

- Bangladesh expects India to resolve the **Rohingya crisis** by putting pressure on Myanmar.
- **Border management** remains a bigger challenge due to the porous nature of the border, which provides pathways to smuggling, trafficking in arms, drugs, people and cattle.
- **Delay in execution of projects** like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (**BBIN**) Initiative.
- **The China factor** is a challenge for India, as China is increasing its presence in Bangladesh, which can induce Bangladesh to the China card to supplement its bargaining capacity against India.
- **Increasing radicalization** as presence of groups like HUJI, Jamaat-e-Islami and HUJI-B fuels anti India sentiments.

India-Bangladesh have definitely matured in the last few years. However, looking at Bangladesh's importance in view of North East India's security and development, balancing China in the Bay of Bengal region etc. India needs to look into the existing challenges and resolve them on a priority basis to further strengthen the India-Bangladesh relations.

13. India has consistently argued for nuclear disarmament yet has not signed some of the most significant global treaties in this context. What are the reasons for the same? Do you think its time to revisit India's stand on the issue? (250 words) 15

Approach:

- Briefly highlight how India has consistently argued for nuclear disarmament over time.
- Mention some significant treaties and discuss the reasons why India has not signed them.
- Bring out benefits for India in signing these treaties at present times.
- Conclude by discussing how India can approach this issue.

Answer:

India has always been a proponent of nuclear disarmament. In 1954, the Indian PM became the first head of state to call for a standstill agreement proposing a ban on nuclear testing. This tradition continued to inform India's stand as seen in:

- India signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty in 1963.
- In 1965, India advocated a strong non-discriminatory treaty banning nuclear proliferation.
- India proposed a comprehensive proposal for complete and universal nuclear disarmament to the UN in 1988.
- India adopted a No First Use of Nuclear Policy after its second test, Pokhran-2 in 1998.
- India in its Draft Nuclear Doctrine in 1999, stated that a global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament is a national security objective.
- In 2015, at the conference of disarmament, Geneva, India again pushed for disarmaments through multilateral agreements to increase restraints on the use of nuclear weapons.

However, despite being a robust advocate of nuclear disarmament, India has not been party to various global treaties related to containment of nuclear proliferation and disarmament like Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), newly concluded Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon (TPNW).

This is because of numerous apprehensions:

- Treaties like CTBT and NPT are **discriminatory** and favour the nuclear weapons states, who have already achieved sophistication in nuclear technology.
- There is **no commitment to a time frame** for dismantling existing nuclear weapons and universal disarmament.
- They do not address **India's security concerns** emerging from its hostile neighbours. While India would waive the possibility of testing and developing its own nuclear weapons, whereas China would be able to retain its arsenal as per the NPT.
- Signing these treaties would also **hinder India's strategic nuclear program**
- India supports the view that treaties should focus on all aspects like disarmament, elimination and verification. But the **verification process** is not robust in most of the treaties.

By not signing these treaties, India has developed its own nuclear program and protected its security interests. However, joining some of these major treaties can be beneficial for India in the long run in following ways: