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**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND
INTERSTATE DISPUTES IN SOUTH ASIA**

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ABSTRACT

In the entire world South Asia is one of the regions which experience maximum climate change. Due to its high temperature, plus utmost weather conditions, the rising and declining levels of the sea, any continuously rising cyclonic activities are the primary reason for the rise in the flood structure which occurs in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The prior reason behind this shift is the increasing population in that region; these shifts are possible to produce a multiplex environment, compassionate, and safety challenges. The outcome of these changes in climate results in change in the circumstances and livelihood in various areas. Because of disastrous conditions people are forced to leave their household for temporary but sometimes because of continuous disaster they become helpless to leave their home permanently and shift from one place to another in search for suitable survival. The report of the U.N Secretary General (2009) suggests that "second-order effects of unsuccessful adaptation in the form of uncoordinated coping or survival strategies of local populations... involuntary migration, competition with other communities or group over scarce resources and an overburdening of local or national governance capacities."

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Fingar who is the chairperson of the National Intelligence Council claims that because of the rising change in climate in South Asia people have to suffer from aggravating poverty, leading social problems which leads to increase in instability in internal matters as well as conflicts, and giving worldwide population proper grounds to migrate. According to the experts due to this change in weather pattern and conflicts in resources among nations, this change leads to migration of million people, tragic economic condition worldwide, and threatening the military powers. Recently the disaster which took place in South Asia in the year 2012 records that due to flood almost 1.5 million people were displaced in Assam, while the Cyclone which occurred in 2009 resulted in displacement of 2.3 million of people. Reports suggests that South Asia has become extremely vulnerable in regards with the changes that causes rapid rise in intercontinental as well as interior migrations across various subcontinents.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES

The changing climate is one of the major concerns which have a deep impression on the boundaries of the maritime in South Asia; this problem has a direct and impactful effect on the physical as well as the geopolitical facets of the boundaries. Some of the crucial concerns which are raised due to this climate change are:

- **The Rise in Sea Level-** Climate change causes dynamic impact in every field but one of its peak significance is because the continuously changing climate there is a direct effect on the level of the sea. And due to this it poses a eventual hazard to the areas which are low lying in the coastal regions, which creates an direct impact on making the land futile and creates an change in the boundaries of the maritime. Some of the Southern Asian continents which are eventually becoming vulnerable due to the rise in the sea level which is a direct outcome of the changing climate are Maldives as well as Bangladesh.
- **The Costal Geographical Shifts –** The coastal geography gets altered due to the change in climate which results in corrosion, sedimentation, as well as affects by occurring fluctuations in the currents of the ocean. This eventually produces the redefining of the boundaries in maritime, as seashores move with time. The nations are required to negotiate newly margins or addresses clashes which can be arise due to these change.
- **Acidification in Oceans –** Ocean acidification is increasing with the course of time and the major reason behind this are over absorption of carbon dioxide, which eventually effects on the ecosystem of the seas that can even affect the fisheries. Due to rapidly change in the patter of fish migration, leads to create an atmosphere of dispute of the management of resources which directly influences on the demarcation of seafaring boundaries.
- **Thrilling Weather Events-** The change in climate is certainly associated with the intensification in the regularity as well as the intensity of these thrilling weather events, and due to such reasons there are rapidly growing cyclones plus storms in various regions of South Asia. These events mostly become very disastrous as they directly damage the infrastructure of the coastal areas; it also has a hazardous effect on the maritime activities, and eventually suggests the urgent need for the reviewed agreements on the boundaries of seafaring.

- **Rapidly Increase in Competition in Resources** – Climate change is one of the vital reasons which have created a disturbance in the distribution of the resources. Because of this change of the resources, it leads in increasing the competitive rate for the fisheries sectors as well as other worthy resources of a particular region. This can eventually arouses rigidities as well as differences over the marine boundaries which ultimately lead to exploitation of the resources.
- **Immigration and Shift** – With time to time we experience that rise and fall of the level of the sea with the changing environmental situations create a lot of chaos which results in people to migrate from one place to another and by this the potentially cross the boundaries of the marine which are in existing time. Due to such shift in population new challenges emerges with regards to cooperation within the nations as well as border management.
- **Effects in Geopolitical Condition** - Changes which takes place in the seafaring boundaries can have geopolitical effects. It can lead to affecting the matters which concern with the securities of the nations; it also affects the interest of the economic sectors, and can have devastation dynamic effects on the regional powers. Therefore, because of such condition the nations have to suffer by on-going adaptation in the policies of maritime as well as revising strategies according to the change.
- **International Collaboration** – There are various boundaries in regards with the climate changes which are created due to such impacts. The countries of South Asia are in an urgent need for an international collaboration in order to address the shared challenges. The collaborative efforts help in developing various adaptation strategies; it also mitigates risks, as well as handling the effects of the change in climate on the boundaries on maritime zones.

INTERSTATE DISPUTES IN SOUTH ASIA

The history of South Asia is marked by the multitude in the conflicts between the interstate which gradually leads to dispute within the territories. After the partition of British India which took place in 1947, it led to formation of Pakistan and India which is eventually accompanied by the fierce joint riots and this result in the displacement of millions of population. One of prior example of this can be the unsolved conflict of Kashmir which appealed as a foregoing tension in between India and Pakistan, because of this disputes numerous conflicts in the armed have been increased. We have seen that South Asia is prone to interstate disputes since a long

time and this directly encompasses the struggles or differences between two or more nations in the region. The interstate disputes are those conflicts that take place between two or more independent states, and these are the persistent feature which takes place in the international background during the course of history. These disputes have disastrous consequences as they are the result of various aspects, which generally includes differences in the territorial areas, resource distribution, they also creates various differences in culture as well as the power struggles in the geopolitical areas. The global complexities are other prior reasons that lead to creating of disputes, and these can only be resolve when its complexities are correctly evaluated with proper understanding of its causes, its challenges, plus probable resolutions becomes vital in order to develop harmony and stability among the regions. South Asia is popularly most famous for its various diversities in culture as well as it has significance of historical events which has examined various complicated web of the disputes in the interstate and these conflicts have been going on since a very long duration of time. The interstate disputes are eventually rooted in regards with the historic, dogmatic as well as with the territorial problems. All these subject matter possess crucial challenges to the stability of regional matters plus it hamper its cooperation with the other nations. Some of the most prominent interstate disputes which are seen in South Asia are:

Conflict in Kashmir (India and Pakistan) – One of the major and longest disputes in the South Asia region includes the conflict of Kashmir. This struggle widely involves the territorial disputes which takes place between India and Pakistan. The regions are widely divided by the Line of Control (LOC) into administrative areas by India and Pakistan, but the most vital problem is that both the countries claim to have entire territory.

Sir Creek Dispute (India and Pakistan) – A boggy area which is in between the border of the states of India that is Gujarat and Pakistan's domain of Sindh is well known as Sir Creek Dispute. This area is gradually disputed which leads to create a tension within the occasional zones. The prior dispute is the interpretation of the boundary lines in the maritime in between Pakistan and India. Before the time on independence this area was part of the British India but after the independence took place the region of Sindh became a part of the Pakistan while on the other hand Gujarat remained back being the part of India.

Dispute from Water – The region which faces the most water-related disputes is South Asia, and this dispute takes place with several other countries which is generally related with the issues of river water. Some of the popular disputes are associated with the sharing of the river water of the Great Ganges River which takes place between the Bangladesh and India

Examples include the disputes over the sharing of the Ganges River between India and the India – Pakistan dispute because of the Indus Water.

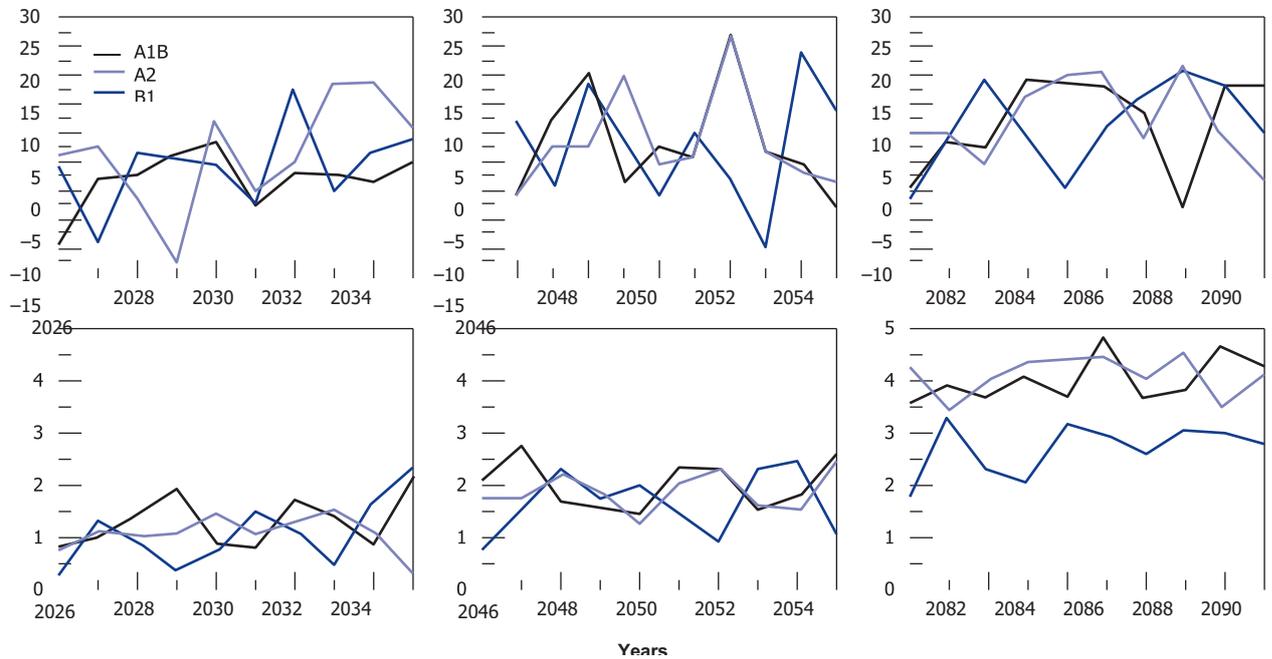
Dispute in Border – The major disputes which are related with the border are the India and China's differences and India and Bangladesh issues. India is known for its age old border disputes which generally takes place between India with China, predominantly with the Line of Actual Control (LAC) which occurs in the Himalayan region. In addition to it, India has many disputes even with Bangladesh which can be considered as an historical border disputes, but with the course of time several efforts are made in regards with solving this major issues with the help of several agreements.

Dispute of Nepal and Indian Border- In India five states share their border with Nepal and they are Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal as well as Sikkim. The border of Nepal with India has faced several disputes which is chiefly in concern with the regions of the Kalapani, Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh. These two countries have sought after the issues with the medium of channels which are diplomatic.

The Pakistan and Afghanistan Border - This border between the Afghanistan and Pakistan is well known as the Durand Line which is widely spread in two thousand six hundred and eleven kilometres was always a reason of creating historical tension within the reasons. Records suggest that after the independence in 1947, the Durand Line is inherited by the Pakistan but the Government of Afghanistan refuse to accept this agreement as they believe that it does not have any official recognition. Although Pakistan has inherited various agreements but never got any formal treaty regarding this ratification in between Kabul and Islamabad.

Climate Change Impact in South Asia

Figure 6: Interannual Variations in Regional Climate Model Simulations for Different Periods and Emission Scenarios for Monsoon Rainfall (upper) and Annual Mean Surface Temperature (lower) over South Asia



Note: The changes in rainfall (%) and temperature (°C) are with respect to the baseline.

The IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) suggests rise and decline in temperature in various periods if time with the rise in emission scenes in the course of 2080s as suggested in the figures. The change is climate is largely inclined by several challenging factors that results in introducing several nonlinearity which causes climate change. The differentiation can get more marked due to the scenarios of low as well as high emission but this is only clear in the 2080s. Adding to it, in 2050 also the climate change differs and is even not well marked.

CONCLUSION

The issues related to change in climate is not only threaten to environment but it simultaneously affects as well as challenges the geopolitical methods in regards with the boundaries of the maritime. When the level of the sea rises and changes it results in gradual shift in the coastlines, all these challenges can be resolved only if the state are adapting certain methods in order to improve the current circumstances and also ensures to stabilize the boundaries. But failure to follow these may leads to rise in tensions, growing of disputes as well as loss when it comes to the sovereign of the territories. By the medium of acknowledgement of impacts of the change in climate which takes place in the maritime boundaries, effective measures need to be applied which can progress the situation. If international communities works together in order to creating a sustainability of the coastlines only then the challenges can be solved. There are several disputes as we have already discussed above and in order to resolve all these disputes taking multifaceted approach is crucial as to resolve the historic, political as well as the cultural issues. The disputes within the interstates in South Asia pose crucial challenges in order to create stability of the region with development of the aspiration. There are various historical conflicts within the territorial areas plus there are various contemporary challenges regarding the water securities as well as border managements. To resolve these disputes one need to adopt an intensive method in order to find harmony and peaceful environment. The prior focus should be towards prioritizing the cooperation in the regional areas. The South Asia countries can overcome from all the differences and therefore one needs to build a collective respect, wealth and security. There should be adaptation of various strategies like by establishing mechanisms related with threatening and struggle prevention in order to address the probable subject matters before they intensify. By the stimulation of the cultural exchanges, people can interact in order to build thoughtful as well as empathy amidst different communities. By encouraging programs related to education which eventually highlights the cohesions as well as shared history. These disputes can also be resolved when the parties encourage one another in regards with betterment of the international legal frameworks plus the mechanism which is arbitrary in nature. The disputes in the interstates in the South Asian regions often entangled with the securities of the borders which includes rise in terrorism, the infiltration within the cross-boarders as well as the territorial invasions. Because of the mutual distrusts within the international boundaries leads to create threaten in the securities. Henceforth, we can sum up that the challenges related to the climate changes as well as the disputes within the interstates in the South Asia need to be resolving in order to improve the situation.

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