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## INDIA – BANGLADESH RELATIONS

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "India – Bangladesh Relations". The topic "India – Bangladesh Relations" has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*About India – Bangladesh Relations?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS 2: International Relations*

*Current Key Issues Between India and Bangladesh?*

*Way forward?*

### **Why in the news:**

The 14th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bangladesh was recently held in New Delhi.

These meetings of the India-Bangladesh Joint Group of Customs play a pivotal role in promoting cooperation concerning customs-related issues and further improving the facilitation of trade across the borders.

### **Major Outcomes of the 14th Joint General Cooperation (JGC) Meeting were as follows:**

- **Expansion of Land Customs Stations:** The meeting focused on the establishment of new land customs stations, which play a vital role in facilitating cross-border trade.
- **Bilateral Agreement on Customs Cooperation:** Discussions explored the potential for a bilateral customs cooperation agreement, serving as a comprehensive framework for future collaborative efforts.
- **Easing Port Restrictions:** Deliberations centered on strategies to simplify port restrictions, enhancing overall port operational efficiency and reducing trade barriers.
- **Operationalization of ACMP:** India acknowledged Bangladesh's successful trial runs and subsequent notification for operationalizing the Agreement on Use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports, as agreed upon in the previous JGC meeting.
- **Electronic Connectivity of Transit Modules:** Talks were initiated about electronically connecting the transit modules of ACMP, representing a significant stride toward efficient digital collaboration.
- **Pre-Arrival Customs Data Exchange:** Both sides engaged in discussions concerning the exchange of customs data before the arrival of goods. This initiative aims to expedite customs clearance by enabling authorities to prepare in advance.

### **About India – Bangladesh Relations:**

- India was the first to recognize Bangladesh as a separate nation after its independence in December 1971 and established diplomatic relations right away.
- The bond between India and Bangladesh is based on shared civilization, culture, society, and economy.
- Bangladesh's location as India's eastern neighbor holds great strategic importance.
- This location provides India with access to the Bay of Bengal and a vital trade route to Southeast Asia.

### **Economic Partnership:**

- Bangladesh stands as India's biggest trading partner in South Asia. Notably, India's exports to Bangladesh reached USD 8 billion between April and November 2022.
- India streamlined the movement of goods from its Inland Container Depots (ICDs) to Bangladesh using inland waterways.
- Additionally, a smoother process was established for transporting containerized exports from Bangladesh to other countries via India. This enhancement strengthens trade routes and brings forth new opportunities for moving goods.
- Since 2011, India has granted Bangladesh duty-free and quota-free access for all tariff categories, except for tobacco and alcohol, under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement.
- A noteworthy step occurred in July 2023 when Bangladesh and India initiated trade transactions using their own currencies. This move aims to reduce reliance on the US dollar, fostering stronger regional trade ties and currency dynamics.

### **Defense Collaboration:**

- India and Bangladesh share a border that stretches for 4096.7 km, making it India's longest land boundary with any neighboring country.
- The states of Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura have shared borders with Bangladesh.
- Joint military exercises, namely Exercise Sampriti (Army) and Exercise Bongosagar (Navy), are conducted by the two nations.

### **Energy and Connectivity:**

- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, connecting Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh, is designed to transport one million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel into Bangladesh.
- Collaborative efforts extend to cross-border infrastructure projects like the Akhaura-Agartala rail link and Maitri Setu.

### **Multilateral Partnership:**

- India and Bangladesh actively participate in regional collaboration through multilateral platforms like SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).



**Current Key Issues Between India and Bangladesh:**

**Transboundary River Waters Sharing:**

- India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers, but only two treaties have been established: the Ganga Waters Treaty and The Kushiyara River Treaty.

- Negotiations are ongoing for major rivers like Teesta and Feni, leading to unresolved water-sharing disputes.

#### **Illegal Migration:**

- The challenge of illegal migration from Bangladesh to India involves refugees and economic migrants. This issue strains Indian border states, impacting resources and security, exacerbated by Rohingya refugees entering India via Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh has concerns regarding India's National Register of Citizens (NRC) as it could affect bilateral relations.

#### **Drug Smuggling & Trafficking:**

- Cross-border incidents of drug smuggling and trafficking are a significant concern.
- The borders are used for trafficking humans, especially women and children, and for poaching various animal and bird species.

#### **Chinese Influence in Bangladesh:**

- Bangladesh's active participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) contrasts with India's non-involvement.
- China's increasing presence in Bangladesh has the potential to challenge India's regional influence and strategic goals.

#### **Way forward:**

##### **Collaborative Law Enforcement Teams:**

- Establishing joint task forces with representatives from law enforcement agencies in both nations is essential.
- Such teams can effectively counter cross-border drug smuggling and human trafficking by sharing information and executing synchronized operations.

##### **Smart Border Management Approach:**

- Embrace smart border management strategies employing artificial intelligence and data analytics.
- This approach harmonizes cross-border movements, guaranteeing both security and efficiency.

##### **Creation of Digital Connectivity Corridor:**

- Paving the way for a digital connectivity corridor linking the two countries is crucial.
- Concentrate on robust high-speed internet connections, digital services, and e-commerce platforms.
- This initiative can foster fresh channels for trade, collaboration, and the exchange of technological advancements.

**SOURCE:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1951118>

#### **Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding India - Bangladesh Relations:**

1. Rohingyas are indigenous people of Bangladesh who cross illegally into the Indian states.
2. India - Bangladesh are cooperating in preparing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in India.

#### **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

(a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: D**

**Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding India – Bangladesh Relations:**

1. Water sharing treaties have been signed for major rivers like Teesta and Feni.
2. Water sharing treaties have been signed for only two rivers between India & Bangladesh.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.3 Discuss the evolving dynamics of the relationship between India and Bangladesh, focusing on key areas of cooperation and existing challenges.**

**Rishabh**

## ISRO'S SATELLITE PROGRAMMES

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "ISRO's Satellite Programmes". The topic "ISRO's Satellite Programmes" has relevance in the "Science and Technology" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*What are different Satellite Programmes by ISRO?*

**For Mains:**

*GS3: Science and Technology*

*Awareness in Space Technology*

**Why in the news?**

The Chandrayaan-3 lander achieved a historic soft landing near the lunar south pole, marking India as the fourth nation to land on the Moon after the US, Soviet Union, and China. This success highlights ISRO's remarkable achievements, including satellite, launch vehicle, and planetary exploration milestones. Let's delve into Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s significant milestones through its satellite programs:

**ISRO's Satellite Programmes**

**Aryabhata Satellite (1975)**

- India's entry into the space era was marked by the launch of the Aryabhata satellite on April 19, 1975.
- Weighing 360 kg, the satellite was designed by ISRO to conduct experiments in X-ray astronomy, aeronomics, and solar physics.

- It was named after the mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata. The satellite was launched from the Soviet Union on the Kosmos 3M rocket.
- Despite losing power after five days, Aryabhata laid the foundation for India's space program.

### **Bhaskar-1 and Bhaskar-2 Satellites (1979, 1981)**

- Following Aryabhata, two experimental remote-sensing satellites, Bhaskar-1 (1979) and Bhaskar-2 (1981), were launched. These satellites were instrumental in establishing the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellite system.
- The IRS system included Earth Observation spacecraft equipped with cameras like LISS-I and LISS-II, providing imagery for applications such as agriculture, forestry, geology, and disaster management.

### **Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) program (Since 1988)**

- The Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) program is a series of Earth observation satellites developed and operated by ISRO. The program began in 1988 with the launch of IRS-1A and has 11 operational satellites.
- The IRS satellites are equipped with a variety of sensors, including cameras, radars, and multispectral scanners. The sensors collect data on the Earth's surface, which is then processed and used to create maps, charts, and other products.

### **Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE) Satellite (1981)**

- The Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE) was India's first indigenously built communication satellite. It was launched on June 19, 1981, by an Ariane rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. The 672 kg satellite carried a single C-band transponder and was placed in a geosynchronous orbit at 102° East longitude.
- The APPLE satellite was used to conduct experiments in telecommunications, including relaying TV programs and radio networking. It also helped ISRO to gain valuable experience in designing and operating geosynchronous satellites. The satellite was deactivated on September 19, 1983.

### **INSAT Series (Starting from 1992)**

- The INSAT series of satellites is a constellation of geosynchronous satellites operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The first INSAT satellite, INSAT-1A, was launched in 1982. The INSAT series is used for a variety of purposes, including telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, and search and rescue.
- The INSAT-2 series of satellites was launched from 1992 to 1999. These satellites were the first to be built entirely in India. They had a number of improvements over the earlier INSAT satellites, including more powerful transponders and a wider range of applications.
- The INSAT-3 series of satellites was launched from 2002 to 2004. These satellites were even more advanced than the INSAT-2 series. They had better imaging capabilities and could provide more reliable services.
- The INSAT-4 series of satellites is currently being launched. These satellites are the most advanced in the INSAT series.

### **KALPANA-1 Satellite (2002)**

- The KALPANA-1 satellite was a major milestone in India's space program. It was the first dedicated meteorological satellite launched by India and it helped to improve the country's understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and climate.

- The KALPANA-1 satellite was used to provide weather forecasts and warnings, monitor natural disasters, and study the Earth's atmosphere. It also helped to improve the understanding of climate change. The satellite was decommissioned in 2018.

**Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) / NavIC (2013)**

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), also known as NavIC, is an autonomous regional navigation satellite system developed by the ISRO.
- The system consists of seven satellites in geosynchronous orbit, providing accurate position information service to users in India and the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
- IRNSS was launched in phases, with the first satellite, IRNSS-1A, being launched in July 2013. The full constellation of seven satellites was completed in April 2016.

ISRO's Satellite Programme	
1970s:	1975: Launch of Aryabhata satellite, marking India's entry into the space era.
1980s:	1979-1981: Launch of Bhaskar-1 and Bhaskar-2 satellites, establishing the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) program.
	1981: Launch of Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE) satellite, India's first indigenously built communication satellite.
1990s:	1992-2004: Launch of the INSAT series of satellites for telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, and search and rescue.
2000s	2002: Launch of KALPANA-1 satellite, India's first dedicated meteorological satellite.
2010s:	2013: Launch of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) - IRNSS-1A.
	2016: Completion of the IRNSS constellation with seven satellites, now known as NavIC, providing navigation services in India and the region.
	2021: Launch of EOS-01, an Earth observation satellite.

**Benefits of India's Satellite Program:**

**Communication:**

- India's satellite program has played a vital role in providing telecommunications services to millions of people across India. The INSAT series of satellites, for example, provides television and radio broadcasting, telephone connectivity, and data services to remote areas of the country.
- This has helped to improve access to information and communication, which is essential for education, economic development, and disaster management.

**Remote sensing:**

- ISRO's Earth observation satellites have been used to map the country's resources, monitor environmental changes, and track natural disasters.
- This information has been used to improve agricultural productivity, manage water resources, and plan for disaster mitigation. It has helped to protect the environment and mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

**Navigation:**

- ISRO's IRNSS navigation system provides accurate positioning information to users in India and the region.
- This has been used for a variety of applications, such as navigation for vehicles, ships, and aircraft, and for providing timing information for telecommunications and banking.
- This has helped to improve transportation safety and efficiency, and to facilitate financial transactions.

**Economic development:**

- India's satellite program has helped to boost the country's economy by providing telecommunications, remote sensing, and navigation services to businesses and industries.
- This has helped to improve efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness.

**National security:**

- India's satellite program has also been used for national security purposes, such as monitoring borders and tracking illegal activities.
- This has helped to protect the country from external threats and internal security challenges.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has undoubtedly carved an illustrious path in India's journey of development and progress. From its initial milestone with the Aryabhata satellite to achieving a soft landing near the lunar south pole with Chandrayaan-3, ISRO's achievements in satellite programs have been monumental. As India continues to aspire towards greater heights, ISRO's contributions stand as a beacon of inspiration and a testament to the remarkable synergy of technology, determination, and national pride.

**Sources:**

[As Chandrayaan-3 lands on the Moon, the history of ISRO's remarkable space voyage](#)

**Q1. With reference to INSAT series, consider the following statements:**

1. The INSAT series of satellites, managed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), comprises sun-synchronous satellites.
2. These satellites play a crucial role in delivering precise position information services to users within India and the surrounding region.
3. The INSAT satellite series also facilitates the transmission of television and radio broadcasts, telephone connectivity, and data services to geographically distant regions within the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None



**Answer: (c)**

**Q2. Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Satellites</b>	<b>Major Applications</b>
1. Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) program	Position information services
2. INSAT Series	Telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology, and search and rescue.
3. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System	Agriculture, forestry, geology, and disaster management.

How many of the abovementioned pairs are correctly matched ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q3. In the context of recent achievements like Chandrayaan-3, discuss the key milestones and contributions of ISRO's satellite programs towards India's economic development.**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**