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## **1. Bangladesh recent polls: India must remind Sheikh Hasina to keep authoritarian instincts in check**

- What Bangladesh PM Hasina's victory means for China w.r.t South Asian?
- What is the strategic significance of Bangladesh for India?
- Why the relationship between India and Bangladesh were not ideal over the years?

### **GS paper 2 ( India and its neighbourhood relations )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

N.A . ( 2019, January , 2). India must remind Sheikh Hasina to keep authoritarian instincts in check. Hindustan times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/india-must-remind-sheikh-hasina-to-keep-authoritarian-instincts-in-check/story-ugBiCVazlSq5ja3pslB6xI.html>

**What is the context about?**

- The ruling Awami League has come back to power with a stunning mandate in Bangladesh.
- The party has won 288 out of 300 seats up for grabs in the polls held on Sunday.

- ❑ In a year, where India's relations with the neighbours have not always been happy, this is welcome news for New Delhi.
- ❑ Not surprising that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first leader to congratulate Hasina.

### **What Bangladesh PM Hasina's victory means for China w.r.t South Asian?**

- ❑ The current challenges for Hasina are to consolidate her domestic agenda and balance her country's relations with India and China – the neighbouring giants.
- ❑ Currently, China is Bangladesh's major trading partner and top military supplier, and this in turn has implications for India. For example, Bangladesh will soon operate submarines bought from China, making the naval dynamic in the Bay of Bengal more crowded.
- ❑ For Beijing, the geography of Bangladesh is an attractive strategic determinant, and one that is part of Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road Initiative, which has identified Dhaka as an important node and promised a US\$24 billion investment.

### **What is the strategic significance of Bangladesh for India?**

- ❑ Connectivity between Bangladesh and neighbouring countries including India have received great boost during the last ten years from Hasina's pro-active stance on enhancing connectivity in South and Southeast Asia.

- ❑ Bangladesh is uniquely positioned to take advantage of its location in the eastern region of South Asia.
- ❑ It will be a centre point of different initiatives that seek to connect Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal with the ASEAN and other East Asian countries. With deeper trade, investment and connectivity linkages within the sub-region, Bangladesh can benefit from new markets, new import sources of high quality and better priced products, increasing opportunities for transport and logistics services.

### **Why the relationship between India and Bangladesh were not ideal over the years?**

India helped Bangladesh in its war of independence and because of cultural similarities between the two countries. But the relationship has been far from ideal because of the following reasons:

- ❑ There is a strong anti India lobby in Bangladesh which pursues hostility in its relationship with India when it is in power. Pakistan is believed to be fanning this sentiment.
- ❑ The federal nature of Indian polity has also resulted in slow decision making or stalling some decisions. Bengal has opposed an agreement on sharing Teesta river water, something Bangladesh was keenly looking forward.
- ❑ Slow progress even on the issues where there are no differences. E.g.: The enclave transfer process took

decades to finally complete in 2015. The progress of Indian projects in Bangladesh has been slow.

- India's concerns with large scale Chinese presence in the country.