



Strategic Interactions: Assessing The Geopolitical Landscape Between India And Neighbouring Countries

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Citation: Dr. Surbhi Sehgal (2024) Strategic Interactions: Assessing The Geopolitical Landscape Between India And Neighbouring Countries, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(5), 1898-1917

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i5.3199

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, China Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are the neighbouring countries of India. India's respective relations with its neighbouring nations are set apart by an intricate transaction of financial, security, and verifiable variables. India's geopolitical landscape with its neighbouring countries is not stable. In the context of the problem, that has been evident within the context of the geopolitical landscape in India and its neighbourhood countries, this study examines the complex dynamics of India's bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, examines broader geopolitics, insights including historical and contemporary aspects, and explores key events, alliances, conflicts and trade relations. In addition, assess all the facts, this study aims to provide strategic recommendations that can improve the India's geopolitical landscape with its neighbours. The study aims to assess the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries. The study also aims to assess it provide strategic suggestions to improve the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries. A mixed method of qualitative and quantitative allows to take data to establish the findings of the study and provide recommendations.

Key Words: Geopolitical landscape, Qualitative and quantitative, Neighbouring countries, Alliances, and conflicts, Bilateral relations

Introduction

Background and Context

The neighbourhood counties of India comprising countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, is a complex geographical entity. The neighbourhood counties in India significantly allow both opportunities and challenges [3]. The colonial history has left a lasting impact on India's relationships with its neighbours. Shared historical experiences, cultural ties, and linguistic connections shape these dynamics. The partition of India in 1947 prompted the creation of Pakistan, which essentially affected provincial international relations [2]. The resulting autonomy of other South Asian nations further moulded India's associations. Lately, India has found multiple ways to improve its global relations with adjoining nations.

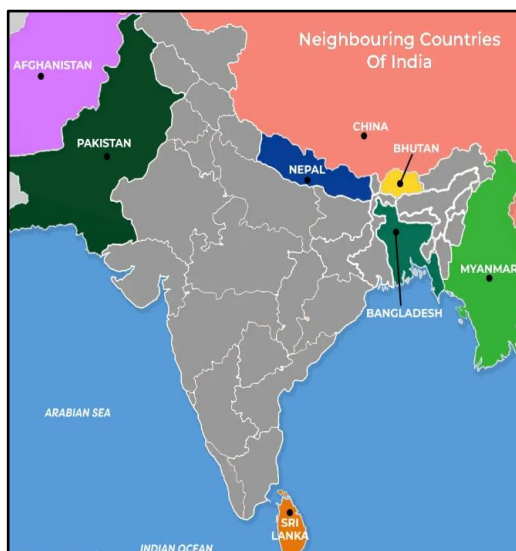


Figure 1: Geopolitical Landscape of India

[Source: 1]

India's collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has fortified financial, political, and security attaches with Southeast Asian countries [3]. The Demonstration East strategy means to expand India's impact on ASEAN nations and advance local security. India imparts regional questions to China and Pakistan. These debates impact India's essential unions and safeguard approaches. India looks for help from other local players to get its boundaries and keep up with security. India's arrangement with the US has developed over the long run. Ongoing military agreements permit common utilization of army installations, prompting expanded exchange and improvement. Notwithstanding, offsetting relations with both the USA and Russia stay critical. Exchange, venture, and network assume an essential part.

In India, drives like the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Engine Vehicles Arrangement intend to improve territorial network and financial reconciliation [3]. India's unions and clashes fundamentally influence its international scene. Closer binds with the USA give financial and other key political and developmental advantages. All things considered, India had solid military binds with Russia, however, ongoing movements have happened. India works together with SAARC nations, ASEAN, and BIMSTEC for regional stability [4]. Line debates with China and Pakistan stay unsettled. Terrorism, cross-line invasion, and uprisings present security dangers. India's international scene is multi-layered, formed by verifiable inheritances, contemporary strategies, and provincial elements. Adjusting interests, encouraging participation, and overseeing clashes are basic for India's security and advancement.

Statement of the problem

Within the geographical landscape of India within its neighbourhood countries, significant problems arise to stress the improvement of the geopolitical landscape of India. India's bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries delved into the complexities inherent in these relationships [5]. Regardless of geographical vicinity, historical ties, and shared social legacy, India's communications with its neighbours are many times set apart by a blend of collaboration, contest, and intermittent clash. These intricacies originate from multiple elements including verifiable complaints, regional debates, monetary interests, and vital territorial desires. More extensive international bits of knowledge are fundamental for figuring out the perplexing snare of coalitions, power elements, and territorial yearnings moulding India's relations with its neighbours [7]. Authentic heritages keep on impacting contemporary collaborations, with issues from the past sporadically reemerging to strain political ties. Simultaneously, developing international elements on the worldwide stage further convolute the scene, as movements in power appropriation and vital arrangements require recalibrations in territorial approaches. Furthermore, the review inspects key occasions that have left persevering through engravings on two-sided relations, for example, line conflicts, discretionary forward leaps, and agreeable drives. Coalitions produced with adjoining nations assume an urgent part in moulding India's essential math, influencing its security pose and monetary commitment. Clashing interests, be that as it may, frequently eclipse the potential for participation, prompting conciliatory deadlocks or even military showdowns. These contentions, whether clear or undercover, add to an air of doubt and unpredictability in the district.

In the context of the problem, that has been evident within the context of the geopolitical landscape in India and its neighbourhood countries, this study examines the complex dynamics of India's complex bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, examines broader geopolitics Insights including historical and contemporary aspects, and explores key events, alliances, and conflicts which have been a relationship. In addition, asses all the facts, this research study aims to provide recommendations to resolve the problem and improve the Indian geopolitical landscape.

Research Aim and Objectives

Aim

The study aims to assess the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries. The study also aims to assess it and provide strategic suggestions to improve the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries.

Objectives

- To analyse complex bilateral relations between India and neighbouring countries.
- To investigate broader geopolitical insights and regional power dynamics between India and neighbouring countries.
- To examine historical and contemporary aspects of relations between India and neighbouring countries.
- To assess key events, alliances, and conflicts shaping the geographical landscape between India and neighbouring countries.

Research Questions

- What are the complex bilateral relations between India and neighbouring countries?
- What are the broader geopolitical insights and regional power dynamics between India and neighbouring countries?
- What are the historical and contemporary aspects of relations between India and neighbouring countries?
- What are the key events, alliances, and conflicts shaping the geographical landscape between India and neighbouring countries?

Research Rationale

The investigation of the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries is significant, interesting, and relevant in the context of political factors. Within the realm of political science, this investigation is an important phenomenon that assisted in understanding the intricacies of India's bilateral relations with neighbouring countries. The political facts behind the research prompt this research and create interest in this that allows this research with political leans to uncover the underlying geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries and contribute to the broader scholarly discourse on international relations, conflict resolution, and diplomacy.

Literature review

Complex bilateral relations between India and neighbouring countries

India's respective relations with its neighbouring nations are set apart by an intricate transaction of financial, security, and other variables. Every relationship is exceptional, introducing its own arrangement of difficulties and valuable open doors. Beginning with Pakistan, the connection between India and its western neighbour has been damaged by verifiable hostilities and unsettled regional questions, remarkably over Kashmir. Cross-line terrorism supported by Pakistan-based assailant bunches has been a critical security worry for India, prompting occasional accelerations in strains (2). In any case, endeavours for harmony periodically arise, with political discourse and certainty-building estimates occurring. Financially, exchange between the two nations stays restricted because of political pressures, although there have been irregular endeavours to upgrade monetary participation through drives like the Kartarpur Passageway.

Continuing toward China, India's relationship with its northern neighbour is portrayed by a blend of opposition and collaboration. Line debates, for example, the 1962 Sino-Indian Conflict, keep on being a wellspring of strain, albeit the two nations have taken part in political exchanges to deal with these contentions [6]. Monetarily, India, and China are critical exchange nations, with respective exchanges arriving at significant levels. Nonetheless, essential rivalry poses a potential threat, particularly with regard to China's rising empathy in the district and its aggressive Belt and Street Drive, which has raised worries about the essential circle.

With Nepal, India shares well-established social and authentic ties, yet the relationship has been resisted at times because of political vacillations and line questions. China's developing impact in Nepal adds one more layer of intricacy, as confirmed by Beijing's interests in foundation projects and expanded political commitment. In any case, India stays a pivotal monetary affiliate for Nepal, giving improvement help and filling in as a significant neighbour.

Bhutan's relationship with India is exceptional, portrayed by close political and financial collaboration. India assumes a huge part in guaranteeing Bhutan's security and improvement, and the two nations share an essential organization in light of common trust and shared values. Monetary help from India has been indispensable for Bhutan's foundation improvement and financial development [8].

India's binds with Bangladesh have seen huge improvement lately, with collaboration growing across different areas, for example, exchange, water-sharing, and network. The 1971 Freedom War created serious areas of strength for manufacturing between the two nations, and endeavours to resolve issues like unlawful movement and boundary division have been continuous. Financial participation has thrived, with India being Bangladesh's biggest exchange partner and huge ventures streaming between the two countries.

In Myanmar, India's commitment traverses' security, energy, and network. The Kaladan Multimodal Travel Transport Venture and India's "Look East" arrangement feature the essential significance of the relationship [7]. Nonetheless, ethnic contentions and the Rohingya outcast emergency present difficulties, affecting strength in the locale. Sri Lanka's relationship with India sways among collaboration and contest, with verifiable ties and social trades being critical. In any case, the nationwide conflict and the Tamil issue have stressed relations on occasion. China's developing impact in Sri Lanka adds one more aspect to the relationship, raising worries about India's essential advantages in the area.

In the Maldives, India's nearness and verifiable ties make it a pivotal neighbour. Be that as it may, ongoing political moves and developing Chinese impact have stressed the relations, prompting worries about India's essential advantages in the Indian Sea district. At last, India's commitment to Afghanistan centres around improvement, framework, and limit building. Shared vote-based values and security concerns drive participation, however Pakistan's job and territorial shakiness present difficulties.

Broader geopolitical insights and regional power dynamics between India and neighbouring countries

India, a country with enormous variety and historical significance, plays a critical role in the global arena, both influencing and being influenced by complex geopolitical processes and regional power struggles.

India's Middle Power Status and Rising Aspirations

India's international stance can be described as that of a centre power with yearnings for more noteworthy impact. With a thriving economy and atomic capacities, India rides the line between laid-out powers and rising powers. Under State head Narendra Modi's initiative, India has sought a commonsense methodology, stressing financial advancement as the foundation of its outer commitment. Modi's organization has effectively drawn in significant abilities while cultivating participation with South Asian neighbours and recharging vital ties across different areas [9]. India's cooperation in gatherings like BRICS, G20, and the Quad mirrors its craving to assume a huger part in moulding worldwide administration and dynamic cycles. India has decisively raised its organization with the US, perceiving the advantages of collaboration while keeping up with its essential independence.

This relationship traverses different areas, including guard, exchange, and innovation. India's cooperation with China on issues like environmental change appears differently in relation to its resistance to Beijing's regional cases in the South China Ocean and the One Belt One Street Drive [10]. The lasting test of stressed relations with Pakistan remains a huge international strategy worry for India. Notwithstanding periodic endeavours at discourse and certainty-building measures, well-established verifiable hatreds, cross-line psychological warfare, and regional debates, especially over Kashmir, keep on hindering advancement toward enduring harmony.

India's Evolution in Global Affairs

India's international strategy direction has gone through critical development throughout the course of many years. Post-Cold Conflict, India progressed from an enemy of the West to a third-world standpoint to arise as a worldwide entertainer with different interests and commitments [11]. Nonetheless, its impact in its nearby area, including nations like Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, has seen changes, demonstrating the difficulties of keeping up with provincial authority. Regardless of its developing height, India has frequently been censured for coming up short on a cognizant fabulous vital vision that expresses its drawn-out worldwide job. This nonappearance has frustrated India's capacity to champion itself unequivocally on the world stage and shape arising international patterns.

Interdependence of Regional Strategies and Global Outlooks

India's ascent as a provincial power is inherently connected to its local procedures and worldwide goals. India balances homegrown needs, security concerns, and global relations, utilizing its developing capacities to impact an influencing world request. India's essential importance stretches out past its nearby area. Its administration in discussions like the G20 highlights its unmistakable quality in worldwide undertakings. Moreover, the US's Indo-Pacific Guard Vision perceives India's urgent job in guaranteeing dependability and security in the Indo-Pacific locale, featuring its developing vital worth. Arranged in a district with three atomic-powered powers China, India, and Pakistan-India's activities and choices convey critical ramifications for provincial solidness and worldwide security [13]. Any acceleration or struggle in the area should be painstakingly figured out how to keep away from more extensive results and guarantee harmony and strength. India's excursion from a centre capacity to a rising power is described by practicality, challenges, and key recalibrations. As the world watches, India's advancing job keeps on forming the international scene, adding to territorial security, financial turn of events, and worldwide administration. With a sharp spotlight on utilizing its monetary ability, vital organizations, and delicate power resources, India means to arise as a mindful and persuasive player on the world stage, supporting standards of multilateralism, a majority rule government, and comprehensive development.

Examine historical and contemporary aspects of relations between India and neighbouring countries

India and China have a complicated and diverse relationship that has changed dramatically over time, driven by historical events, present dynamics, and geopolitical imperatives.

Historical Context

India and China established diplomatic ties in 1950, shortly after India achieved independence from British colonial domination. Initially, the relationship was distinguished by warmth and collaboration, reflecting similar goals for postcolonial development and unity within the Non-Aligned Movement. Despite initial efforts to cooperate, tensions rose over territorial issues, particularly along the Himalayan border [15]. The 1962 Sino-Indian War delivered huge damage to ties, fostering lasting suspicion and enmity between the two countries. The battle culminated in China's takeover of Aksai Chin, highlighting unsolved boundary disputes.

Contemporary Dynamics

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is still a difficult topic, with continuous disagreements and periodic flare-ups along the border [14]. The Galwan Valley event in 2020, which resulted in casualties on both sides, highlighted the fragility of the situation and the possibility of escalation. Despite border concerns, economic cooperation between India and China has grown. China is India's greatest commercial partner, with bilateral trade growing significantly. However, worries about the trade deficit remain, with India striving to address issues like market access and unfair trade practices. India's 'Act East' strategy and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) meet across the Indo-Pacific region, causing geopolitical concerns. India's cooperation in the Quad alliance, containing the US, Japan, and Australia, fills in as an offset to China's developing impact in the district [11]. The two nations have participated in significant level conciliatory endeavours to further develop relations. Casual highest points, for example, the Wuhan and Mamallapuram culminations, pointed toward building trust and lessening pressures.

Exchange instruments at different levels address issues of shared concern and try to advance participation. Line framework improvement remains a need for the two nations, mirroring their emphasis on defending regional honesty and security [10]. Pressures in the Indian Sea and South China Ocean additionally influence respective relations, with the two nations attesting to their essential advantages in these significant sea areas. India and China coordinate in different worldwide associations, including BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The two countries additionally advocate for changes in worldwide administration, looking for a more prominent portrayal and impact in multilateral discussions like the United Nations.

Challenges and Opportunities

Balancing cooperation and competition are a huge test for India and China. While monetary association gives amazing open doors to coordinated effort, different international interests, and regional debates present difficulties to reciprocal relations. Regardless of political strains, the financial relationship between India and China keeps on developing [12]. The two nations stand to profit from expanded exchange and venture, however, worries over market access, exchange awkward nature, and vital rivalry temper the possibilities for more profound monetary participation. India's international strategy needs are formed by progressing advancements in the worldwide field, including the moving elements of significant powers like the US, Russia, and China. Exploring these intricacies expects India to find some kind of harmony between essential independence and commitment with key partners. The irritating boundary issues and rivalry for impact in adjoining nations like Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives present difficulties to provincial soundness. The two India and China look to grow their impact in South Asia, prompting complex power elements and periodic grinding.

Identify key events, alliances, and conflicts shaping the geographical landscape between India and neighbouring countries.

India's physical environment is inextricably linked to the history, alliances, and wars of its neighbouring countries. Key events that have impacted India's dynamic ties with its neighbours include the partition of the Indian subcontinent, ongoing border conflicts, and regional rivalries.

India-Pakistan Relations

the partition of India (1947) resulted in the formation of Pakistan, causing sectarian bloodshed and enormous migrations. The disputed territory of Kashmir remains a hotspot, with India and Pakistan fighting several wars and cross-border conflicts over territorial claims. India and Pakistan have fought several wars, notably in 1947, 1965, 1971, and 1999 [9]. Despite diplomatic attempts, trust deficiencies exist and tensions remain high.

India-China Relations

The 1962 Sino-Indian War leads a violent struggle over territorial claims in the Himalayan area claimed many lives and strained relations between India and China. the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is still contested,

resulting in periodic confrontations and standoffs between Indian and Chinese soldiers [8]. Recent occurrences, such as the Galwan Valley conflict, have highlighted the underlying tensions. Despite political tensions, commerce and investment between India and China continue to develop, with China ranking among India's major trading partners.

India-Nepal Relations

India and Nepal share profound social, strict, and familial bonds, with open boundaries taking into consideration broad individual contact. In spite of the verifiable ties, disagreements regarding the Kalapani and Lipulekh locales have stressed relations between India and Nepal. Normal undeniable level visits expect to fortify reciprocal relations and address areas of dispute between the two nations.

India-Bhutan Relations

Bhutan keeps a special and cozy relationship with India, portrayed by participation in guard, exchange, and improvement. India upholds Bhutan's hydropower projects, adding to financial turn of events and energy security in the district.

India-Bangladesh Relations

India played a critical role in Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, supporting the Mukti Bahini and resulting in the formation of Bangladesh. Long-standing boundary problems were settled with the signing of the Land Boundary Agreement, which strengthened bilateral relations. Improved ties have resulted in improved commerce and connectivity between India and Bangladesh, which benefits both countries economically.

India-Myanmar Relations

India and Myanmar have a rich cultural legacy and are geographically nearby, leading to strong relations. Both countries work together to fight border insurgencies, therefore improving regional security and stability. India's "Act East" strategy prioritizes connectivity and economic cooperation with Myanmar, which benefits regional growth and integration [7].

India-Afghanistan Relations

India and Afghanistan have a long history of cultural and commerce relations, with India offering considerable development support to Afghanistan. India provides development assistance to Afghanistan by funding infrastructure projects, education, and capacity-building initiatives. Afghanistan's instability has an influence on regional stability, providing security risks for both India and its neighbours.

Theoretical Framework

The Balance of Power theory significantly defines the profound balance equilibrium among nations that prevents any one state from dominating others [15]. In terms of the context of the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring countries, this theory significantly defines alliances, diplomacy, and power distribution to maintain stability and prevent global dominance.

Methodology

This research has been done through the Interpretivism philosophy, which in this research significantly allows the gathering as well as analysis of data with in-depth observation and interpretation. Interpretivism philosophy allows gathering data and analysing data with in-depth interpretation and achieving subjective data that are contextualized with the subjective phenomena [24]. In addition, this study has been done with the help of an inductive approach which allows to accumulation as well as analysis of data with the assistance of a bottom-line approach. The bottom-line approach of research specifically is to gather data and analyses data with specificity to generalizability means within specific observation to general observation [25]. In terms of the research design, this research has been conducted with the assistance of descriptive research design allows in-depth analysis and description of factors in terms of accumulating as well as analysing information. A descriptive research design allows this research to provide an in-depth description of factors related to the subject phenomenon [26]. In terms of the research strategy, this research has been done with the assistance of a quantitative as well as qualitative research strategy in terms of accumulating numerical as well as non-numerical data. In addition, in this case, it is significantly important to highlight that this mixed-research method with the combination of qualitative and quantitative data, in this research has been done with the statistical representation of the secondary quantitative data and thematic analysis of secondary qualitative data. quantitative data provides numerical as well as evidence-based data [29]. In the case of this research, the quantitative research has been done by taking into consideration government factors data representation that provides a significant notion on the subject phenomenon with an evidence-based look. Qualitative data provide non-numerical as well as depth-insight-based information [27]. Qualitative research, in the case of this study,

has been done with the assistance of previous literature or studies on the subjective phenomenon [31]. The research has taken a mixed approach in collecting data and using secondary data collection techniques [32]. The secondary data collection in this study allows to collection of data from secondary sources including government reports, statistics data, previous journals, and articles [28]. In terms of collecting the secondary data, the study significantly has taken into consideration the databases Scopus, Google Scholar, and ProQuest. The collection data in this study has been analysed with the assistance of statistical data analysis and thematic data analysis. In terms of conducting the research, this study has adhered to ethical considerations. Data Protection Act 2018 as well as University guidelines, guides this research's ethical considerations [30].

Data Analysis

Secondary Quantitative Data Analysis with Data Visualization

The neighbourhood counties of India comprising countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, is a complex geographical entity.



Figure 2: Geographical Landscape of India with neighbours’ counties
[Source: 34]

The above figure highlights the geographical landscape of India with neighbouring countries and these geographical conditions and geopolitical landscape create the geopolitical scenario with the neighbouring countries. The bilateral relationship between India with other countries has been developed with the assistance of trade that defines importing and importing. On the other hand, there are some key events like war as well as some key alliances with countries that create the relation balance.

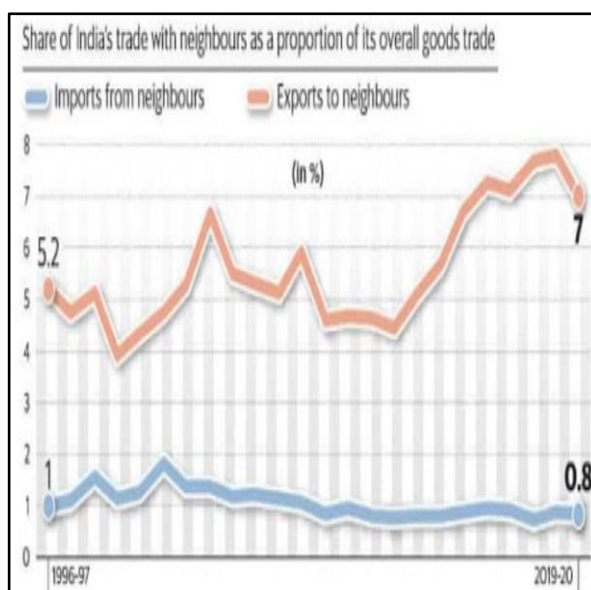


Figure 3: Trade Relations with Neighbouring countries

[Source: 35]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the trade relationship between India with its neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Pakistan. India’s goods exports to neighbour’s fell to 7% in 2019-20, demonstrating a slow progress over last 25 years between India with its neighbouring countries.



Figure 4: India’s relationship with China in disputed territories concern
[Source: 36]

The above figure significantly highlights the relationship of India with China in a disputed territory concern as it significantly demonstrates India-China border has been witnessing tensions.

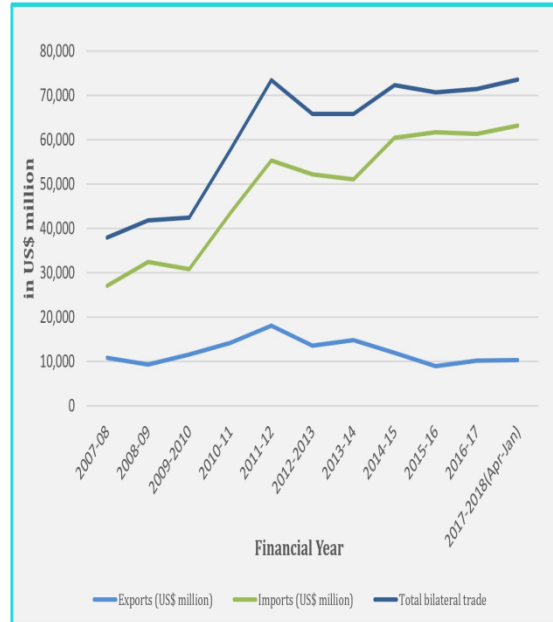


Figure 5: Trading relations with India with neighbourhood countries
[Source: 2]

The above figure significantly highlights trading relations with India with neighbourhood countries. In addition, from the figure, it can be stated that the bilateral trade which creates the bilateral relations between China and India is stable. In this case, it is important to note, that the recent COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the relations and created different key events that impacted trading.

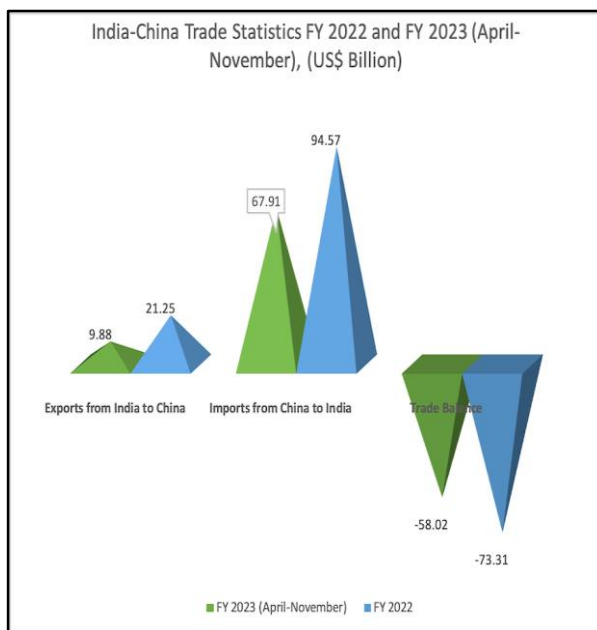


Figure 6: India- China economic relationship
[Source: 37]

Foreign direct investment (FDI) from China to India was US\$279.46 million in 2021 and US\$205.19 in 2020, according to Statista statistics. This represents a significant decrease from US\$534.60 million in 2019. China's foreign direct investment (FDI) in India peaked in 2015 at \$705.25 million. Following the Sino-Indian border conflicts in 2020, India revised its FDI policy for nations with whom it shares a border, which is responsible for the sharp reduction in FDI intake. The above figure demonstrates India- and China's economic relationship declined a sudden decrease in this fact.

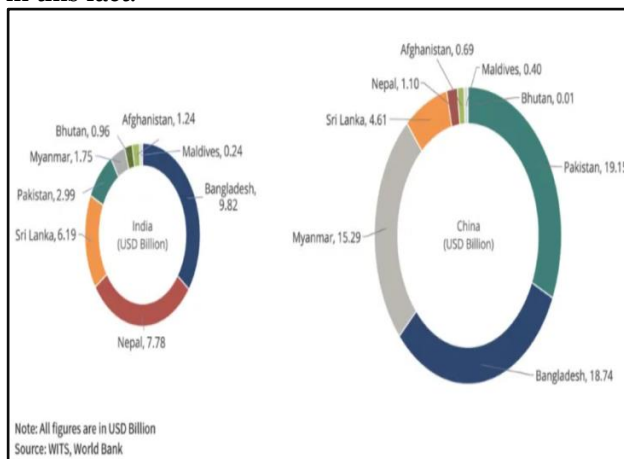


Figure 7: India and China Trade Evolution with Neighbouring South Asian Countries
[Source: 39]

The above figure significantly demonstrates Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh as China's biggest trade partners with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal being India's strongest trade allies. In addition, the below the India and China comparative trade evolution demonstrated with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives.

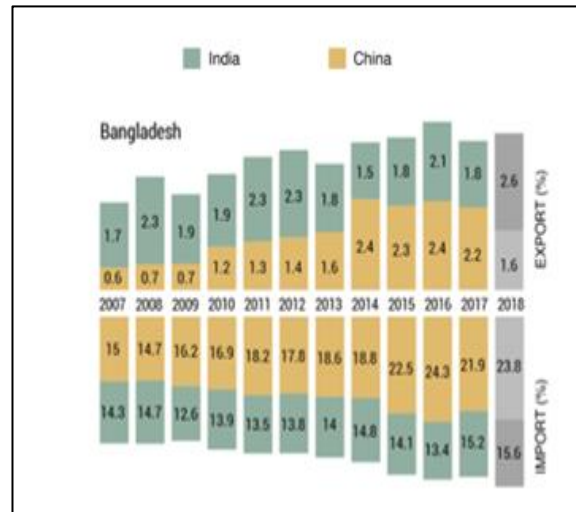


Figure 8: Comparative Trade evolution with Bangladesh
 *values are represented as percentage of country’s global trade
 [Source: 38]

Bangladesh has strengthened trade with both India and China, and has maintained a balance in this regard.

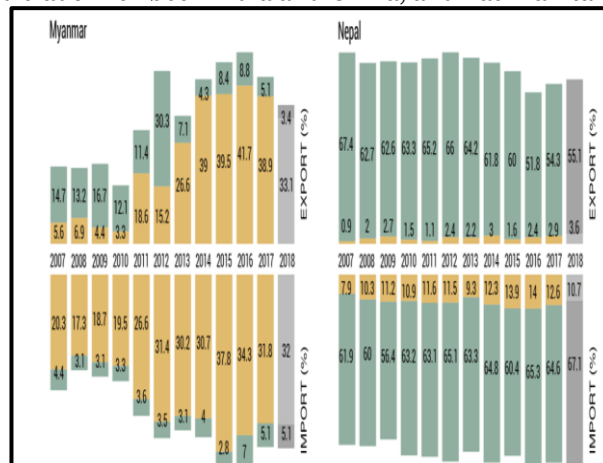


Figure 9: Comparative Trade evolution with Nepal and Myanmar
 [Source: 38]
 *values are represented as percentage of country’s global trade

Myanmar and Nepal exhibit contrasting trade dependencies and consequently influence of its neighbours. While Nepal has much higher trade participation and dependence with India, Myanmar allies strongly with China. The geographical context also plays a role here.

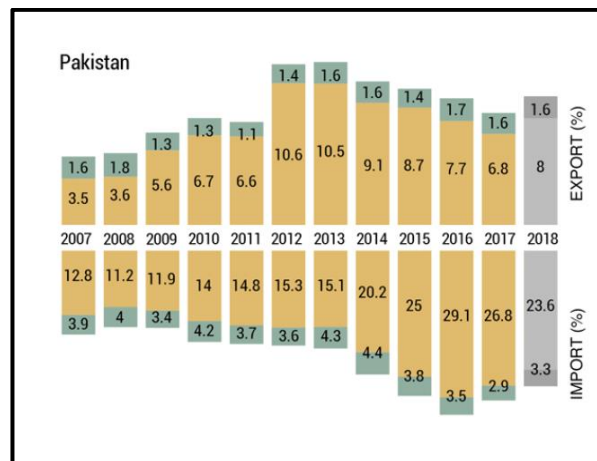


Figure 10: Comparative Trade evolution with Pakistan
 *values are represented as percentage of country’s global trade
 [Source: 38]

Pakistan’s trade cooperation and influence with China is significantly highlighted by the figures above. China’s investment beyond trade in Pakistan and its rising influence with India’s neighbour has evolved significantly over the last decade.

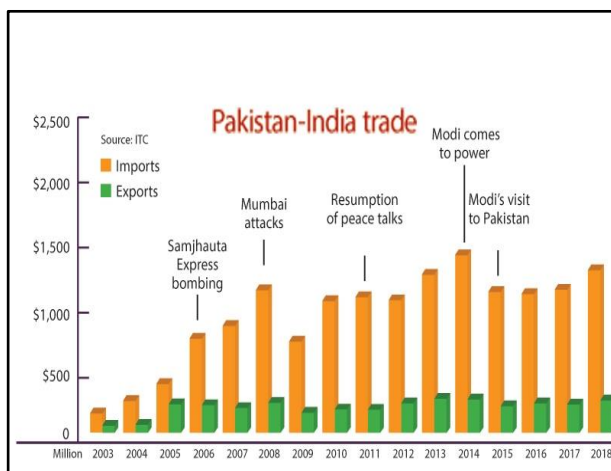


Figure 11: India and Pakistan trade
[Source: 17]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the trade between India and Pakistan trade defines the key events that decreased the trading and relation between these two countries. Pakistan's exports to India are little in quantity and are spread over many tariff lines. In addition to non-tariff and para-tariff constraints making it harder to export what was allowed, anti-Pakistan nationalist feelings occasionally led Indians to choose local options.

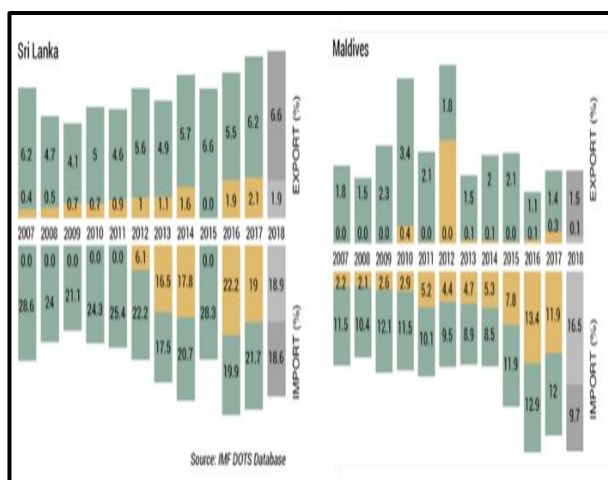


Figure 12: Comparative Trade evolution with Sri Lanka and Maldives
*values are represented as percentage of country’s global trade
[Source: 38]

Sri Lanka and Maldives have been strongly allied with India when it comes to trade relations, their dependence more on imports is clearly evident from the figures above. The rising imports with China over the last decade in both Sri Lanka and Maldives give signals of represent China’s strategy to the key neighbours in the Indian Ocean.

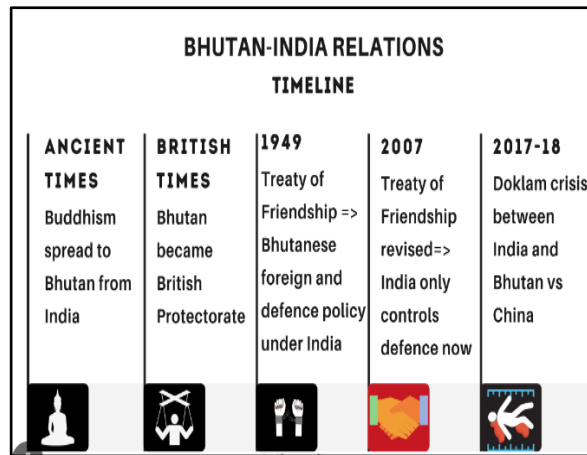


Figure 13: Bhutan- India relation timeline [Source: 23]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the Bhutan- India relation timeline that defines various factors. It is essential to highlight both of these countries share a positive and strong relationship with each other and the history of India-Bhutan relations dates back to 747 ADS, when Padmasambhava, a Buddhist monk, travelled from India to Bhutan and established the Nyingmapa school of Buddhism. India therefore had a role in the cultural development of Buddhism in Bhutan.

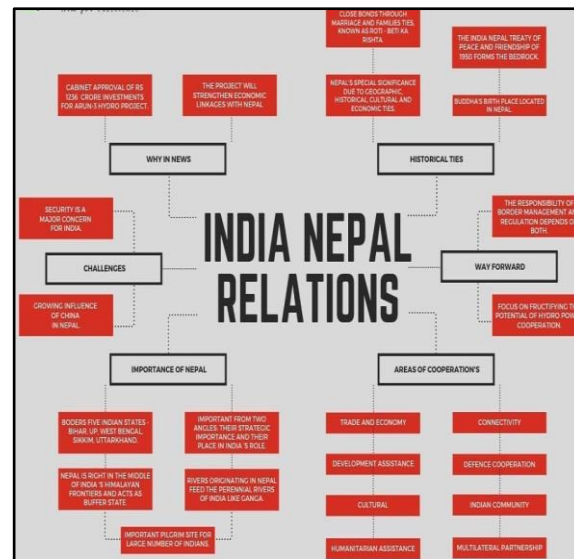


Figure 14: Nepal- India relation [Source:7]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the Nepal- India relation timeline that defines various factors. It showcases the relationship between India and Nepal considerations of the factors of historical ties, way forward, areas of cooperation, and challenges.

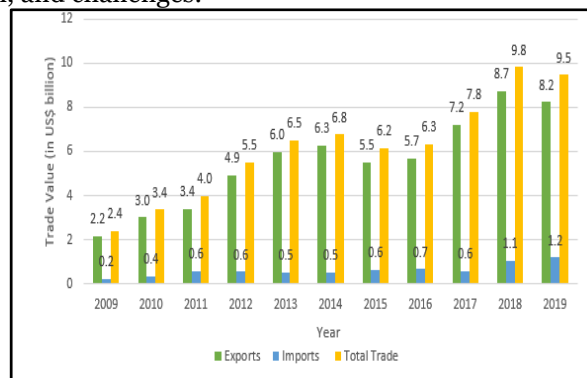


Figure 15: India-Bangladesh relation [Source:22]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the India-Bangladesh relation established based on the trade relation.

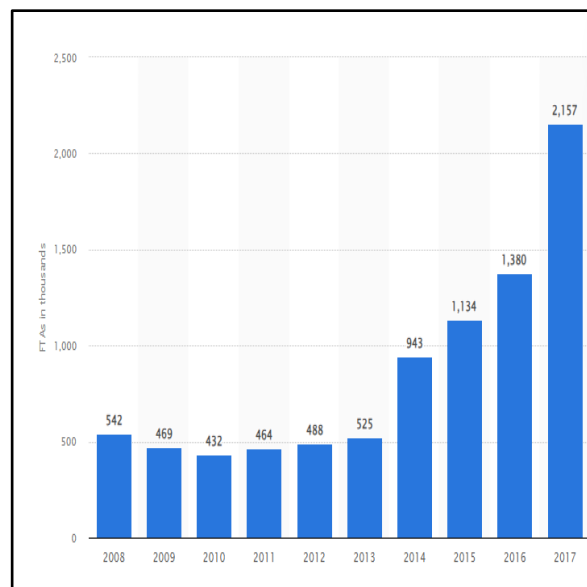


Figure 16: Foreign tourist arrivals from Bangladesh into India from 2008 to 2017
 [Source: 21]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the foreign tourist arrivals from Bangladesh into India from 2008 to 2017 define the smooth relationship.

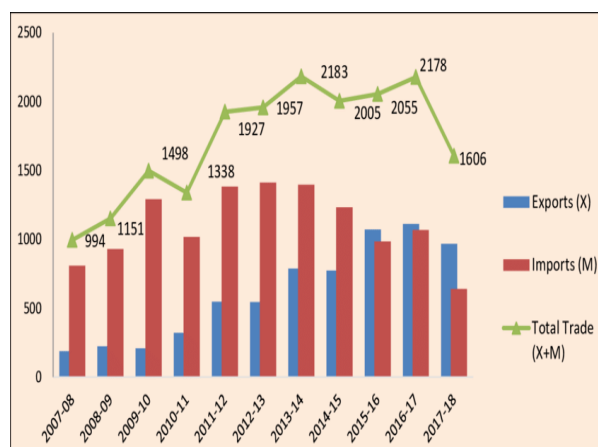


Figure 17: India-Myanmar Relations
 [Source: 1]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the India-Myanmar Relations based on the trade value. Bilateral commerce between India and Myanmar rose from US\$ 994.45 million in 2007-08 to US\$ 1.6 billion. Nonetheless, commerce between India and Myanmar decreased by 26% in 2017-18 compared to the previous year. India's import duties on lentils and peas have been the primary cause of the reduction in imports from Myanmar, therefore this significantly highlights the declining relationship between the two countries.

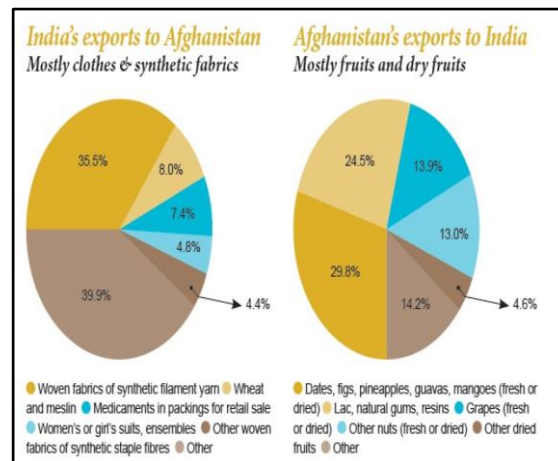


Figure 18: India-Afghanistan Relations
[Source: 39]

The above figures significantly demonstrate the India-Afghanistan Relations based on the trade value. The total bilateral commerce between these two countries amounted to around \$639 million, or 0.08 percent of global trade, in 2012. Given that India accounts for more than 20% of Afghanistan's exports, maintaining the relationship is critical. However, in 2021 geopolitical incidents disrupted the relationship.

Secondary Quantitative Data Analysis with Thematic Analysis

Theme 1: Assessing the Geopolitical Landscape between India and Neighbouring Countries

The study highlights that the geopolitical landscape between India and its adjoining nations is intricate and portrayed by a blend of participation, rivalry, and intermittent strains [4]. India imparts land or sea boundaries to Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, each with its extraordinary elements. India-Pakistan relations stay loaded with verifiable enmities, fundamentally revolving around the Kashmir issue and cross-line psychological oppression. Notwithstanding irregular endeavours settled talks, the relationship frequently heightens because of episodes along the Line of Control. China and India's relationship is set apart by a blend of collaboration [16]. While financial ties have developed altogether, line debates, particularly along the Line of Real Control, occasionally discharge up, prompting military stalemates and pressures. Nepal and Bhutan, both settled in the Himalayas, share close social bonds with India.

Notwithstanding, there have been intermittent strains, for example, Nepal's issues with Indian boundary framework ventures and Bhutan's difficult exercise among India and China. Bangladesh, when portion of Pakistan, keeps a for the most part warm relationship with India, with collaboration in exchange, security, and network. Notwithstanding, issues like water-sharing arrangements and unlawful relocation periodically strain ties. India's relations with Myanmar have seen vacillations, affected by issues like revolt along the line, Myanmar's interior governmental issues, and worries over Rohingya evacuees. Regardless of periodic strains, the two nations share intrigues in countering rebellion and upgrading the network. Sri Lanka, however not straightforwardly adjoining India, holds critical international significance because of its nearness and authentic ties. While relations have by and large been warm, issues like Tamil minority freedoms and Chinese impact on Sri Lanka's framework projects have periodically stressed ties [17].

Theme 2: Analyse complex bilateral relations between India and neighbouring countries

Bilateral relations among India and its adjoining nations are diverse and portrayed by a mix of verifiable inheritances, international desires, monetary interests, and key goals [18]. Every relationship conveys its one-of-a-kind elements, which add to the general intricacy of India's provincial discretion. Beginning with Pakistan, the relationship is defaced by many years of antagonism, fundamentally coming from the Kashmir question and cross-line illegal intimidation. Notwithstanding incidental endeavours settled talks, well-established doubt and varying vital needs have thwarted any significant advancement towards the goal. India's relations with China are set apart by a blend of participation, contest, and vital competition [19].

While the financial association has developed altogether, especially in exchange and speculation, regional debates, particularly along the Himalayan line, occasionally grow into military deadlocks, reflecting hidden vital doubt and contest for provincial predominance. Nepal and Bhutan, both settled in the Himalayas, share social and authentic binds with India. Nonetheless, India's prevailing local position now and again prompts strains, for example, Nepal's issues with Indian line foundation activities and Bhutan's careful way to deal with adjusting to India and China's persuasions.

Bangladesh, when East Pakistan, keeps a by and large warm relationship with India, described by participation in exchange, security, and network. Notwithstanding, issues like water-sharing arrangements and unlawful movement sporadically strain ties, featuring the intricacy even in agreeable connections. Myanmar, with its essential area connecting South and Southeast Asia, shares a mind-boggling relationship with India, impacted by issues like insurrection along the boundary, Myanmar's interior legislative issues, and worries over

Rohingya evacuees [20]. The two nations have teamed up on security and availability drives yet face difficulties because of Myanmar's sensitive harmony between local powers. Sri Lanka, albeit not an immediate neighbour, holds vital significance for India because of its nearness and verifiable ties. Relations have seen changes, impacted by issues, for example, Tamil minority freedoms and Chinese impact on framework projects, highlighting the fragile equilibrium of interests in the Indian Sea area.

Theme 3: Explore broader geopolitical insights and regional power dynamics between India and Neighbouring Countries

The more extensive international bits of knowledge and provincial power elements among India and its adjoining nations are impacted by verifiable heritages, monetary interdependencies, vital objectives, and the advancing international scene of the Indo-Pacific district. Understanding these elements gives key bits of knowledge into the moving power conditions and India's job as a significant provincial player. The main element moulding provincial elements is the ascent of China as a worldwide power and its extending impact in South Asia [21]. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have fortified its financial and vital binds with Pakistan, bringing worries up in India about encompassing and key contest. India-China competition is vital to provincial power elements [9].

The two nations strive for impact in adjoining states, seek command over essential streams, and take part in a fragile difficult exercise of collaboration and contest. Line questions, especially along the Himalayan outskirts, occasionally raise pressures, adding to a mind-boggling security climate. China's developing impact in adjoining nations like Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives is a component of a procedure to circle and contain India's ascent [22]. Chinese interests in framework projects, military collaboration, and discretionary effort have raised worries about India's essential weaknesses and dissolved its customary effective reach. Indian Sea area is seeing expanding contest among territorial powers, including India, China, and the US.

India's essential area at the junction of major sea courses highlights its significance in guaranteeing oceanic security and countering Chinese maritime expansionism, especially with regard to the Indo-Pacific system. Economic links are key in determining regional dynamics [23]. India's attempts to improve connectivity through programs such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) seek to counterbalance China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while encouraging regional economic integration and growth. Security participation remains a vital component of territorial elements. India teams up with adjoining nations, especially in counterterrorism endeavours, sea security, and calamity reactions, to address shared security difficulties and fabricate trust among provincial partners [18]. India participates in multilateral gatherings like the South Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to cultivate local collaboration, address normal difficulties, and advance strength in the more extensive Indo-Pacific district [19]. India's rich social legacy, vote-based values, and delicate influence resources add to its impact in the area. Social trades, instructive drives, and improvement help programs upgrade India's picture as a capable local entertainer and add to building generosity among adjoining nations.

Theme 4: Examine historical and contemporary aspects of relations between India and Neighbouring Countries

Contemporary parts of relations between India and its adjoining nations are diverse, impacted by extremely old social ties, pioneer heritages, international aspirations, and moving power elements. Looking at these perspectives gives experiences into the intricacies of provincial discretion and India's job as a central part of South Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific locale. India's relations with adjoining nations are well established in verifiable associations, shipping lanes, and social trades going back centuries. Antiquated civilizations like the Indus Valley Progress and the Mauryan Realm had broad exchange and social binds with districts presently including current Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka [21]. The frontier rule in the Indian subcontinent by the English Domain further formed the area's international scene, making counterfeit lines and worsening public strains.

The parcel of English India in 1947 prompted the making of Pakistan, making way for getting through questions, especially over the Kashmir locale. India's relations with adjoining nations were at first moulded by endeavours to lay out stable boundaries, resolve regional questions, and cultivate provincial collaboration. Notwithstanding, the irritating Kashmir issue and clashes with Pakistan, including various conflicts and progressing cross-line pressures, have remained industrious difficulties. India's "**neighbourhood first**" approach meant to develop cordial relations with adjoining nations, underlining common collaboration in regions like exchange, security, and advancement. Initiatives like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were laid out to advance territorial joining, despite the fact that progress has been impeded by reciprocal questions and veering interests [23]. China's development as a significant territorial power has essentially impacted India's relations with adjoining nations. Line debates with China, especially the irritating limit issue in the Himalayas, have prompted occasional military stalemates and stressed relations. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and interests in adjoining nations like Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have brought worries up in India about encompassing and vital contests. Financial ties assume an essential

part in forming India's relations with adjoining nations. India's financial progression during the 1990s worked with exchange and venture streams with nations like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Be that as it may, exchange irregular characteristics, non-duty hindrances, and foundation requirements have upset the acknowledgment of the locale's monetary potential. China's financial impact, especially through foundation activities and speculations under the BRI, has presented difficulties to India's monetary advantages and vital independence. Worries about obligation trap strategy, ecological manageability, and straightforwardness in Chinese speculations have filled doubt among adjoining nations, prompting recalibrations in their relations with China.

Security participation remains a critical part of India's relations with adjoining nations, especially in counterterrorism endeavours, sea security, and debacle reaction [22]. Bilateral and multilateral mechanisms like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Sea Maritime Conference (Parties) work with collaboration to keep up with oceanic security and counter transnational dangers. Nonetheless, security challenges, including crossline illegal intimidation, rebellion, and unlawful dealing, keep on stressing relations with nations like Pakistan and Myanmar.

Strains over regional debates, for example, the Doklam deadlock with China in 2017, highlight the unpredictability of local security elements. India's rich social legacy, majority rule values, and delicate influence resources add to its impact in the locale. Instructive trades, social celebrations, and improvement help programs upgrade India's picture as a capable provincial entertainer and elevate individuals to individuals attached to adjoining nations. Notwithstanding, difficulties like etymological and ethnic variety, verifiable complaints, and rivalry from other provincial powers limit the viability of India's delicate power projection in specific settings.

Discussions

The findings of the research significantly assisted in addressing the questions and objectives developed within the study. This research holds significant importance because it gives a complete knowledge of the complex dynamics impacting India's ties with neighbouring nations, which are critical for regional stability and global geopolitics. By illuminating historical, present, and theoretical elements, the research provides policymakers, diplomats, and scholars with vital insights into developing effective foreign policies, encouraging diplomatic engagements, and resolving conflicts. The significance of the study lies in providing valuable resources for tackling geopolitical concerns and furthering mutual interests in an increasingly linked international order.

Theoretical implications

As the study discusses geopolitical factors and landscape, it significantly contradicts and highlights theoretical implications in terms of constructivism, complex interdependence theory, balance of power dynamics, and the interaction between idealism and practical politics, the research enhances theoretical views in international relations. It provides insights into the ways that normative concerns, cultural identities, economic interdependence, and power dynamics affect interstate relations in South Asia. In the context of India's ties with its neighbour's, the findings also advance one's knowledge of the dynamics of regional security, economic integration, cultural diplomacy, and environmental sustainability.

Managerial implication

The findings of the study have a significant implication in the managerial context. Policymakers may use the study's results to develop sophisticated foreign policies that promote peace, stability, and economic cooperation in South Asia. The study's recommendations can help drive diplomatic endeavours, conflict resolution efforts, and strategic decision-making processes. Managers participating in diplomatic talks, peacebuilding, economic integration projects, cultural exchange programs, and environmental legislation might benefit from the study's findings. They can push for more economic integration, cultural interchange, security cooperation, and environmental sustainability in order to promote mutual benefits and regional stability.

Strengths and Limitations of the Study

The overall study has significant strengths as well as limitations. The strengths of the study lie as the study has been conducted with secondary data collection with quantitative and qualitative approaches that assisted this study to get numerical as well as non-numerical data on the subjective phenomena, for the subject's secondary data collection is essential as the study needs second data. Therefore, by taking both the secondary data collection it significantly showcases the strength and credibility of the research. On the other by accumulating qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, this study significantly poses a problem that leads to the complexity of data collection and the limited findings.

Strategic recommendations on the geopolitical landscape between India and neighbouring Countries

Navigating the geopolitical terrain between India and its neighbour's is a difficult task fraught with historical tensions, territorial conflicts, and strategic rivalry. Strategic proposals are vital for promoting regional stability, collaboration, and mutual prosperity.

Recommendation 1: Diplomatic Engagement and Conflict Resolution

Supported strategic commitment is central to settling longstanding questions and building trust among adjoining nations [3]. India ought to focus on exchange and discussion channels to address clashes, for example, the Kashmir issue with Pakistan and boundary debates with China. Certainty-building measures and track-two discretion can assist with decreasing pressures and make ready for serene goals.

Recommendation 2: Economic Integration and Connectivity

Improving financial reconciliation and availability can open the locale's monetary potential and cultivate collaboration among adjoining nations [2]. India ought to lead drives inside local structures like SAARC and BIMSTEC to change exchange, work with ventures, and foster a cross-line foundation. Reinforcing monetary ties can advance security and thriving, helping all gatherings included.

Recommendation 3: Soft Power Diplomacy and Cultural Exchanges

Delicate power discretion and social trades assume a crucial part in spanning cultural partitions and encouraging common comprehension [8]. India's rich social legacy can be utilized to fortify individuals' attachment to their neighbour's. Drives like scholastic trades, social celebrations, and the travel industry advancement can advance social tact and construct trust between assorted networks.

Recommendation 4: Security Cooperation and Counterterrorism Measures

Local security collaboration is fundamental for fighting transnational dangers and keeping up with steadiness [8]. India ought to improve knowledge sharing, and joint activities, and limit building drives with adjoining nations to address normal security challenges, including psychological oppression, fanaticism, and coordinated wrongdoing. Cooperative endeavours can fortify local security engineering and safeguard shared borders.

Recommendation 5: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Tending to natural difficulties and advancing environmental versatility is basic for practical improvement in the district [2]. India ought to team up with adjoining nations on ecological protection, sustainable power ventures, and environment transformation measures. Shared endeavours can moderate the effects of environmental change and safeguard the area's regular assets.

Recommendation 6: Multilateral Engagement and Strategic Alliances

Commitment to multilateral discussions and key partnerships can intensify India's impact and advance territorial participation [3]. India ought to use stages like the Quad to progress shared interests and offset territorial power elements. Dynamic cooperation in worldwide drives and foundations can additionally upgrade India's political height and advance aggregate security.

Recommendation 7: Humanitarian Assistance and Development Cooperation

Giving philanthropic help and supporting improvement tasks can encourage generosity and fortify local organizations [7]. India ought to focus on drives in regions like medical care, training, and framework advancement to address financial difficulties in adjoining nations. By advancing comprehensive development and success, India can add to territorial soundness and security.

Recommendation 8: Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Efforts

Endeavours to forestall clashes and fabricate economic harmony are fundamental for long-haul solidness in the district [8]. India ought to help comprehensive political cycles, discourse drives, and certainty-building measures to determine unseen fits of turmoil and advance compromise. By encouraging a culture of harmony and collaboration, India can add to local concordance and security.

Recommendation for Future Study

The present research opens the door for conducting future further research in this subject phenomenon and this research will guide in that case. Below are suggested areas in which future research can be done.

- Examine the effects of demographic trends and population dynamics on regional stability and security in the India-neighbourhood setting.

- Investigate how energy geopolitics shapes interstate ties and strategic alliances between India and its neighbour's [9].
- Examine the impact of maritime security issues like piracy and illicit fishing on regional cooperation and conflict dynamics [10].
- Investigate the impact of historical narratives and cultural identities on interstate relationships and territorial disputes in South Asia.
- Examine how water resource management and transboundary river conflicts influence intergovernmental relations and cooperation [15].
- Investigate how globalization and economic interdependence affect regional power dynamics and geopolitical alliances.
- Examine how regional groups like BIMSTEC and SAARC contribute to South Asia's economic growth, security, and peace [14].
- Evaluate how well people-to-people interactions and Track II diplomacy have worked to reduce tensions between states and foster trust.
- Examine how growing security issues, such as cyberattacks and hybrid warfare, may affect regional cooperation and stability [13].
- Examine the possibilities for sub-regional cooperation programs to promote economic integration and connectivity in South Asia, such as the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor.

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