

INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

We learn about the following in this chapter:

Relations between :

- *India and Pakistan*
- *India and China*
- *India and Nepal*
- *India and Bangladesh*
- *India and Srilanka*
- *India and U.S.A*
- *India and Russia*

Our present day world is called A Family of Nations. In seven Continents there are about 198 sovereign states. India is a sovereign nation which means supreme in both internal and external affairs. We, as an independent country, have to maintain good relations with all foreign states. Especially, our international relations with neighboring states in Asia must be very cordial. But, at the same time our national interests like border security, foreign trade, economic gains, reputation of the country etc. have to be carefully protected. Permanent diplomatic channel is maintained with all the countries of the world. Let us glance India's relationship with some of the countries of our Family of Nations.

1. India and Pakistan: Partition of India in 1947 has led to the formation of Pakistan. We have got geographical nearness and common cultural heritage. We have shared common history of many centuries. India is keenly interested to have good friendship with Pakistan. But due to Military Dictatorships and political instability, Pakistan did not maintain good relationship with India. There were Indo-Pak wars in 1947-48, 1965, 1971 and again in 1999 (Kargil war). In all these wars India emerged victorious. Kashmir problem and terrorism are the major issues which are to be solved effectively to have sound relationship.

Activity:

Read newspapers and collect information about Indo-Pak relations in recent days.

Nearly one-third of Kashmir is yet to be liberated from Pakistan. India is stressing that Pakistan should not promote terrorism and harm our national interest. Long term peace solution is yet to be formulated between India and Pakistan.

2. India and China: China is our big neighbour country, situated in the northern part. Indo-China relationship has been developed in the course of our long history. In the modern period, India was the first country to recognize Chinese Communist Government in October 1949. Our aspiration is to have sound Indo-China relationship based on 'Panchsheel' and Hindi-Chinee Bhayi-Bhayi Principles. But such constructive, co-operative principles are not bringing expected results.

China has annexed Tibet against Indian will. In 1962 China invaded India and won the war. China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh, one of our states is a significant issue of Indo-China relationship. Maoists' terrorism in the form of Naxalism in India is also casting a shadow on our mutual relations. Our border is also not finally demarcated. As such there is no well settled International Border (IB) but we do have only Line of Actual Control (LAC). Even nuclear threat, foreign trade challenges; military advancements in border areas are some of the issues which strain our relations with China.

3. India and Nepal : Nepal, a land-locked small country, is our neighbour in the northern front. Our Indian policy has a bias towards Asian nations. Naturally, Nepal is fully supported by India as it is geographical nearness. We have got mutual cultural ties and common social phenomena. As SAARC (South Asian Association Of Regional Co-operation) member countries, India and Nepal are closer to each other. After the downfall of kingship in Nepal, Chinese communist influence seems to be higher. India is

extending economic cooperation and diplomatic support to Nepal for her political stability. India is giving many trade concessions to Nepal but at the same time we have to curb illegal traffic of drugs and weapons to India through Nepal.

4. India and Bangladesh : India is mainly responsible for the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. The East Pakistan became an Independent Nation, called Bangladesh as a result of our victory in Indo- Pakistan war of 1971. Bangladesh is geographically encircled by India in the eastern front. It has socio-cultural ties with India as it was part of our country till 1947. In spite of many political upheavals and changing trends in Bangladesh we have maintained good relations with this neighbouring state. There are some issues like infiltration of Bangladesh people into India, smuggling of weapons and drugs to our Country, terrorist activities which are to be tackled. In our water policy, international trade and border issues India is more sympathetic towards Bangladesh.

5. India and Srilanka: Though Srilanka is a small neighbour in the southern part of India, we have good friendship based on sovereign equality. There were closer ties between these two nations during the historical past. Srilanka is a member of SAARC. along with India. India is maintaining good ties with Srilanka in economic as well as political fields. Once we gave military support to suppress LTTE, Tamil separatists of Jafna area in Srilanka. India is closely watching the Tamil movements in Srilanka, and is for the peaceful co-existence between Sinhalese and Tamil people. Buddhism has been spread by Indian Monks in the course of history in Srilanka. We have trade relations with Srilnaka.

6. India and U.S.A: Both India and the U.S.A. are bigger nations and have a democratic system. Our friendly relations are crucial in the present day World politics also. Our mutual relations since 1947 till now have undergone many swift changes based on mutual

national interests. India being a NAM (Non-Alignment Movement) nation has maintained equal distance between Democratic bloc of USA and Communist bloc of USSR during the period of entire bi-polar World. USA has helped us financially for our economic development through Five year Plans. Even during Chinese aggression in 1962 the support of the USA strengthened India. Later, the policy makers of the USA extended help to Pakistan in the Indo-Pak wars. Many a time her Foreign Policy has favoured Pakistan at our disadvantage. We have a common concern for curbing terrorism. India maintains good relationship with the USA in the fields of foreign trade, science and technology, space and education. Both the nations are bound by the principles of World peace and support for U.N.O. India is keeping a close watch on the foreign policy trends of her Democratic and Republic Party Presidents. Accordingly, we prepare our policy towards the U.S.A.

7. India and Russia:- India maintains good relationship with Russia and it was so even with its predecessor, the U.S.S.R or Soviet Union. Though India followed the Non-alignment POLICY, Indo-Soviet cooperation continued in political, economic and other fields. (Though a communist country, Soviet Union condemned China's aggression in 1962. During the liberation of Goa in 1961 Soviet Russia supported India). In 1966, Tashkent Agreement was signed by India and Pakistan with the mediation of Russia. In 1971 India and Soviet Russia entered into 20 years Treaty of Peace, Friendship and cooperation. Russia assisted India to have steel plants at Bhilai and Bokoro. We have received a lot of aid from Russia for the growth of our industry and commerce. Russia showed due respect to India's size and potentiality compared to Pakistan. It is supporting Indian claim for permanent seat in the Security Council of UNO.

India has relations with its nearest countries like Bhuthan, Afghanistan, Maldives and Indonaesia and others.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

- 1 India is in _____ continent .
- 2 Bangladesh is in _____ part.
- 3 Buddhism has been spread by Indian Monks in _____ during historical past.
- 4 The steel plants of Bhilai and Bokoro are assisted by _____ country.

II. Discuss in group and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why there should be good relationship with neighbours ?
- 2 What are the reasons for tension between India and Pakistan ?
- 3 Why relationship between India and China has been strained in these days ?
- 4 'The relationship between India - Srilanka are historical'. With this statement discuss the relationship.
- 5 Explain how the relationship between India and USA as democratic nations.
- 6 Explain Indian relationship with Russia.

III. Activities :

- 1 Collect and write about Indian role in the racial conflict in Srilanka.
- 2 Draw Indian map and locate neighbouring nations.

