



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

International Organization the BIMSTEC and INDIA-BANGLADESH Relations

SHASHIKANT KUMAR PRIYADARSHI

Research Scholar

Political Science Department

Veer Kunwar Singh University Ara Bihar

Abstract

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is regional Organization will be hosted by Sri Lanka, the current BIMSTEC chair. Founded in 1997, the seven member BIMSTEC, which includes the littoral states of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Thailand is a member too) and the land-locked states of Nepal and Bhutan, has identified 14 pillars for special focus. These are trade and investment, transport and communication, energy, tourism, technology, fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter terrorism and transnational crime, environment and disaster management, people-to-people contact, cultural cooperation and climate change. While each sector is important, the segmented approach has resulted in omnibus end summit communiqués full of aspirations rather than action. A Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue (BOBMD) organized recently by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Pathfinder Foundation brought together government officials, maritime experts, and representatives of prominent think tanks from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia.

Keywords: BIMSTEC, 14 Pillars, Cultural, Political, BOBMD, Cooperation, Heritage.

Introduction : Indo-Bangladesh have common heritage, linguistic and cultural, racial affinities, economic and political history people of Bangladesh and Indian state's like West Bengal and Tripura common language. Indo-Bangladesh common History Struggle of freedom against British Rule. Both state's fraternal and familial feelings that leading towards wide ranging people to people contact and Interactions. After Independence of Bangladesh full support and friendly relation.

First country of India recognition Bangladesh and many country recognitions at International level due to support of India. India play's vital role formation of Bangladesh. The foreign policy of state promote, protect National Interest, priorities may vary from government to government. India's foreign policy preference Bilateral and its neighborhood state. The role of India formation of Bangladesh shaped its foreign policy in the initial. In 1972 India and Bangladesh signed the 1972 treaty of peace and friendship agreement. But this treaty not achieved full potential because many Internal political up and down.

Therefore the relation Indo-Bangladesh suffered many up and down. Indo-Bangladesh relations many up and down conflict and cooperation although India played major role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Both states have mutual relevance and significance for myriad interests. As the big brother and largest biggest Democracy and regional superpower India many responsibilities and contribute too much to the strengthening of India-Bangladesh relations. Both State's have great capacity to build up the relations of cooperation. Indo-Bangladesh relations rise up many significance for the whole subcontinent and Indian Ocean. Both the states trying to mutual cooperation.

Founded in 1997, the seven member BIMSTEC, which includes the littoral states of India Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Thailand is a member too) and the land-locked states of Nepal and Bhutan, has identified 14 pillars. These are trade and investment, transport and communication, energy, tourism, technology, fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter terrorism and transnational crime, environment and disaster management, people-to-people contact, cultural cooperation and climate change. While each sector is important, the segmented approach has resulted in omnibus end summit communiqués full of aspirations rather than action. The upcoming summit is an opportunity for BIMSTEC leaders to go beyond generalised statements and take concrete steps to address critical challenges confronting the region.

A Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue (BOBMD) organised recently by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Pathfinder Foundation brought together government officials, maritime experts, and representatives of prominent think tanks from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia. Participants called for stepped up efforts in areas such as environmental protection; scientific research; curtailing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as the development of standard operating procedures that could govern interaction between fishing vessels of one country with maritime law enforcement agencies of another.

In Bangladesh has after indulged in anti-India activities, many factors like political and Chinases and Pakistan factors, sometimes religious, such types of work stagnation in relations various reasons also border problems and several many issues. Indo-Bangladesh both states, the most important issues for India Security related issues, arms trafficking, movement of people, transit and tripartite gas pipeline and also important issues sharing of water of the joint rivers, river projects, trade and commerce, smuggling etc. relations of Indo-Bangladesh is very importance India's Security and prosperity cannot be overestimated. The challenge before the both state's is how to make bilateral relations irrevocably friendly.

Need for regional interaction: The blue economy potential of the Bay of Bengal is huge. There are many opportunities to develop maritime trade, shipping, aquaculture and tourism. However, tapping these opportunities requires coordinated and concerted action by governments, scientists and other experts. The BIMSTEC Summit must create a new regional mechanism for coordinated activities on maritime issues of a transboundary nature. This mechanism must initiate urgent measures to strengthen fisheries management, promote sustainable fishing methods, establish protected areas and develop frameworks to prevent and manage pollution, especially industrial and agricultural waste as well as oil spills. There is also a need for greater scientific research on the impact of climate change in general and on fisheries in particular. At present, there is limited cooperation between countries of the region in marine research. Most BIMSTEC countries have premier institutions and excellent scientists but their interaction with the West is far more than within the region. The use of modern technology and improved fishing practices can go a long way in restoring the health of the Bay.

This should be a priority area: Marine environmental protection must become a priority area for cooperation in the Bay of Bengal. Enforcement must be strengthened and information shared on best practices. Regional protocols need to be developed and guidelines and standards on pollution control established. Decision-making must be based on science and reliable data, information and tools.

There is a need for home--grown solutions based on capabilities of local institutions and for mutual learning through regional success stories. There is a need to create regional frameworks for data collection. Participatory approaches must be evolved for near-real-time stock assessment and the creation of an regional open fisheries data alliance. The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP), an inter-governmental organisation based in Chennai, is doing good work to promote sustainable fishing. A Bay Of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project is also being launched by the FAO with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and others. The BIMSTEC summit must express full support for both BOBP and BOBLME. The summit must mandate officials to come up with measures to curtail unsustainable as well as IUU fishing. These could include setting up an international vessel tracking system and making it mandatory for vessels to be equipped with automatic identification system (AIS) trackers; establishing a regional fishing vessel registry system and publishing vessel licence lists to help identify illegal vessels; increasing monitoring, control and surveillance in IUU fishing hotspots; establishing regional guidelines on how to deter and prevent IUU practices; improving the implementation of joint regional patrols, and regional fishing moratoriums and outreach fishing moratoriums and outreach states must be harmonised and the humanitarian treatment of fishermen ensured during any encounter with maritime law enforcement agencies.

The fifth summit of the now 25-year-old Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) hosted by Sri Lanka, was held on Wednesday, March 30, in a hybrid fashion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who attended the summit virtually, called for unity and cooperation in the region as it faces economic and health challenges. He also announced the adoption of the organisation's institutional architecture- the BIMSTEC charter. the aim of setting up the regional grouping was not to create a new region for cooperation but to revive the connectivity and common interests of the members of the Bay of Bengal region. BIMSTEC's first Secretary General, Sumith Nakandala, echoed this when he had said, "we are not reinventing the wheel" but just "rediscovering the common heritage around the Bay of Bengal." BIMSTEC,

“the regional group constitutes a bridge between South and South East Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries.” What makes BIMSTEC different from other regional groupings such as SAARC or ASEAN is that it is a sector-driven organisation. This means the goals or areas of cooperation are divided between members, for instance, out of the multiple sectors like trade, energy, transport, fishery, security, culture, tourism and so on, India was made responsible for areas like transportation, tourism and Counter-Terrorism earlier. BIMSTEC did not have a formal document or organisational architecture, which was adopted this time in the form of the BIMSTEC Charter.

The BIMSTEC region hosts 22% of the world population or 1.68 billion people; and the member states have a combined GDP of US\$3.697 trillion/per year. For India, BIMSTEC aligns with its ‘Act East’ policy for greater regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. It could also be seen as aligning with India’s larger goal to gain trade and security prominence in the Indian Ocean region and to cater to the concept of the ‘Indo-Pacific’ region, a major focus of Quad countries.

India in becoming a prominent leader in the Bay and maintaining peace and security, is China making inroads in the Indian Ocean Region over the years. Besides, China today is involved in a widespread drive to build infrastructure in South and Southeast Asian countries, it has projects under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in all BIMSTEC members except India and Bhutan. In this context, India also made efforts to enhance the pace of BIMSTEC’s progress in recent years. The BIMSTEC Energy Centre was set up in Bengaluru, along with the BIMSTEC Business Council, a forum for business organisations to promote regional trade. It aims to create free-trade and power grid interconnectivity agreements, and a masterplan for transport connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region (adopted at the current summit). BIMSTEC is important owing to the land and maritime trade potential of the member countries.

Conclusion: The challenges that confront the Bay of Bengal region brook no more delay. BIMSTEC must arise, awake and act before it is too late. The summit must set in process regular meetings of officials, supported by scientists and experts, to tackle illegal and unsustainable fishing as well as prevent the further environmental degradation of the Bay of Bengal. BIMSTEC connects India’s northeast with BIMSTEC countries and act as a platform to realize India’s Neighbourhood First Policy and Act East Policy. The

cooperation enables economic development in the region, removing its isolated nature and address the issues faced by the region and also provides better connectivity. India boosts the education cooperation by providing scholarships to BIMSTEC member countries and enhances the people-to-people linkages through heritage and culture. The India- Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway which is under talks to extend it further to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Corridor and the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative are the focus areas of BIMSTEC. The connectivity and mutual development in the region are also enhanced through cooperation in the maritime area by connecting inland waterways providing access to landlocked states, facilitating movements of resources and also ensures the security by integrating the coastal guards of the states concerned. Furthermore, when the connectivity and trade relations with ASEAN and SAARC increase, BIMSTEC also reaps the benefits as members like Thailand and Myanmar are common members of these organizations.

References:

- The Hindu
- Indian Express
- <http://mea.gov.in>
- <http://idsa.in>
- <http://en.n.wikipedia.org>
- Press information Bureau Government of India.
- Dahiya, Rumel and Behuria India's Neighbourhood : Challenges in the Next Two Decades, Published by Pentagon Security International New Delhi.
- International Relations : U R Ghai.