

**07 – 09 – 2022**

**News:** India Bangladesh relations

- Recently, the **Prime Minister of Bangladesh has visited India and held talks with Indian Prime Minister.**
- **India and Bangladesh have signed seven agreements** for cooperation in areas ranging from sharing of river waters to space and unveiled new connectivity and energy initiatives.

**Key Highlights of the Meeting**

The two sides signed seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), which include:

- The **withdrawal of water from the cross-border Kushiyara River.**
- The agreement will **benefit southern Assam in India and the Sylhet region of Bangladesh.**
- Cooperation in **space technology.**
- **Collaboration on Information Technology** systems used by railways in areas such as movement of freight.
- **Science and technology cooperation.**
- **Training of Bangladesh Railway personnel** and Bangladeshi judicial officers in India.

- **Cooperation in broadcasting** between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Television.
- **Thermal Power Project:** The **two nations unveiled the first unit of the Maitree super thermal power project being built in Khulna division of Bangladesh** with concessional funding from India.
- The unit was synchronized with Bangladesh's power grid in August 2022, and the project will generate 1,320MW, when completed.
- **Rushpa Rail Bridge:** The **5.13-km Rupsha rail bridge was also inaugurated**, a key part of the 64.7-km Khulna-Mongla port broad gauge railway project.
- The bridge was constructed with an Indian line of credit of \$389 million.
- It will increase connectivity with Mongla, Bangladesh's second largest port.
- **Loans and Advances:** **India has provided concessional loans worth USD 9.5 billion for development projects in Bangladesh**, which includes:
  - **Rail connectivity between Khulna and Dhaka**, Chilahati and Rajshah.
  - **Connecting Mongla port with Darshana-Gede** at a cost of USD 312 million.
  - The **Parbatipur-Kaunia rail project to facilitate the transportation of fuel** is being built at a cost of USD 120 million.
  - **Supply of road construction equipment and machinery** worth USD 41 million to repair and maintain Bangladesh's road network.

- **Defence Procurement:** In 2018, **India has extended USD 500 million defence Line of Credit (LoC)** to Bangladesh.
- In May 2018, Defence public sector undertaking of Kolkata had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh to provide assistance and know-how in the design and construction of warships.
- Dhaka has shared a wish list of military platforms and systems that its armed forces would like to procure from India.
- Bangladesh Army has approved procurement of three items:
  - 5 Bridge Layer Tanks (BLT-72) at USD 10 million
  - 7 Portable Steel Bridges (Bailey) at USD 2.2 million
  - 1 Mine Protective Vehicles at USD 2.2 million.
- Other Proposed Procurements include: Off-road vehicles, heavy recovery vehicles, armoured engineer reconnaissance vehicles and bullet proof helmets.
- Modernisation and extension of automobile assembling unit for a Bangladesh machine tools factory, supply of explosives, raw materials and tools
- The Bangladesh Navy has proposed the procurement of a logistics ship, floating dock, oil tanker, and an ocean-going tug.