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## Change in Bangladesh, the challenges for India

(The Hindu, 09-08-24)

### Recent Events in Bangladesh

- The ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
- Student protests led by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement
- The army's intervention and appointment of Muhammad Yunus as interim government head

### How does the current situation in Bangladesh differ from the 2007 military coup?

- In 2007, the army was needed to control anarchy and violence
- In 2024, the army is seen as facilitating the will of the people
- The army appears more vulnerable and responsive to public opinion

### What challenges does the interim government in Bangladesh face?

- Potential hijacking of student agitation by suppressed radicalised groups
- Ongoing violence against Awami League sympathizers
- Attacks on symbols of Bangladesh liberation and the Hindu minority
- Balancing polarized forces in the government.
- Similar to Myanmar, where coup leaders struggle to retain control

### What challenges does India face due to this turmoil?

- Balancing relationships:
  - Maintaining ties with the new interim government while not alienating other political factions
  - Avoiding the mistake made in the Maldives, where supporting one side led to backlash
- Regional stability:
  - Ensuring the political transition doesn't lead to increased instability in the region
  - Preventing the rise of anti-India forces or religious extremism in Bangladesh
- Protecting minority interests:
  - Addressing concerns about attacks on the Hindu minority community in Bangladesh
  - Advocating for the protection of religious minorities without appearing interventionist
- Economic considerations:
  - Safeguarding Indian investments and development projects in Bangladesh
  - Maintaining economic cooperation during the political transition
- Geopolitical implications:
  - Managing the potential involvement of other regional powers (e.g., China) in Bangladesh's affairs
  - Preserving India's influence in the region amidst changing political dynamics

### What is suggested as India's best approach to the situation in Bangladesh?

- Work closely with Muhammad Yunus: Engage with the Nobel laureate who has been appointed as the head of the interim government
- Collaborate with the army: Maintain open lines of communication and cooperation with the Bangladesh Army

- Engage with the people of Bangladesh: Focus on building relationships directly with the Bangladeshi population
- Leverage development partnerships: Utilize the strong development projects and partnerships India has built for the benefit of Bangladesh's people
- Avoid one-sided support: Learn from past experiences (like in the Maldives) and refrain from solely supporting one political faction

*Can you answer the following question?*

*Recent events in Bangladesh highlight the delicate balance between democracy and military intervention in South Asian politics. Critically examine the challenges faced by Bangladesh's interim government and discuss India's potential role in promoting stability in the region.*

## Google's Anti-Trust Case

(The Hindu, 09-08-24)

A landmark antitrust ruling against Google by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

- The verdict found Google guilty of violating Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act
- The case accuses Google of stifling competition to protect its monopoly in online search

**What were the specific anti-competitive practices Google was accused of?**

- Using its dominant position in the online search market
- Making exclusive deals with smartphone makers like Apple and Samsung
- Ensuring Google search was pre-loaded as the default search engine on their devices

**What are the potential remedies being considered?**

- Breaking up Google
- Eliminating exclusive agreements between Google and handset makers
- The exact remedy is yet to be determined, with discussions scheduled for September 6

**What broader implications does this verdict have?**

- Apple could lose billions if its exclusive deal with Google is terminated
- Smartphone makers may lose a significant revenue stream
- It may incentivize companies like Apple and Samsung to develop their own search engines
- It could set a new precedent for how Big Tech firms conduct their business
- The ruling may impact other ongoing antitrust cases against companies like Meta, Amazon, and Apple
- It could lead to more consumer choice in search engines and potentially improve user privacy