



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

The Delhi-Dhaka Thaw Is Welcome. It Must Be Built On

 **INDIAN EXPRESS**27 June 2026 · **IR** · **GS2**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

 epicbharat@gmail.com



The Delhi-Dhaka Thaw Is Welcome. It Must Be Built On

 **The Indian Express** 27 June 2026 **GS2**

Source: ujjyari.com — researched, fact-checked & UPSC-mapped



INTERVIEW ANGLE

"How should a large neighbour stabilise ties with a smaller one after a political upheaval, without being seen as interfering in its domestic politics?"

Source: [Original editorial](#)  [The Indian Express](#)

 **Every fact web-verified against primary sources** (<https://ujjyari.com/how-we-verify/>)

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

India-Bangladesh ties went through their sharpest strain in years after the 2024 political transition in Dhaka, with consular slowdowns, trade friction and rising suspicion. The current thaw, resumed visa services, renewed high-level contact and a more constructive tone, signals both sides want to stabilise. For an aspirant, the question is whether this is a durable reset or a fragile pause, and what structural work is needed to make neighbourhood diplomacy outlast political churn.

THE CRUX IN 60 WORDS

The warming of India-Bangladesh relations after post-2024 strain is welcome but built largely on optics. To make it durable, India must rebuild trust by engaging the Bangladeshi state and people rather than any party, resolve structural disputes on water, connectivity and trade, and handle sensitive issues like minorities through quiet, rules-based diplomacy, not megaphone politics.

THE ISSUE, DECODED

Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CONCEPT	WHAT IT MEANS	WHY IT MATTERS
Neighbourhood First	India's policy of prioritising relations with immediate neighbours	Bangladesh is its most strategically and economically significant eastern neighbour
The Thaw	Resumption of visas, high-level gestures after post-2024 strain	Restores a working relationship but is reversible if not institutionalised
Structural Issues	Teesta water, extradition, border, trade access, connectivity	These, not optics, determine the relationship's long-term health
Depoliticised Engagement	Dealing with the state and society, not one party	Prevents goodwill collapsing when governments change
Connectivity Diplomacy	Rail, road, port and energy links across the border	Anchors the Northeast and Act East to a stable Bangladesh

THE ANALYSIS

- ① **Bangladesh is irreplaceable for India.** It anchors neighbourhood-first and Act East, provides transit to the landlocked Northeast, and partners in BBIN and BIMSTEC. No eastern strategy works if Dhaka is hostile.
- ② **The thaw is real but thin.** Resumed visas and high-level contact restore a working channel, yet the foundation is sentiment and gesture, which can reverse with the next political shift.
- ③ **Trust is the first deficit.** India's perceived alignment with one political dispensation cost it after the 2024 transition. The corrective is engaging the Bangladeshi state and people, across the political spectrum, not betting on a single leader.
- ④ **Structural disputes will decide durability.** Teesta and broader water-sharing, border management, the extradition question, trade access, and stalled connectivity corridors are the real tests. Left to drift, they will quietly drain goodwill.
- ⑤ **Sensitive issues need calm handling.** The protection of minorities and periodic anti-India rhetoric (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/rhetoric/>) must be addressed through diplomatic channels and framed as a shared commitment to pluralism, not as interference, to avoid handing ammunition to spoilers.

DATA AND INSTITUTIONS VAULT

Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CARRY THESE INTO THE EXAM HALL.

Border: India and Bangladesh share a land boundary of roughly 4,096 km, India's longest with any neighbour.

LBA, 2015: The Land Boundary Agreement (100th Constitutional Amendment) settled enclaves and is a landmark of bilateral (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/bilateral/>) problem-solving.

Water: The Ganga Waters Treaty (1996) governs Farakka sharing; the Teesta agreement remains pending.

Sub-regional groupings: BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) motor-vehicles initiative; BIMSTEC connecting the Bay of Bengal littorals.

Connectivity: Maitree, Bandhan and Mitali Express rail links; Akhaura-Agartala rail; transit through Chattogram and Mongla ports for the Northeast.

Trade: Bangladesh is among India's largest trade partners in South Asia.

THE DEBATE

For investing in the thaw: A stable Bangladesh secures the Northeast, advances Act East, expands trade and connectivity, and denies space to hostile external actors in the Bay of Bengal.

Against over-investing: Domestic volatility (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/volatility/>) and anti-India currents in Dhaka mean optics-led engagement can reverse fast, as the post-2024 strain showed; India risks repeating the error of backing one camp.

Balanced verdict: Welcome the thaw but anchor it in institutions and delivery. Engage across the political spectrum, complete connectivity and energy projects, operationalise water mechanisms, and handle minorities and security through steady, rules-based diplomacy. Build structures, not just smiles.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THIS (TRANSFERABLE SKILL)

When evaluating a diplomatic reset, ask what would survive a change of government. List the gestures (visas, summits, statements) separately from the structures (treaties, completed projects, standing mechanisms). A relationship is durable only to the extent it rests on the second column. This framing instantly elevates an answer above narrative description.

DIAGRAM-IN-WORDS

Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

Post-2024 strain -> thaw via optics (visas, high-level contact) -> risk: reverses with politics -> fix by depoliticised engagement + structural delivery (water, connectivity, trade) + quiet handling of minorities -> durable, institution-anchored partnership

THE WAY FORWARD

- 1 **Depoliticise engagement.** Build ties with the Bangladeshi state, opposition and civil society so the relationship survives any transition.
- 2 **Deliver connectivity and energy.** Fast-track rail, port-transit and cross-border power projects that create tangible, constituency-building benefits.
- 3 **Operationalise water cooperation.** Move the Teesta and basin-level water dialogue forward through a predictable, data-driven mechanism.
- 4 **Handle sensitive issues quietly.** Raise minority protection and the extradition question through diplomatic channels, framed as shared values, not interference.
- 5 **Invest in people-to-people ties.** Expand education, medical-visa, cultural and trade linkages that anchor goodwill at the societal level.

THE TAKEAWAY BOX

Argue that the India-Bangladesh thaw is welcome but optics-driven, and durability demands depoliticised engagement plus resolution of structural disputes on water, connectivity and trade.

“Goodwill that rests on a handshake reverses with the next election; goodwill built into treaties, ports and rivers endures.”

Land Boundary Agreement and the 100th Constitutional Amendment; Ganga Waters Treaty 1996; Teesta; BBIN; BIMSTEC; Maitree and Mitali Express; Chattogram and Mongla ports; 4,096 km border.

How does a large country support pluralism (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/pluralism/>) and minority rights in a neighbour without being seen as interfering in its internal affairs?

“Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the management of the India-Bangladesh border. Examine the various challenges.” (GS3). Also neighbourhood-first and connectivity questions in GS2.

Neighbourhood-first policy, Act East, BIMSTEC and sub-regionalism, Northeast security and development, transboundary (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/transboundary/>) water governance.

Sources: *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com>), *Ministry of External Affairs* (<https://mea.gov.in>), *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in>)

Ujjiyari Current Affairs · ujjiyari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

Source: The Delhi-Dhaka Thaw Is Welcome. It Must Be Built On — [Ujjiyari.com](https://ujjiyari.com) | Free UPSC & State PCS Editorial Analysis

● **KEY ARGUMENTS AT A GLANCE**

The renewed warmth between Delhi and Dhaka after the post-2024 political churn is a genuine opportunity, but optics like resumed visas and high-level gestures must be converted into durable cooperation by tackling distrust, domestic politics and structural disputes.

✓ **SUPPORTING**

- Bangladesh is central to India's neighbourhood-first and Act East policies, anchoring connectivity, energy trade, sub-regional cooperation and the security of the Northeast.
- Unresolved structural issues, water-sharing including Teesta, the extradition question, border management, trade access and connectivity corridors, will erode goodwill if left to drift.
- Domestic political volatility in Bangladesh and rising anti-India sentiment in some quarters mean India must engage the state and society, not any single party or personality.

⚠ **COUNTER**

Skeptics note that India's earlier perceived alignment with one political dispensation cost it goodwill after the 2024 transition, so any over-investment in optics risks another reversal.

→ **WAY FORWARD**

Institutionalise people-to-people, trade and water cooperation that survives political change; depoliticise India's engagement; fast-track connectivity and energy projects; and handle sensitive issues like minorities and extradition through quiet, rules-based diplomacy.


MAINS ANSWER FRAMEWORK

 Ujjiyari Current Affairs - ujjiyari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

QUESTION

The recent thaw in India-Bangladesh relations is welcome but fragile. Examine the structural issues that must be resolved to make the relationship durable. (250 words)

INTRODUCTION

India-Bangladesh relations, often described as a model of neighbourly cooperation, were tested by the political upheaval in Dhaka after 2024. The recent thaw, marked by resumed consular services and high-level outreach, is a welcome correction, but it is not yet a settlement.

BODY

Bangladesh is indispensable to India. It anchors the neighbourhood-first and Act East policies, enables transit to the landlocked Northeast, hosts cross-border energy and rail links, and is a partner in BBIN and BIMSTEC sub-regionalism.

The thaw, however, rests on optics that can reverse quickly. Three structural challenges demand attention. First, distrust: India's perceived closeness to one political dispensation hurt it after the transition, so engagement must be with the Bangladeshi state and people, not a party. Second, unresolved disputes: Teesta and broader water-sharing, border management, the extradition question, trade access and connectivity corridors will corrode goodwill if they drift.

Third, domestic sentiment: episodes affecting minorities and bouts of anti-India rhetoric require calm, rules-based handling rather than megaphone diplomacy. The lesson is that durability comes from institutions and delivery, completed projects, predictable trade, functioning water mechanisms, not from photo opportunities.

India should also keep raising the protection of minorities through diplomatic channels, framed as a shared commitment to pluralism rather than interference.

CONCLUSION

The thaw is a beginning, not an achievement. India must convert warmth into structures that outlast any government in Dhaka, anchoring the relationship in mutual benefit rather than the fortunes of any leader.


RELATED DAILY ARTICLES

27 Jun [Current Affairs Today, June 27, 2026](#)

27 Jun [India and New Zealand Advance a Free Trade Agreement](#)

26 Jun [BRICS Energy Ministers Meet at Gurugram Under India...](#)

25 Jun **Jaishankar at Jeju Forum: India and Korea from Ships to...**

[Ujjayari Current Affairs](#) · ujjayari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

Ujiyari Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · **Free Daily** Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/editorials/2026/06/ie-delhi-dhaka-thaw-must-be-built-on-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com