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India-Bangladesh

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Recently, India and Bangladesh signed seven agreements and also inaugurated three projects to deepen their partnership.

Key Highlights



- **Seven Agreements** include:
 - The use of the **Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh** for movement of goods to and from India, particularly from Northeastern India.
 - Use of **Bangladesh's Feni river** for drinking water supply in Tripura.
 - However, **no progress** was reported on the long pending **Teesta water sharing agreement**.
 - Exchange of data and information to **prepare a framework of interim sharing agreements for six rivers** — Manu, Muhuri, Khowai and Gomati rivers of Tripura and Dharla river of Bangladesh and Dudhkumar river of West Bengal.
 - **Daudkanti (Bangladesh)-Sonamura (Tripura)** inland water trade route to be included under **Protocol of the Inland Water Transit and Trade**.
 - Consensus on lifting restrictions on entry and exit from land ports in India for Bangladeshi citizens travelling on valid documents.
 - Implementation of the Lines of Credit (LoCs) committed by India to Bangladesh.
- **Three bilateral development partnership projects** include:
 - Import of bulk Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Bangladesh
 - Inauguration of Vivekananda Bhaban (students hostel) at Ramakrishna Mission, Dhaka.
 - Inauguration of Bangladesh-India Professional Skill Development Institute (BIPSDI) at the Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB), Khulna, Bangladesh.
- Both sides noted the progress made in **finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Establishment of Coastal Surveillance Radar System** in Bangladesh.
 - India has provided such systems to Mauritius, Seychelles, Maldives and planning one in Myanmar.
 - The coastal surveillance system will pave way for Indo-Bangladesh White Shipping Agreement in future. This will be useful amid growing terror threats via seas and growing presence of China in the Bay of Bengal region.
- Both Leaders agreed to **early operationalization of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement** for movement of goods and passengers between the member countries who are willing and ready; or to work towards a bilateral **India-Bangladesh Motor Vehicles Agreement**, as appropriate.
- The leaders directed their officials to expedite **establishment of twelve Border Haats** which have been agreed to by both countries.
- A **feasibility study for the Ganga-Padma barrage project** to be conducted as part of an upgraded version of the **1996 Ganga Water Sharing treaty**.
- The Bangladesh Prime Minister **raised concerns over roll out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam**, an exercise carried to identify genuine Indian citizens living in Assam and weed out illegal Bangladeshis.

- The Bangladesh Prime Minister requested the Indian counterpart to use his “good relations” with the Myanmar government **to facilitate the return of all the refugees (Rohingyas)**, while appreciating the aid India has given to refugees in Bangladesh as well as 250 homes built for them in Myanmar.

Some Facts about the Relationship



- **India was one of the first countries** to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.
- **Defence Cooperation:** India and Bangladesh share the historical legacy of cooperation and support during the Liberation War of 1971. Various Joint exercises of **Army (Exercise Sampriti)** and **Navy (Exercise Milan)** take place between the two countries.
- **Border Management:** India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border, which is the with any of its neighbours. The **India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.
- **Cooperation over Rivers:** India and Bangladesh A bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) is 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 (April-March) stood at US \$ 9.21 bn and imports from Bangladesh for the same period stood at US \$ 1.22 bn.
- **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.**

Source: TH