

## **Role of Siliguri Corridor in India Bangladesh Border and China Aggression**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The chicken neck corridor, whose real name Siliguri Corridor. It is the only connecting point between the seven sisters state (north east) and main land India. This corridor, which is only 22 km wide is extremely important for Indias economic, geopolitical, military, and security strategies. It is located at the junction of Bhutan, Nepal, China, Bangladesh. Therefore, this corridor is a choke point where India's integrity can be challenged. Due to the proximity of the Doklam plateau and Tibet to this region, China has a particular interest in this area. Due to activities such as smuggling, terrorism, arms and drug trafficking, child trafficking, human trafficking, this region is extremely important for Indias security. India is enhancing security in border trade and corridors through military buildup, strategic diplomacy, and the development of border infrastructure. The security of the Siliguri Corridor is extremely important because on attack on it would sever the life line of 50 million people and eight state and would raise questions about India's integrity and sovereignty.

**Keywords** - Security, Border, Corridor, Trafficking.

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### **India Bangladesh Border and China Aggression**

The India Bangladesh Border is a significant border in South Asia and it is also an international Border this 4100 km long border has geopolitical and security complexity as well as political and cultural significance. The city of Siliguri was known as a significant commercial administrative and transportation hub of British India. This was important to British because on one hand it provided easy access to the hilly regions like Sikkim and Darjeeling and on the other hand it was considered the gateway to northeast India. Moreover, they used this route to transport tea and timber and build the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. Since the partition of the country in 1947, the landscape of this region has changed dramatically, profoundly impacting the geopolitical of South Asia. The partition of India resulted in the creation of East Pakistan and West Pakistan. East Pakistan is now known as Bangladesh. As a result of this partition, the state of Northeast India such as Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur becomes separate from the Indian mainland. And currently this 20-22 km stretch of road has become the only means of communication with northeast India.

Siliguri is located between Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling district of the state of West Bengal in India. To the east of this corridor lie Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura. To the west lie the territory of India, such as west Bengal and other states. To the north lie Nepal and Bhutan and the south is Bangladesh, which has made the geopolitics of this region complex many respects.

This corridor is famous for the cities of Jalpaiguri and Siliguri, which are important transportation, tourism and commercial Centre. Bagdogra Airport located in this region is used for both commercial and military purpose. The Teesta River, Mahananda river and other smaller rivers are located around this Corridor, which greatly assist in security and transportation. If we look at the relationship between India and Bangladesh from the past, we will see that in 1971 Bangladesh gained independence with the help of India, under leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Subsequently a friendly relationship maintains with India. During the time Indira Mujib border agreement was signed in 1974. The sudden assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975 led to the imposition of military rule in Bangladesh. The military regime essentially becomes anti India and Islamist. It is particularly observed that relations between Bangladesh and India did not improve significantly when the BNP and the Jamaat -e-Islami parties were in power of Bangladesh. When the Awami League came to power in 1996, relations between Bangladesh and India improve. As evidence by the Transit agreement and Gangas water treaty. Currently Mohammad Yunus and his followers who are in charge of the interim government in Bangladesh exhibit anti India sentiments. Moreover, during his visit to China, Yunus said Indias northeast region is landlocked. Another statement is Bangladesh could be the only protector of the sea in this region. It created a stir in India and various Indian minister criticized it in strong terms. Bangladesh anti India sentiments reveal how vulnerable India's Siliguri Corridor. The Indian government has increase development and security in the region.

The nearest Tibetan region (China border) to the Siliguri Corridor is located north of India's Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The distance from Nathula pass to the Siliguri Corridor is approximately 170-180km. The distance from this Corridor to the Doklam plateau is approximately 100 -120 km. Distance from this corridor to yadong (Tibet) China is approximately 100 km. Given China's continuous aggressive activities in Tibet, Doklam and Arunachal Pradesh, this corridor is strategically very important. China has long claimed Arunachal Pradesh as south Tibet and continuous build military posts, bridge, road and other infrastructure along the border. In 2017, the Doklam standoff threatened the existence of the Siliguri Corridor, while Pakistani ISI has repeatedly smuggled counterfeit currency using this region. Moreover, there is extremist and organizational activity in Bangladesh. At the various Times militant organizations have provided shelter to members of group such as ULFA, ATTF and NSCN. As a result, they have been able to monitor the Siliguri Corridor (also border area in India) more closely and formulate their various anti India plan. But the Indian government always stays one step ahead for the sake of its own integrity and security.

### **The Indian government's actions to protect the Chicken's Neck.**

India is not sitting idly by while China tries to keep the situation in Northeast India volatile. Because India knows that the autonomy movement in Manipur in 2023 was not merely an internal issue; there was foreign instigation behind it. Therefore, even though it was late, India, by imposing President's rule in Manipur and launching Operation All-Out, made it clear that India knows how to take a firm stance when necessary. Recently, new pressure is coming from the Bangladesh side on the Siliguri Corridor. Extremist organizations like JMB, Ansarul Bangla, and Hizb ul-Tahrir are now trying to create

micro-radical cells in North Bengal. A kind of shadow war is being waged here in the name of the caliphate, behind which the instigation of China cannot be ruled out. In September 2025, Ajit Doval participated in the Combined Commanders' Conference in Kolkata. Where strategic security issues are discussed with the chiefs of the Indian Army. And this shows how vigilant India is in this matter. India is now quietly pursuing a strategic game along the Myanmar border, which, although not publicly acknowledged, is secretly increasing China's headaches. From a military perspective, India is no longer thinking in terms of defense. Instead, adopting an all-out preparedness policy, India has rapidly built a strong defense infrastructure, especially in the states bordering China. For example, India has now deployed the BrahMos supersonic missile in Arunachal Pradesh. The BrahMos is the world's fastest cruise missile, capable of striking targets with precision, even in mountainous regions. Not only that, paved roads, helipads, and small advanced airstrips are being constructed in the border areas so that military equipment or fighter jets can be easily deployed here in any emergency. Moreover, the border areas are also seeing a lot of development through the Indian government's new scheme, the Vibrant Villages Programmed As a result of this infrastructure, the time it takes for troops to reach this vast area from Tawang to Mizoram has been significantly reduced, allowing for faster army deployment. In addition, India has significantly updated its satellite system, and with the cooperation of ISRO and DRDO, such an advanced monitoring system has been developed that every movement, logistical activity, and even known camps along the border can now be monitored in real time. This shows that today's India is much more vigilant and always prepared; today's India is not an India that remains silent. India has created an immigration bill to prevent illegal infiltration. The NRC and SIR have also been created, which makes it possible to prevent demographic infiltration or illegal immigration in border areas. Moreover, work is also underway to identify infiltrators and set up detention camps in Assam, West Bengal, and Northeast India. The country's top intelligence agencies are IB, RAW, and NIA. They are now regularly monitoring not only terrorism but also the activities of madrasas, religious NGOs, and organizations connected to international extremist networks. In particular, action is being taken proactively to identify and neutralize the micro-radical cells that have sprung up in North Bengal, Assam, and Bihar, which are associated with organizations like Bangladesh's JMB, Ansarullah Bangla Team, and Hizb-ul-Tahrir. Moreover, from a diplomatic perspective, India has provided significant assistance to Bhutan, amounting to 10,000 crore rupees. This has helped save Bhutan from the temptation of falling into China's trap. Currently, the Zen G protesters in Nepal have overthrown the Nepalese monarchy and formed a new government, with whom India has very good relations. India's stance on the Tibet issue is much more straightforward than before. Previously, India had people working behind the scenes on this issue, but now India is publicly acknowledging and providing a platform to them. Through this, India is clearly supporting Tibet's demand for independence and autonomy on the world stage. This is an extremely sensitive issue for China. Moreover, India has been able to build an India-centric sphere of influence in South Asian countries through value-based friendships. These incidents are a matter of great concern for China. India has now established a strong sphere of influence in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean regions. In short, this is a strategic response against China's maritime strategy. While China has encircled India by building a series of ports and naval bases under the name 'String of

Pearls', India has adopted its 'Necklace of Diamonds' strategy. As a result of this policy, India has been able to create a defensive cordon around itself, such as the strong naval base and strategic air base established in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. From where the entire Strait of Malacca can be monitored, which is China's lifeline, and to counter China's presence at Pakistan's Gwadar port, India is strategically using Iran's Chabahar port. Similarly, the Indian Navy's presence has been significantly increased in the coastal areas of Visakhapatnam, alongside the Quad alliance of India, Japan, the US, and Australia, through which India has been able to counter China's dominance in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Moreover, through India's Act East Policy, trade, diplomatic, and defense relations with the countries of Southeast Asia have been strengthened. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, who are themselves concerned about Chinese aggression, have collectively made the Bay of Bengal a strategic zone for India, from where India can monitor all of China's naval movements and port activities. India's Siliguri Corridor is a huge strategic vulnerability for India. If even a minor accident occurs, eight Indian states will be devastated in an instant. India is still searching for a possible alternative corridor; if successful, it will be used as an alternative lifeline.

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