

# Indian Border Disputes with its Neighbouring Countries

**Dr. VENKATESHA**

Associate Professor, Department of History  
Government First Grade College, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

## **ABSTRACT :**

The Indian Sub-Continent or simply the Sub-continent is a southern region and peninsula of Asia, mostly situated on the Indian Plate and projecting southwards in to Indian Ocean from the Himalayas. Geologically, the Indian sub-continent is related to the Land mass that rifted from Gondwana and merged with Eurasian plate nearly 55 Million years ago. Geographically, it is the peninsular region in south-central Asia delineated by Himalayas in the north, the Hindu Kush in the west, and the Arakanese in the East. Politically the Indian Sub-continent includes now all Sovereign Independent States, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the Geographical term “Indian Sub-Continent” is used interchangeably with “South Asia”.

## **KEY WORDS :**

India's land frontier extending over a distance of approximately 15,200 km has been the source of numerous problems leading to deadly conventional wars with her neighbours, most of them arising as a result of India's claims on territories of its neighbouring countries, which in turn have arisen on account of ill-defined international borders, by the British, as colonial power which have been ruling this area of sub-continent since Hundreds of Decades and had to leave it in haste after world war -ii. There are still severe Long pending disputes of India with the independent nations of the sub-continent, which are now sovereign states having different cultures, civilizations and religions and tensions remains among the nations due to violation of international laws by India having 1.3 billion population for its Hegemonial Designs in South Asia.

## **AUTHOR AFFILIATION AND MANUSCRIPT :**

### **1. Indo- Pakistan Boundary:**

British departure from Sub-Continent was ‘hasty, ill-planned and extremely bloody. Yet they also attempted to apply ‘a veneer of order’ to the process, by first attempting to preserve the reputation of Viceroy Mountbatten by using Radcliffe as a suitable scapegoat, and second presenting a process in which the South Asian Leadership had some agency. Britain was concerned with preserving its reputation during this vital time of handing over power. Financially broken and emotionally battered following the Second World War, this was a crucial period from which it was important that Britain emerged with its reputation intact and to present an orderly withdrawal from India rather giving the impression that it was forced to quit India. This was after all the ‘jewel in the crown’ of the British Empire and it would eventually set the pace of decolonization in other colonies seeking independence. Pakistan got Independence on 14th of August 1947. At the time of the creation, Pakistan had already been squeezed as much as possible as a result of an unholy collusion between Mountbatten and the Indian Congress leaders. However, the Radcliffe award was the meanest cut.

**REDCLIFFE AWARD:**

Under the Radcliffe Award, the boundary between the two countries was ill- defined and not properly demarcated on the ground. Maps were important to the imperial power, not just for mapping the terrain they ruled but also as a means of imperial control. The discussion on the colonial maps however was limited. Radcliffe was ignorant about India prior to his arrival as the Chair of the Boundary Commission. Radcliffe, an establishment figure, would have had some insider knowledge due to his role as Director General in the Ministry of Information during the Second World War. He also had some personal connections via his brother who died in India in 1938. So although seen as being an impartial figure, he would have had some conception of the political landscape in India, though this is not the same as actual lived experience of the land and its people. What is interesting is that Radcliffe was very much an establishment figure, committed to his sense of duty to the British Government and so in a sense he was not impartial with regard to the process of boundary-Making. In the words of Quaid-i-Azam, the Radcliffe Award was an unjust, incomprehensible and even perverse award.

**Controversy in Division of Kashmir:**

U.N.O therefore approved many resolutions that the Fate of Occupied Kashmir will be decided by a plebiscite, “a vote by which the people of occupied Kashmir shall express an opinion for or against a proposal especially on a choice of Government of India” but despite U.N resolutions and Struggles being carried out by the Kashmir, India never considered their right of Determination. Pakistan’s Diplomatic struggles for the Right of determination of Kashmir resulted in severe Tension between the two countries so India invaded Pakistan in 1965 but could not succeed in its designs because Pakistan’s Army fought a historical War to defend the Country. Pakistan continued its Struggles on Diplomatic grounds for the Independence of Kashmir as per U.N resolutions. But the present Government of BJP of Mr Modi has annexed the Jammu & Kashmir with India on 5th August 2019, violating all the International Laws & U.N.O’s resolutions, deployed an Army of 900,000 Indians soldiers and Kashmiris are under curfew till to-date. The inhabitants of Kashmir, a valley of indescribable beauty, are unfortunately still locked in a life and death struggle for their survival and their inalienable right to self-determination. They have been facing naked brutality and inhumanity during the last over seventy years. It is, therefore, the moral obligation of the international community to extend all possible help to the oppressed people of Kashmir who are still waiting for liberation from terror and injustice.

**Controversy in division of Punjab:**

In the division of Punjab, the award was unfair and awarded a number of Muslim majority areas to India. In Gurdaspur district two contiguous Muslim majority Tehsils of Gurdaspur and Batala were given to India along with Pathankot tehsil to provide a link between India and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Muslim majority tehsil Ajnala in the Amritsar district was also handed over to India. In Jullundur district the Muslim majority areas of Zira and Ferozepur in the Ferozepur district, were also given to India.

**Controversy in division of Bengal:**

Similarly, in Bengal the most important question related to the future of Calcutta. It was the capital of the province. Although the Muslims formed only a quarter of the population of Calcutta, a large section of its population consisted scheduled castes that were allied with the Muslim League. In any case, for more than two hundred years the Muslims of Bengal had contributed to make Calcutta what it was in 1947 a centre of commerce and industry.

The city of Calcutta, the capital of the province, was the biggest industrial, commerce and educational Centre. The entire development of Calcutta was based on the toil of Muslim peasantry of Bengal. East Bengal produced most of the raw material which had to be sent to Calcutta because all factories and mills were in Calcutta. The Congress leaders were determined to get Calcutta by all foul or fair means. Eventually, Calcutta was awarded to India ignoring the claim of the Muslim.

### **Controversy in Rann of Kachh:**

Pakistan asserted that the boundary in the Rann of Kachchh was not clearly delimited, that the Rann of Kachchh was not a marsh, an area of low-lying land which is flooded in wet seasons or at high tide, and typically remains waterlogged at all times, but a landlocked area and thus should be divided between India and Pakistan. A Boundary Tribunal was set up with Gunar Lagergren of Switzerland as president, which awarded 9065 sq km of the territory to Pakistan. The international boundary was revised accordingly in 1969.

### **Siachen Glacier:**

Another area of dispute is the Siachen glacier which lies to the north-west of K2. The glacier is about 75 km long and two to eight km wide, situated about 5.8 km (5800 m) above sea level with an average temperature of -50 °C. It has huge strategic importance for Pakistan, owing to its location—close to the Karakoram Highway between China and Pakistan. The conflict in Siachen stems from the incompletely demarcated territory on the map of the Glacier.

The Siachen Conflict, sometimes referred to as the Siachen War, was a Military conflict between India and Pakistan over the disputed Siachen Glacier region in Kashmir. The conflict in Siachen stems from the incompletely demarcated territory on the Map. The conflict started in 1984 when India illegally captured the parts of Siachen Glacier.

Both countries had a clash on Siachen Glacier in 1984, as it is strategically important for Pakistan. Since that time, the countries have stationed troops in this area of conflict at high financial costs.

### **Sir Creek:**

The contentious boundary issues between India and Pakistan also involves Sir Creek, a creek rich in marine life. Sir creek issue basically water disputed between Pakistan and India in Rann of Kutch 60 mi long. This flows the Arabian Sea. It divides Kutch region of India state Gujarat, and Sindh region of Pakistan.

The area is not so much of military value but is very much important for economy of oil and gas line beneath the surface of sea and it is one of the exclusive economic zone.

There were many tries to resolve the issue between India & Pakistan since 1969 as dispute includes allocation/delimitation/ demarcation. Both sides had tried to give their own type of solution but the other hand outrightly rejected the proposal.

This issue has been hanging ever since and can be rightly regarded as a part of the long list of the outstanding disputes causing friction and estrangement between India and Pakistan. It is not that big a problem as Kashmir but enough to contribute in the strained relationship.

## **2. The Indo-China Border:**

This border has become a major point of contention between the two parties, shattering the cordial relations that existed between the two countries since antiquity. Ladakh is part of Kashmir, so a disputed territory as per U.N.O Resolutions. Kashmir is a long pending issue, not only with India and Pakistan, but also with China. There are many Resolutions of U.N.O on the issue but the most important is that of



Plebiscite and setting up an international observer group (UNMOG) to monitor the longest unresolved U.N Issue, created by the Lord Mountbatten, the Last Viceroy of British Colonial power of Sub-continent. The matter is further validated by the Simla Agreement, in which it is clearly mentioned that resolution to the Kashmir issue, when resolved, will not affect the U.N resolutions. Indo-China border dispute on Ladakh is therefore also related to the Kashmir, as china has so far neither recognized the Macmohan Line nor accepts TIBET as a legitimate sovereign State authorized for independent agreements with other states which resulted in McMahon Line. The issue resulted in Indo-China war, so India was defeated and lost a lot of territory, Aksai Chen. The U.N.O left the region of Jammu & Kashmir, having a bloody war between Indo-Pakistan in 1965, and that of Ladakh which also led to the Indo-China war in 1962 unresolved, thus the region was living a defacto status quo existence being enjoyed by India continually attempted to unilaterally set aside the U.N resolutions on both the issues and kept on strengthening itself politically before the world through naked propaganda against Pakistan and China, showing its position as a secular state, while blaming Pakistan a Terrorist state and china as a communist regime, when BJP government of Modi won the elections defeating Congress on the purely Hindu Nationalism ,things suddenly changed when Indians abrogated Article 370 & 35 A in August 2019, annexed Kashmir with India. It was in violation of International Law and the U.N resolutions an illegal step taken by the Modi Government having vast majority in the parliament and support of RSS & Hindutva, with the resultant Curfew of the Kashmir, militarization of the Valley to change the Demography of the Kashmir. Pakistan was in a very critical situation. It can neither interfere in India nor help the Kashmiris, so the Prime Minister of Pakistan clearly spelled out this act of aggression by India in Kashmir against the U.N resolutions in Security Council on September 2019. India also was active to militarize the other part of the disputed Region, Ladakh in a bid to Secure its illegal Steps, such as:

India had a Military base in a small town called "Daulat Beg Oldi", which is only 10 km from Karakorum pass.

India extended the base to Brigade level, and constructed a road last year for supply purpose to the base, which was a very serious matter for china from military point of view. As it was a very rapid development to annex Ladakh, while china consider it a disputed territory and such developments were violation of the U.N resolutions, resultantly china landed more than 5000 troops in the Galwan Valley the western Ridges, dominating the newly constructed road , the only lines communication to the DB Brigade, the base is now un-operatable. Apparently these are the Indian's Violations of Disputed Borders which are the immediate causes of Chinese intrusion, but Indian claims on Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, to stop construction of Basha Dam, a CPEC Project, claiming it to be on Indian territory, CPEC Route , U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan and India to challenge the Chinese, Malacca Strait being dominated by Indo-US nexus circumvented by CPEC which may divert Trade through Gawadar to Khunjab, etc are the deeper causes of the recent Clash on Indo-China Border. Now India is humiliated, its soldiers have been killed/captured and base has been surrendered by them. Now India will try to find a solution where they can diffuse the tension but ground situation will not change. The Chinese will never return the Territory back to India because Chinese knows that what India was planning against China was strategically serious. India would have to back down , negotiate a more permanent and lasting three-way solution to Kashmir or else deal the matter militarily, which is not possible. So the situation is likely to diffuse and lead to a negotiated settlement as per U.N resolutions.

### 3. Indo-Nepal border:

There is a long history of border delimitation. Before the Sugauli Treaty of 1816, the Nepali state extended from the Sutlej River in the west to the Teesta River in the east. Nepal lost the Anglo-Nepalese War and the resulting treaty limited Nepal to its present territories.

India did not exist when Sugauli Treaty was signed in 1816. And India's current borders, not only with Nepal, but with many of its other neighbors, were drawn by the then British rule. India inherited the boundaries of British India. It can no longer reveal historical past.

Nepal-India Technical Level Joint Border Working Group was established in 1981 to resolve border issues, demarcate international border and manage border pillars. By 2007, the group had finished preparing 182 strip maps, signed by surveyors on both sides, covering nearly 98% of the range, with the two disputed areas of Kalapani and Susta all but disputed territories.

Nepal may have objected to the inauguration of 80-km-long strategically important route connecting Dharchula and Lipulekh pass in Uttarakhand on 8th May 2020 by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The tension in relationship between the two countries increased. Nepal claims that the high way passes through its territory. Its political leadership also showed unprecedented aggression in bilateral ties with India, ever since India inaugurated the Dharchula-Lipulekh road link- a strategic border road that offers easy access to the Lipulekh pass. It is strategically located at a high altitude of 17,060 feet, and only 4 km from the china border. Nepal has been claiming its own territory. The road link has no significance for Nepal, but it is crucial for India to ensure easy and more convenient passage to this part of the LAC, the De –facto Sino-India Border.

In Bihar, in a shootout, one person was killed and two injured near Indo-Nepal Border as India stated but, at the same time, no information has been revealed from Nepal in this matter. According to the report this firing has been carried out on behalf of Nepal. At the same time, there has been an atmosphere of Tension on the border after the incident. Nepal has also released a new Map approved by the assembly claiming Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura, due to which the Border dispute between the two countries has increased. In addition to the border disputes; there is a great resentment in Nepal due to Indian's Hegemonial Designs like, Blockades. Land locked Nepal is sometimes called "India-locked" because it border India to the East, west and South. Utilizing this geographical advantage, India has imposed three periodic trade blockades-1975, 189, and 2015-against Nepal, creating huge anti-India sentiments among Nepalis. After facing the crippling blockade of 2015, just one month after a powerful earthquake decimated the country being inhuman act of India; Nepal was compelled to sign a historic Trade & Transit Agreement with its Northern Neighbour, China

#### **4. Indo-Bangladesh Border:**

Out of the total border of 3,970 km between Bangladesh and India, nearly 2,450 km have been demarcated on the ground. The establishment of the boundary provoked sharp comments from the non-Muslims who protested against the arbitrary transfer of Khulna, a Hindu majority district to East Bengal.

Other major areas of conflict include Rajasthan in Bangladesh and Murshidabad in India where the channel of Ganga shifts frequently, causing the international border to shift. In addition to this, disputes have also arisen over the Sylhet district of Bangladesh, and Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills of India. This being a densely forested area, demarcation was difficult. In both cases, the controversial RADCLIFFE AWARD was confirmed and India's claim was imposed upon Bangladesh.

Another major thorny issue, which has cropped up between India and Bangladesh, is the decision of the Indian government to build a barbed wire fence along Indo-Bangladesh border to stop the illegal infiltration of refugees from Bangladesh.

The proposal seeks to construct an eight feet high barbed wire fence along the entire length of the border with Bangladesh leaving about 600 km of water courses. India is going ahead with the project despite objections from the Bangladesh government.

## 5. Indo-Myanmar Border:

There are over 240 villages with over 2.5 Lac people within 10 Km of the Indo-Myanmar border, Shri Rajnath Singh urged upon the Chief Ministers to bring these areas under active policing by opening police stations and police posts for re-assuring the people and also to prevent illegal cross-border activities. The India-Myanmar border has recently made the headlines after the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) reportedly conducted counter insurgency operations against Indian insurgents groups. But cross border movement of insurgents is only one of several security challenges facing the policing of the border. Pushpita Das (Research Fellow, IDSA) examines the other security challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. It is estimated that around 2,000 cadres of Indian insurgent groups active in the Northeast, such as the United Liberation Front of Asom – Independent (ULFA-I), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland –S (NDFB-S), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the People's Liberation Army (PLA), etc. continue to hide in Myanmar. Besides cross border movement of insurgents, rampant gun running and drug trafficking are other significant security challenges emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Myanmar has indefinitely deferred signing an agreement with India to streamline the free movement of people within 16 km along the border.

India is keen to sign the agreement but Myanmar — citing “domestic compulsions” — has asked more time before the agreement is sealed.

## 6. Indo-Bhutanese Border:

Bhutan, a country of south-central ASIA, located on the eastern ridges of the HIMALAYAS. Historically a remote kingdom, Bhutan became less isolated in the second half of the 20th century, and consequently the pace of change began to accelerate. With improvements in transportation, by the early 21st century a trip from the Indian border to the Bhutanese capital, Thimphu that once took six days by mule could be made in just a few hours by car along a winding mountain road from the border town of Phuntsholing. In addition to the diplomatic retreat that India had to swallow over its relations with Nepal, especially with China gaining a new strategic depth in that Himalayan country in the wake of the blockade over the Madhesi issue, a more serious strategic threat to India may emerge if the Sino-Bhutan joint field survey over the Druk Kingdom's disputed western border with China accedes to Beijing's demands, after the conclusion of the 23rd round of Sino-Bhutan border negotiations. India still accounts for 75 percent of Bhutan's imports and 85 percent of its exports. But a lot will depend on how the Sino-Bhutan boundary negotiation shapes up.

## 7. Indo-Sri Lanka Border:

India and Sri Lanka have a maritime boundary. A 30-km wide shallow sea, the Palk Strait, lies between the countries. The point nearest to Sri Lanka in India is Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu) and the point in Sri Lanka that is nearest to India is Talai Mannar, Jaffna. The bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka deteriorated in 1980's with a rising of the Tamil militant separatism in Sri Lanka, because Tamil Tigers were getting Arms and finance from India. Also, the relationship started deteriorating when India voted against Sri Lanka in 2009, 2012 and 2013 at the US-sponsored UNHRC resolution to investigate alleged human rights violations by the state against the Tamil rebels. In the period of low profile relationship between the two nations, SL apparently started favoring China over India. As part of Maritime Silk Route (MSR) policy, China built two ports, one in Colombo and another in Hambantota.

## Fisherman Problem

Fishing disputes have been a constant area of concern between the two South Asian neighbors for a long time. Sri Lanka has long expressed concerns about illegal fishing by Indian fishermen within its territorial



waters across the Palk Strait. The country regularly arrests Indian fishermen for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) that demarcates Indian and Sri Lankan waters. India also detains Sri Lankan fishermen for the illegal fishing.

### **Katchatheevu Island**

It is an uninhabited island that India ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 based on a conditional agreement called “Kachchativu island pact”. Later on, Sri Lanka declared Katchatheevu, a sacred land given the presence of a Catholic shrine. But Tamil Nadu that it falls under Indian Territory, and Tamil fishermen have traditionally believed that it belongs to them and therefore want to preserve the right to fish there.

### **Conclusion:**

“Hindutva”, which is the predominant form of Hindu nationalism in India. The term was popularised by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in 1923. It is championed by the Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Vishva Hindu Parishad, Bharatiya Janata Party and other organisations, collectively called the Sangh Parivar. Now they have proved the Two Nation Theory of Quaid-e-Azam, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah that Hindus & Muslims are Two Different Nations, Having different Culture, civilization and religion therefore Muslims cannot live as a Minority under Hindus of India and they need a Separate Country Pakistan. Had the Proper partition between the Two countries be carried out by British, there would have been no Wars or conflicts between the two countries, but by pleasing Hindu Leadership of India by the colonial power British like that of policy of appeasement for Nazi –Germany, the Extremist Hindus are now active in the South Asia creating wars & conflicts with its Neighbouring countries for Hindu- Domination in the Entire Region of South Asia. These long Pending disputes may be disastrous and lead to Catastrophic for not only South Asia, but for the Entire World ,therefore it is the obligation of U.N.O & the Developed Countries of the world to interfere and resist the designs of BJP Government for the sake of P:EACE in the World.

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