle for independence from Pakistan by offering essential military and material assistance. According to 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, establishing a close relationship with India is a fundamental aspect of Bangladesh's foreign policy, which played a significant role in developing the nation's strategy after gaining independence. In the mid-1970s, there was an increase in anti-India sentiment due to several reasons, like boundary disputes, insurgency, and water sharing.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Md Akbor Ali (2023). India and Bangladesh exhibit distinctive neighborly interactions due to their respective historical backgrounds. In 2022, India and Bangladesh will have successfully concluded a 51-year period of bilateral relations, which commenced in December 1971 when India officially acknowledged the newly established People's Republic of Bangladesh. India exerted a substantial influence in the establishment of Bangladesh amidst a struggle for independence from Pakistan. Various factors unite the two nations, including a common history and heritage, language and social connections, and a mutual appreciation for art that showcases the wide range of human creativity in music, literature, and other artistic mediums. According to India's neighborhood strategy, Bangladesh holds significant geopolitical and strategic importance. Bangladesh is significant for India because of its strategic connectivity with the country's seven landlocked northern sister states. Bangladesh's foreign policy narrative is characterized primarily by the use of the terms "Indian factor" and "blocked by India." Consequently, India holds a prominent position on the agenda of policymakers in Bangladesh. The collaboration between India and Bangladesh has had a significant impact on a large number of individuals in both nations, as well as in South Asia and other regions. Currently, the two nations are exemplifying effective security cooperation, connectivity, collaboration in the energy and power sectors, social and cultural integration, and bilateral trade within the context of South Asian politics. The collaboration between the two nations played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, India demonstrated a humanitarian act by helping Bangladesh develop its vaccine. India and

Bangladesh have maintained a relatively amicable relationship for a period of 51 years. Throughout the relationship's fifty-year history, there have been several instances of tension, particularly during the military administration and the BNP's governance. The bilateral relationship reached its golden jubilee in 2021. The present study seeks to provide a valuable guide for the future by assessing the historical trajectory of the bilateral relationship and offering insights into the challenges and obstacles encountered. [1]

Md. Ershadul Huq (2023). This article delves into the historical progression of India-Bangladesh relations, the various viewpoints on the relationship, the importance of Bangladesh to India, and the challenges that threaten bilateral ties between the two countries. This research provides a clear insight into the current state of India-Bangladesh ties, indicating whether they are progressing smoothly or not. Additionally, it is possible to identify the persistent problematic situations that contribute to the prevailing mistrust between the two nations. Lastly, provide a specific scenario for the country's policymakers that highlights the crucial nature of this relationship for both nations and emphasizes the need for policymakers to prioritize and promptly address these issues. [2]

Saleh Shahriar (2021). This paper undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the existing literature pertaining to the borders between Bangladesh and India, with the aim of addressing some key inquiries. The study potential pertaining to the border concerns between the two states is of interest. Bangladesh and India have a shared border spanning 4096 km, which influences their bilateral relationship and collaboration due to many cross-border concerns. Multiple border disputes have not only strained these relations, but have also escalated hostilities between the two nations' border security forces regarding contested land. This contribution provides a comprehensive analysis of the cross-border issues between Bangladesh and India, with a specific focus on their relations in the field of comparative border research. It aims to enhance our understanding of bordering practices and policies from socio-political, economic, geographic, and cultural perspectives. [3]

Majumdar, A. J. (2014). India and Bangladesh exhibit interdependence in their geopolitical ties, albeit with divergent fundamental interests. Geopolitical factors present ongoing challenges due to the close proximity between the two parties, encompassing significant concerns related to security, migration, and resource allocation. However, Bangladesh has not yet established its own distinct identity, wherein the predominance of India's perceived image and the subsequent attitudes and expectations towards each other play a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of bilateral

interactions between the two nations. Resolving numerous complex issues continues to be difficult, and the number of sources of frustration in relationships exceeds the number of acts of kindness. Although the level of warmth in relations has often varied with the transition of governments, a consistent pattern of unease and suspicion remains. Examining the relationship between India and Bangladesh through the lenses of geopolitics, attitudinal effects, and functional exchanges reveals typical power dynamics between large and small nations. In this context, policies are primarily driven by the principle of self-help but are also influenced by Bangladesh's aspiration to establish itself as a nation-state. [4]

Mohd Aminul Karim (2009). Historical, cultural, geographical, economic, and geopolitical factors have influenced the relations between Bangladesh and India. India, a prominent geopolitical, economic, and military power, has actively participated in global affairs. In contrast, Bangladesh has had challenges in maintaining and safeguarding human security within its territorial boundaries. In 1971, India played a crucial role in the initiation of Bangladesh's War of Liberation. Nevertheless, the subsequent events that transpired after the independence of Bangladesh did not yield the anticipated continuation of amicable relations between the two nations. There are several fundamental concerns that have had a detrimental impact on the relationship between India and Bangladesh. These difficulties include land and sea boundary demarcations, the sharing of water from 54 common rivers, informal trade, transnational crime, and meddling in internal affairs. In a positive light, it is worth noting that there has been a notable improvement in interpersonal interactions and civil society contact groups between the two nations. Both nations are in need of a paradigm shift, notably in the realm of politics. There is a necessity for enhanced comprehension, communication, diplomacy, regional collaboration, and reduced intervention in one another's domestic matters. Although it may be convenient to enumerate these problems, surmounting them would be challenging, mostly due to the overarching geopolitical imperatives, the historical inheritance, and the reciprocal distrust in the area. Mutual acknowledgment of the imperative for increased political determination to overcome geopolitical constraints, understand the fundamental nature of regional collaboration, particularly in economics, and actualize the benefits of harmonious cohabitation could significantly enhance India-Bangladesh relations. This article will analyze recent developments and propose a potential framework for the future direction of India-Bangladesh relations in order to evaluate the obstacles and the necessity of overcoming them between the two nations. [5]

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study was used bibliometric analysis as its primary methodology. The study was conducted through secondary data. The text possessed descriptive, deductive, and explanatory qualities. The necessary data for this study from various sources such as books, book chapters, journal articles, internet sites, newspapers, and other relevant sources related to the subject matter was obtained. The data collection process entailed the implementation of theme arrangements. For verification, the data obtained from multiple sources was triangulated. The India-Bangladesh relationship encompasses various components. The aforementioned elements encompass land border consent, security collaboration, connectivity cooperation, economic collaboration, and socio-cultural collaboration.

BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS- RECENT EXPLORATION:

The joint statement on September 30, 2023, demonstrates the significant advancement in diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and India. Both nations have entered into comprehensive accords that encompass a wide range of issues, including defense, security, energy, trade, and connectivity. Throughout this momentous event, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina emphasized their dedication to promoting reciprocal development, security, and economic well-being. However, this is not the only instance where we encountered the pinnacle of bilateral ties. Numerous events transpired in the year 2023, exemplifying the robust alliance between the two nations. This development signifies a notable advancement in the long-standing partnership between the two neighboring countries in South Asia, demonstrating a mutual aspiration for security and prosperity within the area. The succeeding endeavors, encompassing cross-border railway connections, energy efforts, and currency exchange, underscore the diverse and intricate character of their enhanced bilateral relations.

India became the first country to formally acknowledge Bangladesh as a sovereign entity, promptly establishing diplomatic relations following its freedom in December 1971. India and Bangladesh have deep-rooted linkages that go beyond formal recognition. They have a common civilization, culture, societal bonds, and economic interests. The alignment between the two nations is apparent through their interconnected historical background, shared heritage, linguistic and cultural

similarities, and mutual passion for music, literature, and the arts. These common components form the basis for their complex and growing connections. From a geographical standpoint, India and Bangladesh are situated in close proximity, which presents a favorable prospect for the improvement of connectivity and economic cooperation. Regular exchanges, visits, and meetings at a high level, along with substantial interpersonal interactions, serve to strengthen bilateral relations. The bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh experienced a significant shift with the notable trips of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010 and 2022, as well as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in September 2011. In March 2013, President Pranab Mukherjee's visit highlighted the significant significance that India attributes to its relationship with Bangladesh, with a particular emphasis on the ideals of equality, collaboration, and mutual growth. The Minister of External Affairs, sustained the diplomatic momentum through her efforts. The works of Sushma Swaraj and S. Jaishankar's independent visit to Bangladesh in June 2014 strengthened the already strong and friendly relationship between the two countries. The culmination came in 2021, when the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, visited Bangladesh to commemorate Bangladesh's 50th Independence Day. A comprehensive institutional framework that promotes bilateral collaboration has facilitated the constant enhancement of political, economic, trade, and cultural contacts over the last forty years. The dedication to protecting common biodiversity heritage is exemplified by the cooperative management of 54 rivers and coordinated efforts to conserve the Sunderbans ecosystem. The economic connections between Bangladesh and India have significantly advanced, ushering in a new era of collaboration. In fiscal year 2023, India's varied exports to Bangladesh, such as cotton yarn, petroleum products, grains, and cotton garments, amounted to a significant \$12.20 billion. In contrast, the imports from Bangladesh, which included products such as ready-made garments (RMG) cotton, cotton fabrics, synthetic fibers, spices, and jute, totaled \$2.02 billion over the same time frame. The trade sector has demonstrated a consistent pattern of expansion, as seen by the exports and imports in the period of April–May 2023, which amounted to \$1.67 billion and \$278 million, respectively. The two countries are currently implementing the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), demonstrating a mutual dedication to enhancing economic cooperation.

During the G-20 Leaders Summit held on September 9–10, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of India engaged in bilateral negotiations with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The purpose

of these meetings was to explore various dimensions of collaboration between the two countries. Subsequently, on September 30, 2023, India and Bangladesh commemorated their strong bilateral relations by signing seven accords that represented a notable advancement in strengthening collaboration. The agreements emphasized the leaders' commitment to enhancing maritime security through the establishment of a collaborative coastal monitoring system. Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina underscored the importance of establishing comprehensive bilateral relations, highlighting the advancements achieved in the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of a coastal surveillance radar system in Bangladesh. The signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covered a wide range of various domains, including water resources, youth affairs, culture, education, and coastal surveillance. This demonstrates a holistic approach to fostering collaboration. Both presidents demonstrated a mutual dedication to addressing terrorism in its various manifestations, acknowledging its substantial impact on the peace and stability of the area. The joint declaration also emphasized the historical backdrop of bilateral defense collaboration, evoking the recollection of collaborative endeavors during the 1969 Bangladesh Liberation War. The leaders deliberated on the necessity of enhanced collaboration in defense, reiterating their dedication to ensuring a safe community. The preparations for the execution of a \$500 million Defense Line of Credit provided by India to Bangladesh have been completed, thereby strengthening the existing defense relations. The establishment of the Bangladesh-India Professional Skill Development Institute and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on water extraction from the Feni River demonstrated a dedication to collaborative progress. Furthermore, apprehensions regarding harm to non-combatants at the border led to a direction to strengthen coordinated efforts in order to reduce the occurrence of such occurrences. The collaborative efforts highlighted a dedication to promoting reciprocal development, safety, and economic well-being.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the India-Bangladesh Startup Bridge during the Bangladesh Startup Summit on July 29, 2023. This collaborative endeavor encompasses a total of Ten Indian Companies with the objective of fostering the exchange of knowledge, technology, and best practices between the two nations.

The inauguration of the Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link on November 1, 2023, marks a significant milestone in the collaborative endeavors between India and Bangladesh to improve regional connectivity. This railway project spans a distance of 12.24 kilometers, connecting the states of Bangladesh and Tripura. This program, which receives financial backing from India, serves to facilitate cross-border commercial and cultural exchanges, hence creating opportunities in the tourism sector. The efficient transportation system, which decreases journey duration from 38 to 12 hours, holds the potential for economic expansion and enhances bilateral relations. The project, with a budget of Rs 1255.10 crore, is a noteworthy achievement in the development of regional transportation infrastructure, facilitating economic growth, and promoting cultural interchange. In addition to its immediate advantages, this project is in line with wider regional integration endeavors such as the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement, demonstrating a dedication to transforming trade, transportation, and connectivity in order to foster a more linked and wealthy South Asian area.

The joint launch of three development projects with Indian help was emphasized by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 1, 2023, as a demonstration of the robust relationship and collaborative ethos between Bangladesh and India. Focusing on cultivating optimism, she expressed confidence in the potential achievements achievable through continued collaborative efforts. A loan of USD 1.6 billion from the Indian Concessional Financing Scheme funds the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project, a significant 1320 MW power plant in the Rampal region of Bangladesh. The project, which is a collaborative effort between NTPC Ltd. of India and the Bangladesh Power Development Board, seeks to enhance energy security and promote environmental sustainability. We anticipate that the plant's second unit, in operation since August 2022, will mitigate the ongoing worldwide energy crisis by providing 91.7 MW of power to the national grid. The project encompasses sophisticated environmental strategies, such as the implementation of a flue gas desulfurization system and an integrated effluent and waste management system. The Maitree project signifies a noteworthy achievement in the long-lasting partnership between Bangladesh and India in the power industry, promoting energy protection and regional interconnectedness. Nasrul Hamid, the State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, expressed Bangladesh's intention to increase the importation of petroleum products

from India at a fair and justifiable cost during a meeting in Delhi in January 2023. This statement was made during a meeting with Hardeep Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The nations of Bangladesh and India have agreed to participate in the rupee-taka trade, commencing bilateral transactions denominated in Indian rupees on July 11th. The primary objective of this action is to mitigate Bangladesh's dependence on the US dollar, thereby addressing the detrimental impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on its foreign exchange reserves. We anticipate this action to alleviate pressure on the USD and enhance financial robustness, given the countries' current inflation and import cost difficulties. The authorization to enable trade transactions has been granted to prominent institutions such as Sonali Bank Ltd., Eastern Bank Limited, the State Bank of India, and ICICI Bank. This development possesses wider implications, potentially serving as a catalyst for the adoption of a regional common currency in South Asia. The program aimed at mitigating currency scarcity has the potential to serve as a paradigm for nations grappling with comparable economic interdependencies and foreign exchange obstacles, hence promoting trade efficiency and competitiveness.

The start of the 131.57-kilometer Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline marks a significant milestone in the realm of bilateral collaboration between Bangladesh and India. On March 18, 2023, Prime Ministers Sheikh Hasina and Narendra Modi inaugurated the pipeline, enabling the transportation of petroleum goods, specifically diesel, from India to Bangladesh. Prime Ministers Sheikh Hasina and Narendra Modi presided over the inauguration of the pipeline, which extends 126.57 kilometers in Bangladesh and 5 kilometers in India. This significant development represents a notable advancement in the energy partnership. The project was commenced under a 15-year agreement with the objective of importing an annual quantity of diesel ranging from 250,000 to 400,000 metric tons. The establishment of this transnational pipeline not only guarantees a consistent provision of diesel fuel for Bangladesh but also yields economic advantages for both countries through the reduction of transportation expenses and the promotion of environmental sustainability. The project's success establishes a standard for future partnerships, providing a blueprint for South Asian countries to improve energy security and foster regional stability.

High Commissioner (HC) Pranay Verma and H.E. met on August 27, 2023. Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak jointly initiated the establishment of the Knowledge Park in Chattogram. He participated in a seminar on "Development of Chattogram through Enhanced Connectivity: Prospects and

Challenges" on August 26, 2023. On August 6, 2023, he presented a lecture at the BIMSTEC Energy Conclave, wherein he underscored the significance of regional collaboration within the framework of BIMSTEC in the face of global uncertainty. Additionally, he emphasized the crucial role played by bilateral connections between Bangladesh and India. Additionally, the Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur train line project witnessed a contract signing event on July 23, 2023, at train Bhaban in Dhaka. The program is centered on the implementation of a contemporary computer-based interlocked signaling system, which is backed by a line of credit provided by the Government of India. On June 21, 2023, the high commissioner organized a reception aboard the Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan during its visit. Naval personnel from India and Bangladesh attended the event, which placed significant emphasis on the enhancement of defense cooperation. On June 22, the Chittagong Commonwealth War Cemetery hosted a ceremony to pay tributes. The initiation of trade between India and Bangladesh in Indian rupees (INR) took place on July 11, 2023, through a collaborative effort by the High Commission of India and Bangladesh Bank. HC Pranay Verma and Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder, the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, co-hosted the event, which aimed to foster bilateral trade connections. HC Pranay Verma and State Minister for Shipping H.E. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury greeted the arrival of passengers from the Ganga Vilas, the world's longest cruise ship, at Mongla port on February 4, 2023. This event served to promote river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh. The inaugural event for the "Widening of Baraiyerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh Road" initiative occurred on May 24, 2023, with the virtual presence of Mr. Obaidul Quader, the esteemed Minister of Road Transport and Highways, and HC Pranay Verma. The project is part of India's Line of Credit to Bangladesh, which amounts to USD 4.5 billion. On March 5, 2023, the High Commission of India convened a Seminar on Indian Defense Equipment (SIDE) in Dhaka with the objective of enhancing partnership within the defense industry. The keynote comments were presented by HC Pranay Verma and Lt. Gen. Ata-ul Hakim Sarwar Hasan, with the aim of promoting collaboration between Indian defense manufacturers and the military forces of Bangladesh.

The month of January 2023 witnessed the arrival of two Indian Coast Guard ships, namely ICGS SHAURYA and ICGS RAJVEER, to Chattogram for a duration of six days. This visit served to strengthen the collaborative efforts between Bangladesh and India's Coast Guards in marine affairs.

The inauguration of 20 Broad Gauge locomotives at the Darshana-Gede Interchange Point in May 2023 by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways of India, is a noteworthy achievement in the collaboration between India and Bangladesh Railways. The keynote lecture at the Indian Ocean Conference in Dhaka on May 12, 2023, was made by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, with a focus on peace, prosperity, and partnership. The individual recognized the significance of Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific outlook within the present circumstances.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra reiterated India's dedication to fostering a more comprehensive economic and developmental alliance with Bangladesh during deliberations held in Dhaka in February 2023. These deliberations encompassed a range of bilateral facets. On February 14, 2023, the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance of Bangladesh hosted the third meeting of the High-Level Project Monitoring Committee. This committee was tasked with assessing projects that fell under the India-Bangladesh Governmental Lines of Credit.

The Shipping Secretary Level Meeting that took place in Dhaka on December 19, 2023, between Bangladesh and India demonstrated notable progress in strengthening their longstanding collaboration. The summit encompassed significant deliberations pertaining to inland water transit and trade, as well as the bidirectional flow of commodities via ports. Under the guidance of senior officials, the negotiations tackled trade obstacles and prospects, with an emphasis on improving connectivity and overcoming logistical problems. The recent accords, particularly the license for India's commercial transit through ports in Bangladesh, highlight a shared dedication to enhancing trade within the region. These strategic initiatives, set against the backdrop of a destabilized worldwide supply chain, represent a revitalized partnership that aims to enhance connectivity and bolster trade resilience between the two countries. The diplomatic strategies and outcomes achieved during these negotiations are crucial in promoting a revitalized model of cooperation in the realm of connectivity and commerce, thereby bolstering regional trade and security.

The recent advancements in bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India exemplify a strong and vibrant cooperation that surpasses conventional diplomatic interactions. Transnational initiatives, cooperative endeavors in energy, commerce, and connectivity, as well as collective endeavors in defense, indicate a mutual commitment to reciprocal progress. The bilateral relations

have not only strengthened but also broadened, thereby contributing to the general objective of promoting stability and prosperity within the area. We anticipate that the ongoing partnership between Bangladesh and India will have far-reaching implications throughout South Asia, establishing a model for successful regional cooperation in the domains of trade, security, and connectivity. The continuing camaraderie and collaboration between these two nations serves as a guiding light for other countries aspiring to establish significant and mutually advantageous diplomatic ties. [6]

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS:

- The volume of bilateral commerce between India and Bangladesh has exhibited a consistent upward trend throughout the past decade.
- Bangladesh has become the primary economic partner for India in the South Asian region, with bilateral commerce increasing from \$10.8 billion in 2020–21 to \$18 billion in 2021–2022. However, there was a decline in bilateral trade during the years 2022–23 as a result of the pandemic and the Russia–Ukraine conflict.
- Bangladesh's exports to Indian markets amount to \$2 billion, making India the second-largest trade partner of Bangladesh.
- Both nations concluded a collaborative feasibility study on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022. We expect the agreement, commonly formulated to diminish or eradicate customs tariffs on exchanged commodities and streamline trade regulations, to create wider social and economic prospects.
- Bangladesh's loss of its Least Developed Country (LDC) designation after 2026 will result in the loss of duty-free and quota-free market access in India, thereby increasing the importance of the CEPA.
- India, as a significant development partner for Bangladesh, provides financial support for various infrastructure and connectivity initiatives. India has provided lines of credit worth over \$7

billion since 2010. The Akhaura-Agartala train link was inaugurated, establishing a connection between Bangladesh and the northeastern region via the state of Tripura. It is probable that it will enhance small-scale industries and foster the growth of Assam and Tripura.

➤ The commencement of the Maitree Express, which links Kolkata and Dhaka, occurred in 2008, following a period of more than four decades of inactivity. Bangladesh, a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), maintains its central administrative office in Dhaka. Founded to enhance collaboration among littoral and adjacent nations within the Bay of Bengal region, the organization in question is a multilateral regional entity. In the energy industry, Bangladesh imports around 2,000 megawatts of electricity from India.

➤ In 2015, the two nations effectively settled enduring matters, including the land border accord (LBA) and a maritime conflict about territorial seas. In September 2022, India and Bangladesh signed an agreement on the allocation of water resources from the Kushiyara river, their shared boundary. This agreement marks the first instance of such a pact since the Ganga Waters Treaty of 1996. Both nations are participants in several regional trade agreements, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), the SAARC Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA), and the Agreement on the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). These accords establish the tariff systems that regulate international trade.

➤ Hasina's government will prioritize the Teesta issue. The matter concerns Teesta's water allocation, with Bangladesh advocating for a fair and just distribution. The Bangladeshi government has expressed its objective of facilitating the peaceful repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar; however, its negotiations with the military regime have thus far proven to be fruitless. Bangladesh is actively seeking India's collaboration to exert influence over Myanmar. However, the Modi administration, which maintains connections with the junta, maintains its commitment to expelling Rohingyas from its territory.

➤ Transnational terrorism and infiltration pose supplementary risks to domestic security. The emergence of majoritarian forces introduces an additional dimension to the intricate terrain. In recent years, there has been a rise in violence against Muslims in India. Prime Minister Hasina has taken a leading role in denouncing these attacks and expressing her dissatisfaction with remarks made by Indian officials regarding "illegal" immigrants. India expresses apprehension regarding the expanding bilateral ties between Bangladesh and China, which have been characterized by significant Chinese investments in infrastructure in recent times.

➤ In the area, India regards Bangladesh as a crucial ally. The India-Bangladesh border, spanning a distance of 4,096 kilometers, stands as the most extensive terrestrial barrier between India and its neighboring countries. India would seek to promote its interests through collaboration with the Awami League government, aligning with its 'Act East' policy aimed at mitigating China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region and fostering a harmonious and secure neighboring state. The alignment of foreign policy between the two states holds the potential for enhanced collaboration in both conventional and emerging domains, presenting an avenue for the resolution of unsolved disputes. Both nations are prepared to initiate negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) in order to strengthen their economic collaboration and stimulate investments.

CONCLUSION:

The bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh have exhibited a relatively amicable nature during the past 50 years. Following the establishment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, both nations made concerted efforts to enhance their bilateral relations. Currently, India considers Bangladesh to be a neighboring country, and Bangladesh plays a crucial role as a vital partner in India's policy of prioritizing neighboring nations. The establishment of amicable relations between India and Bangladesh has emerged as a contentious matter in both nations' domestic politics. The bilateral relationship will reach its golden jubilee in 2021.

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