INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD:
A STUDY OF CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

INTRODUCTION

The political, economic and social landscape in India’s immediate neighborhood has changed significantly since the end of the Cold War. A power transition is underway in the global order. The bipolar world has given way to a non-polar world in which several new powers have emerged. The centre of gravity of power is shifting towards the Asia-Pacific. The traditional concept of national security is being broadened gradually to include human security concerns. Non-military issues like climate change, energy security, competition for scarce resources, food and water security, pandemics, migrations, etc., are getting securitized. Globalization, driven by technology, has created an unprecedented situation where borders are losing their relevance. People are able to connect with each other more easily and more quickly. At the same time, globalization has also fostered the assertion of ethnic and linguistic identities. These massive changes, which are likely to further accelerate in the next 20 years, have also affected India and its neighborhood (Dahiya and Behuria 2012:21).

The right way to collective prosperity for the nations is to organize themselves into multilateral cooperative mechanisms to get their common goals of peace and prosperity realized. Regional groupings found virtue in associating themselves with extra-regional powers chiefly to benefit by their expertise and economic prowess and this gains currency at a time, when the economic landscape of the world is swept by globalization. Transition from a unipolar world to a multi-polar world characterizes the geopolitics of the post-Cold War period. As the region’s premier country, India took the lead to improve bilateral ties with the states of the region, and this augurs well for promoting peace, security and development of South Asia (Chetty 2012:86). Bilateralism consists of the political, economic, or cultural relations between two sovereign states. For example, free trade agreements signed by two states are examples of bilateral treaties. It is in contrast to unilateralism or multilateralism, which refers to the conduct of diplomacy by a single state or multiple states, respectively. Typically when states recognize one another as
sovereign states and agree to develop diplomatic relations, they exchange diplomatic agents such as ambassadors to facilitate dialogues and cooperation in various fields mentioned (Canada country brief, September 2010). The foreign policy of a country seeks to promote and protest its core national interest, even though priorities may vary from government to government. The bilateral approach to deal with terrorism, however will triumph given the mutuality of concern. The two countries have adopted a bilateral regional and multilateral framework to address the security challenges that they face (Pattanaik, 2011:205).

The Cold War impacted the Indo-Bangladesh relations in the post-Mujib era up to the end of the Cold War (1975-1990) – Russia and the West (and its Arab allies) favored India and Bangladesh, respectively – the emergence of the “Neo Cold War” between America and China (and its clients in the Muslim World) is fast polarizing the Muslim and the Western worlds. America’s promoting India as a bulwark against China – and against Pakistan in the long run – has direct bearings on the Indo-Bangladesh relationship. America wants a pro-Indian government in Bangladesh to bring the latter closer to India. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has also become a terrain of the Indo-Pakistan proxy war. While Pakistan has been keen on promoting Bangladesh as a destabilizing factor for India by its surreptitious support of Indian dissidents and insurgents, Bangladesh under “pro-Pakistani” BNP (Bangladesh National Party)-Jamaat coalition government responded favorably to Pakistan against India, the “common enemy”.

In the historic terms and contemporary geo-strategic realities of the post-War world, India has always understood the importance of the Indian Ocean in its economic and security calculus. The world had also done as much, yet until the end of the Cold War, no one really gave it much thought and started talking in terms of energy security and the Indian Ocean sea-lines. In the post-Cold War era, efforts have been made to paint India as an emerging global power, as much in strategic terms as in economic terms (Moorthy, 2012:145). The changing nature of security in the post-Cold War era may necessitate a different Indian approach to regional security, which can be translated into meaningful strategy only with cooperation from its neighbors. Therefore, it is pertinent to study the perceptions of Indian security and external policies in its neighborhood (Pattanaik 2011:73)
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

India and Bangladesh have common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, racial affinities, common economic and political history. The population of Bangladesh and India's states such as West Bengal and Tripura speak common language. Both the states share common history of freedom struggle against British rule and have fraternal and familial feelings that leading towards wide ranging people to people contacts and interactions. After independence, Indian policy for Bangladesh was very friendly and it tried to give full support. Bangladesh got recognition from many countries at international level just because of India’s support. The foreign policy of a country seeks to promote and protect its core national interest, even though priorities may vary from government to governments. It has argued that India’s preference for a bilateral framework in its neighborhood policy is seen as a means to dominate the weaker country (Dixit, 2001:99).

The role of India in the creation of Bangladesh shaped its foreign policy in the initial years. In 1972, India and Bangladesh had signed the 1972 Treaty of Peace and Friendship. However, this treaty could not achieve its full potential because of tumultuous internal political developments. After Sheikh-Mujib-Ur Rahman’s assassination, the relationship between India and Bangladesh suffered a setback. In the subsequent years, there had been a marked difference in the approaches of the two leading political parties towards India and Pakistan and colored by their respective vision of Bangladeshi nation-state (IDSA2011:15).

India and Bangladesh have fluctuating relations both of conflict and cooperation even though India played major role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Both states have mutual significance for myriad interests. As the largest democracy and regional super power, India can contribute too much to the strengthening of Indo-Bangladesh relations. India has great ability to create an environment of goodwill and friendship between the two countries. The rise of Bangladesh as a nation state is a development of great significance for the whole subcontinent. It is essential for each country to develop international friendship with other country. India and Bangladesh are both trying pursuing this policy. Both the states are neither close nor free from disputes and confrontations. It has been observed that Bangladesh has often indulged in anti-India activities. This stagnation in relations is held because of variety of reasons; border problems, as well as a general feeling on both sides that several important issues are not being given the importance they deserve. In bilateral relations between two states, the most important
issues for India are security-related issues, such as arms trafficking, movement of people, transit, and the tripartite gas pipeline, whereas the most important issues for Bangladeshi are sharing of the waters of the joint rivers and the river linking project, trade, and a variety of border-related concerns, including smuggling (Sobhan, 2012:2).

Bangladesh’s importance for India’s security and prosperity cannot be overestimated. The challenge before the two countries is how to make bilateral relations irrevocably friendly. Both sides are conscious that visible progress will be necessary to end deep rooted cynicism that exists in bilateral relations between two. The cynicism may have been reduced but it has not entirely gone away. Both the states have mistrust and have grievances against each other for their respective national interests and the most importantly both are concerned for the security. India’s dominating behavior and Bangladesh’s indulging in anti-India activities has put both the states in face to face skirmishes.

Issues of Conflicts: There are several bilateral, sub-regional and global issues hindering the onset of normal relationship between the two neighbors.

Conflicts on Border and land

Land Border issues: The border between India and Bangladesh is unique, in that cuts across cultivated fields and barren lands, hills, tropical and rain forests, marshy patches, rivers, canals and ponds. India and Bangladesh share almost 4,096 km of land border; of which 6.5 km of land along the Comilla-Tripura border is officially considered disputed. An agreement was signed by the presidents of the two countries in 1972 which was not ratified by India and hence could not be put into effect. Thus, there are acute problem of managing it, with ethnic affinity amongst people cutting across the border.

Teen Bigha Corridor: Bangladesh faced the problem of connectivity of her enclave of Dahgram –Angorpotha as these could only be approached through Indian territories. India agreed to give a land corridor measuring 178m x 85m to Bangladesh perpetual lease. Thus, on June 26 1992 under an agreement India allowed Bangladesh use of Teen Bigha corridor, with certain restrictions. The locals were allowed normal movement
between sunrise and sunset only the same is in case with Indian enclaves under Bangladesh (Times magazine, 15 Feb, 2009).

**Border Fencing:** In mid 1998 India started ‘project fencing’ around Bangladesh on west Bengal and Assam boundaries to check infiltration. Some concrete pillars were constructed and objected by Bangladesh resulting in firing across the international border. Fencing has been stopped but tension still exists due to persistent demand by people in Assam to speed up to the project (Ghoshal 2001:644).

**Berubari Case:** In 1947 and then in 1974, the village was divided into two parts, as the police record were not updated. Northern portion went to Bangladesh connected with mainland, and the Southern to India not connecting to the main territory–case similar to Dhahgram-Angalpotha. it was agreed to by the two countries that in exchange for Teen Bigha Corridor, Bangladesh will vacate North Berubari and hand it over to India to allow connectivity. India, while allowing Teen Bigha Corridor placed certain restrictions on the villagers of Bangladesh due to security implications. These restrictions however are a cause for suffering for people living there.

**New Moore Island:** In the wake of under-sea volcanic activity in 1970, a “char” (island) of 2 km had between the estuary of river Haribhaga and Rainmongal, in the Bay of Bangal. As it was 5nm off the Ganga delta from the coastline of Bangladesh and 2nm off India’s coastline, India the island on the basis that the flow of the Haribangha is to the last of the island, and the island lies on the natural prolongation of the India’s territory (Bammi, 2010:137).

**Conflicts on Natural Resources**

**Water Concerns:** Bangladesh is heavily dependent on India for the flow of the 54 river the two countries share. Bangladesh has complained that its share of river waters, in comparison with India’s remains unfair. the construction by India of the Farraka Barrage—a low dam in West Bengal province designed to increase water supply in the Hoogli river—was a major bone of contention between the two countries. India has built a feeder canal at Farakka where the Ganga divided into two branches; this has allowed
India to control the flow of Ganga water by re-channeling it on the Indian side of the river. This dispute was resolved in 1996 with the mutual signing of a 30-year water sharing agreement for the Ganges. This happened after earlier short-term agreement that lapsed (Pant, 2011:88)

**India-Bangladesh Trade Issue:** Organized trade between the two countries follows the bilateral agreement as well as the regional agreement under SAARC and BIMSTEC. There is also “un-structured trade” whose volume is nearly equal to the structured (Datta, 2012:22)

**Transit Route Through Bangladesh To North East India:** India having played a very vital role in the liberation of Bangladesh, India had hoped that Dhaka would allow not only transit routs through her rivers and routs through her river and roads, but also allow the use of Chittagong Port to land-locked North East. However, Bangladesh never appeared willing to concede anything to India. Dhaka feels that their infrastructure is not adequate to handle the additional traffic. Seeing negative attitude of Bangladesh, India has decided to develop the port of Swette in Myanmar for trade by the Northeast and is developing the river for transportation from Mizoram.

**Gas Pipeline From Myanmar:** India had contracted to buy gas from Myanmar for supplying to her North Eastern states. As transportation by sea or road would have been costly both the countries proposed laying of a pipeline through Bangladesh. This was initially agreed to as a tri-national project which was a win-win situation for all three countries. Due to political reasons Bangladesh has withdrawn from the project, leaving both India and Myanmar to find alternative methods on their own (Bammi, 2010:145-153).

**Conflicts on Security**

**Shelter to Indian Insurgents:** There is a legacy inherited by Bangladesh from Pakistan which had provided training camps, logistic support and transit facilities to insurgents of Nagaland and Maizoram. India was confident that after her birth, Bangladesh will not allow any anti-India activity to take place from her territory. while initially Bangladesh did live up to her promise, change of political leadership and reemergence of Pakistan’s
influence, however, saw the Indian insurgent Group again taking shelter across the border in Bangladesh (Bammi, 2010:139).

**Problems Affecting Both the Countries:** Besides irritants between India and Bangladesh, there are a few problems which affect both the countries. These related to smuggling and Islamic fundamentalism (Pant 2011:88)

**Conflicts on Migration**

**Illegal Immigrants:** Illegal Immigrants from Bangladesh is one of the most important facets border management – a challenge being faced by India since 1971. Besides Assam and West Bengal also sneak into Tripura, while Mizoram are used as transit routes for smuggling of narcotics, arms and drugs (Pant, 2011:89).

India is apprehensive of the influx of illegal immigrants, Islamist terrorists and Muslim protagonists of “Greater Bangladesh” from Bangladesh to destabilize the Northeast and West Bengal. Bangladesh is also worried about the long-term design of India-based Bengali Hindu extremists who want to carve out several south western Bangladeshi districts to create the so-called *Swadhin Bangabhumi* (Free Bengali Land) to settle Hindu Bengali refugees (and their descendants) who left Bangladesh for India during the last sixty-odd years. Many Bangladeshis are apprehensive of another unlikely event, Indian annexation of their country, very similar to what happened to Hyderabad, Kashmir, Goa and Sikkim, which could lead to the return of millions of Hindu Bengali refugees and their descendants to Bangladesh to reclaim their abandoned (or sold at nominal prices) and stolen properties from their present Bangladeshi Muslim owners. Bangladeshis also do not want to compete with the better-educated Hindu Indians in the not-so-competitive job market in Bangladesh, which they apprehend would be the outcome of the Indian annexation of their impoverished and over-populated country. The outflow of the illegal immigrants from the border districts of Bangladesh where the land-man ratio is gradually becoming untenable for the sustenance of the landless poor. The issue of illegal migration is highly emotive and sensitive in Bangladesh and all governments have regularly denied the existence of the phenomenon. Although this has often been flagged in the meetings between border officials, Bangladesh finds it difficult to accept the fact that its citizens are illegally crossing over into India in search of livelihood. The steady flow of Bangladeshis into
India in search of livelihood had initially resulted in demographic changes in the bordering states of West Bengal and the Northeastern states of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya. But gradually, this phenomenon transformed into a much larger social problem in the far corners of India, as Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, etc. Climate change, lack of new agricultural techniques leading to low levels of food production, and inability to use water resources efficiently will mean that larger numbers will seek employment opportunities outside, mainly in India (Datta, 2012:21).

**Bilateral Co-Operation**

A careful examination of Indo-Bangladesh relations in the last twenty years reveals that bilateral relationship progressed significantly under the Awami League governments whereas the BNP (Bangladesh National Party) government differed on virtually all bilateral issues. India-Bangladesh relations have had a chequered past, essentially due to frequent changes in the political dispensation in Bangladesh and compounded by, what some commentators insist, “benign neglect” by India. India’s preoccupation with its western and northern neighbours, polarization in political and popular opinions within Bangladesh on relations with India, presumption and perception within Bangladesh about India’s “intentions”, unhappiness – on both sides – on the issue of water sharing, illegal migration, etc. further vitiated the atmosphere.

**Ganga Water Accord:** In 1996, the Awami League government signed the landmark Ganges Water Treaty and the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord with India. The former, to a large extent, resolved a nagging problem between the two countries. Sheikh Hasina was convinced that resolution of the water issue would help the two countries consolidate their bilateral relations in a meaningful manner (Pattanaik, 2011:383).

**Protocol for Cooperation of Passenger Bus Service Between Dhaka - Kolkata and Dhaka-Agartala:** Bilateral trade promotion agreement and, most importantly, addressing the security concerns of neighbors. During the Foreign Secretary level consultation in Delhi in June 2005, Bangladesh side proposed the consideration of new bus route such as Dhaka – Guwahati.
**Teen Bigha Corridor Agreement**  India had shown considerable flexibility on Teen Bigha corridor issue in 2001, agreeing to open the corridor for the citizens of Bangladesh for 12 hours. During Manmohan Singh’s visit, India also agreed to keep the Tin Bigha corridor, which connects Dahagram and Angorporta enclaves with mainland Bangladesh, open for 24 hours, thereby removing a longstanding irritant in Bangladesh-India relations. Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the opening of the corridor round-the-clock in October 2011 (Bhardwaj 2011: 38).

**Border Disputes Agreement**  Border disputes along the Feni river in Tripura was settled by the two government in May 2007, when India agreed to transfer 35 acre of land Koilermukh – Ramgarh region along the international border in Tripura. In an expression of cooperation, Bangladesh also handed over top leaders of ULFA to Indian security forces in August 2008.

**Technical Cooperation**  India has offered 100 slots courses under ITEC and 35 slots under a technical cooperation scheme under Colombo plan every year to Bangladesh. It is very welcome looking fact that during the year 2006-07 to 2009-10, total 414 participants from Bangladesh have undergoing training in India under ITEC programme and technical cooperation scheme under Colombo plan (Bhardwaj, 2011: 40).

**Teesta Water Agreement**  The prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by a 123 member visited India from January 10-13, 2010 and exchange draft agreement on Teesta water sharing issue with India. After the agreement, Teesta water would provide big support to agriculture production in the North –West region of Bangladesh. On 10th January 2010, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was also conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development (Kumar, 2011: 7).

**MOU Agreement**  During the Indian Prime Minister visit to Dhaka in 2011, a number of memorandums of understanding were signed in a bid to institutionalize cooperation.
between Bangladesh and India on the said areas. Dhaka –Kolkata passenger train named as “Maitree Express” was commissioned on 14 April 2008 (Sharma, 2011:1.164).

**Land Boundary Agreement** Manmohan Singh visited Dhaka in early September 2011. During Singh's visit, a protocol to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement was signed ‘to address all outstanding land boundary issues and provide a final settlement to the India-Bangladesh boundary.’ It noted the outstanding issues as follows: (i) undemarcated land boundaries in three sectors viz. Daikhata-56 (West Bengal), Muhuri River-Belonia (Tripura) and Dumabari (Assam); (ii) enclaves; and (iii) adverse possessions. Besides, the exchange of adversely possessed lands along the Bangladesh-India border in Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, and West Bengal and 162 enclaves - 111 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves inside India - were finalized at the time of the prime ministers' meeting.

**JVA Agreement** The power sector cooperation between Bangladesh and India has witnessed steady progress. Bangladesh and India are in negotiations to ink a power purchase agreement for the purchase of 250MW electricity from India to Bangladesh. A joint Venture Agreement (JVA) was signed in January 2012 between two countries for 1,320MW coal fired power plant in Bangladesh (Bhardwaj,2012:39). The first trade agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed in 1972 and has been renewed up to 31st March 2012. Despite cooperation and dialogues on myriad disputes between two countries, there are still many disputes to be resolved, so far, which require utmost sincere efforts from both the sides.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

*Duft(1999)* Defines, the India- Bangladesh relationship can be best described as up and down relationship. The relationship was destined to remain, for a while, somewhat acerbic and uncertain, somewhat prone to tension but rarely so clogged as to render interchange and become enmeshed in domestic politics, perhaps much more so in Bangladesh than in India. Although the different Governments have different opinions about this relationship but still
there is continuity in India and Bangladesh relation. Author include views of Taslima Nazreen, Taslima Nazreen wrote a novel Lajja, half documentary in content, describing the travails of a Hindu family in Bangladesh and squarely blaming fanatics for the terror over the killings of the minority community.

Biju (2000) In his work has narrated how India can contribute much in strengthening of Indo-Bangladesh relations, particularly in the context of the Ganga Water accord and India’s unilateral trade concession to Bangladesh. Economic development, particularly of the border regions, is the only remedy to resolve the problems between two. At the same time, exchanges at the intellectual, academic and cultural level are most important. It will create an environment of goodwill and friendship between the two countries. Moreover, the strengthening and expansion of democratic and secular forces is of paramount importance. Certainly, without any doubt that the secular and democratic polity and a just and moral society in India will help to strengthen similar forces in Bangladesh.

Dixit (2000) Has focused that now days relations between India and Bangladesh have hit a low path. This stagnation in relation is due to the variety of reasons – border problems, the postponement of the SAARC summit as well as a general feeling on both sides that several important issues are not being given the importance they deserve. Among these, the important for India are security related issues which includes arms trafficking, movement of people transit and the tripartite gas pipeline, whereas the waters of the joint rivers and the river linking project, trade and a variety of border related concerns, including smuggling.

Uperti (2005) Has highlighted that linguistic nationalism was the main factor behind the freedom and emergence of Bangladesh. There can be distinct geo-cultural, historical, political, social and economic factor giving shape to distinct identities. The author also focuses in this work about the causes of revolt against the West Pakistan by the people of East Pakistan to create independent Bangladesh. East and West Pakistan come in to light after division of Bengal. Due to exploitation of East Pakistan by Western Pakistan, people of East Pakistan revolted and transfer of government becomes base of new country. On public demand Lahore resolution passed. Bangladesh offers a unique case of the gradual growth and builds up of a nation in search of a definite identity. The fall and rise of nationalism in
accordance with the political circumstances and fervor of it’s people leave a distinct trail of its historical footprints. The emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state witnessed an entirely new thrust on nationalism based on democracy and secularism.

Shukla (2007) Has focused that how India helped in the liberation of Bangladesh. But since 1991 India-Bangladesh relations have been negatively affected because of various—such as the delay in proving the Teen Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh, the long standing dispute over sharing of the Ganga water between of the lean season, delineation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh, determining the jurisdiction over the New Moore Island in the bay of Bengal, the problem of large scale illegal migration from Bangladesh into India and other economic issues. The author also narrated the cooperation and agreements that took place between the governments of two countries to resolve the disputing issues.

Trivedi (2008) Has focused the dispute on Berubari and the allocation of the Teen Bigha corridor to Bangladesh among other issues. The author has explained that both the states have many other unresolved problems between India and Bangladesh. The Border conflict has been defined as a new twist in the relation between two countries. He specially focused that both the countries need to resolve their disputing matters which are important in view of security and development. In this context, the author has recommended policy actions for India while resolving the issues with Bangladesh. India’s policy should be underpinned by a deep sense of awareness that Bangladesh is an important neighbor of strategic and political important to India. Most importantly, India should take the initiative to sort out all confronting issues.

Bammi (2010) said that the reality of India Bangladesh relations as it stands today is far removed from the idealism in bilateral relations which has been cherished since the liberation war, especially in India. His book examines the irritants between the two countries and suggests a road map for improving relations. His book covers the geography and history of Bangladesh as a backdrop. Thereafter, the strategic importance of Bangladesh to India, security perception of Bangladesh and a few economic aspects have been covered. A
chronological review of Bangladesh’s foreign policy towards India and her relation with other countries has been carried out in a separate chapter. This is followed by a detailed examination of the irritant between the two countries. The views of a large cross-section of eminent personalities of both the countries have been included to substantiate the existing relations. In the final chapter, ‘The Way Ahead’, the author has suggested an action plan for the future.

**Ray and Mamoon (2011)** According that, the national interest of India and Bangladesh are an important component of the theoretical framework on the study of relations between the two countries. They describes emergence of Bangladesh and divide the India and Bangladesh relations in three phases:- 1971-1975, 1975-1990, 1991-2010. They defines trade is an important component of diplomacy. The two Governments can enter into such trade agreement as to bring about dynamism in economic relationships, or promotes self-interest. India can do much more for Bangladesh in the sphere of trade than it is currently doing. Moreover, at various levels people-to-people relations must improve. India should attach importance to the regional and sub-regional role of Bangladesh.

**Kumar (2011)** Has described the Civilization, Cultural and economic linkages between India and Bangladesh. There is much that unites the two countries– a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts. With Bangladesh, India shares not only a common history of struggle for freedom and liberalism but also enduring feeling of both fraternal as well as families ties. This commonality is reflecting in reflected in multi-dimensional relation with Bangladesh at several level of interaction. High–level exchanges, visits and meeting take place regularly alongside the wide ranging people–to-people interaction.

**Pattanaik (2012)** Brings out perspectives from India and Bangladesh on various important issues of bilateral cooperation. Bringing together scholars from two plays an important role in providing policy inputs, generating informed debates and discussion and act as an interface between policy makers and the people, this is first effort of its kind. The book
has thirteen chapters on major bilateral issues and nine annexure. The authors have dealt not only with problem but also have suggested various measures to take the bilateral relations forward. Given the nature of the India-Bangladesh relationship, there is a need for greater bilateral engagement at the high level.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the role of India in independence of Bangladesh.
2. To study the role of India in Nation building of Bangladesh.
3. To study the conflict between India and Bangladesh.
4. To study the cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
5. To identify the factors that influences India- Bangladesh Relations.

**HYPOTHESES:**

1. National security threat is the significant factor behind India’s role in liberation of Bangladesh.
2. Political mistrust and lack of political-will led to internal conflict between two states.
3. With the changing leadership in both the countries, bilateral relation of cooperation has been emerging.
4. Involvement of anti-India states in Bangladesh influencing India-Bangladesh relations.
5. Factors of Border and Land, Natural Resources, Security have been influencing the bilateral relations and Illegal immigration destabilizes the security structure in northeast India.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The proposed research work is qualitative.

**Research Design:** Descriptive and Exploratory

**Data Collection:** Primary and secondary sources will be used for the relevant data collection.
Primary Sources: The experts in the field will be interviewed and the discussion on the area will be held with them. The official documents regarding India-Bangladesh Relations will be used.

Secondary Sources: The secondary sources include books, journals, magazine, newspaper, Authentic internet sources, annual reports, handbooks etc…

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The consequences of strained bilateral relations are far reaching for both India and Bangladesh. India is witnessing rising turmoil all around its border and therefore a stable, moderate Bangladesh as a partner is in its long-term interest. Constructive Indo-Bangladesh ties could be a major stabilizing factor for the South Asian region as a whole. The present constraints that impinge upon India-Bangladesh relationship make it imperative for both sides to reduce the mutual ‘trust-deficit’ that has crept into their bilateral ties, this is a necessary first step before any meaningful relationship can emerge. India, being the bigger and economically more powerful of the two, can and should take the lead. In this context, the recent initiatives by the Indian government to allow easy access to Bangladesh goods represent a significant step.

If India genuinely wants to address the economic and security concerns of the Eastern South Asia sub-region, particularly the North-Eastern states of India, it must behave like a soft power or smart power. India must persuade Bangladesh to develop a consensus policy approach towards India. There are certain issues which could potentially hamper the relationship between the two countries. The relationship also needs to be made resistant to political changes in the countries. Those in Bangladesh who have reservations about having good ties with India will need to be convinced about the benefits of close relations. So, because of all these facts, this study is very important to understand the relationship between two countries and also will be useful to understand the developing country’s policy in present era. when the bilateral relation seems at stake in some of the areas.
TENTATIVE CHAPTERISATION

1. Introduction
2. Role of India in liberation and Nation- Building of Bangladesh.
3. Conflicts between India and Bangladesh
4. Cooperation between India and Bangladesh
5. Factors Influencing India – Bangladesh Relations
6. Illegal Immigration and India Bangladesh Relation
7. Conclusion
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