

# Resources & Achievements of Bangladesh



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# Natural Resources of Bangladesh

- The resources which abound in nature used them for people's welfare and the production of products is called natural resources.
- The natural resources in Bangladesh are fertile lands, minerals, forestry, animals, rivers, seas, climate and rainfalls.
- Those resources have a huge contribution to the economic and social activities of Bangladeshi people.

## Agricultural resources

- The primary occupation of most of the people in Bangladesh is agriculture.
- This country has lots of fertile lands to cultivate different kinds of crops.
- This country has 90,990 square kilometers arable lands.

- We can produce rice, potato, jute, tea, tobacco, wheat, pulse, oilseeds, fruits, sugar cane, silk and many other products.
- The GDP share of agriculture is about 14.10 percent and about 63 percent of people directly or indirectly depend on agriculture.

## Minerals

- This country does not abound in minerals.
- Only a few mineral resources have been discovered here, those are:

## Natural Gas

- There have been invented 27 gas fields in Bangladesh and the total amount of gas is about 39.90 trillion cubic feet.
- Currently, we are extracting gas from the 21 gas field.

- Natural gas is one of the main natural resources of Bangladesh.
- The use of natural gas is raw materials of fertilizers, produce electricity, household activities and industries.

## Limestone

- Bangladesh has limestone stock in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Joypurhat and Coxes Bazar.  
Limestone is the raw material of cement, glass, paper, soap, bleaching powder etc.

## Coal

- Bangladesh has coal reserves in Sylhet, Joypurhat, Rajshahi, Faridpur, and Dinajpur
- The quality of coal is not good enough and coal extraction is very tough.

# Mineral Resources of Bangladesh



# Mineral Resources of Bangladesh



Fossiliferous limestone, Sylhet



Hard Rock, Dinajpur



Barapukuria coal, Dinajpur



Glass sand, Cumilla



White clay, Netrokona



Gasfield, Fenchuganj

## China Clay

- China clay is the main raw material of crockery and sanitary items.
- It has been found in Naogaon and Netrokona.

## Silica

- Silica sand is used to produce glass, colors and chemical products.
- Chattogram, Jamalpur, Sylhet and Comilla district contain reserves of silica sand.

## Hard Rocks

- Hard rocks have been found in Rangpur and Dinajpur.
- It is used in the construction of railways, roads and embankments.

Besides those minerals, there has been found **Sulphur** in Chattogram, **Mineral oil** in Sylhet and **Copper** in Rangpur and Dinajpur.

## Forest Resources

- Forest is one of the most important natural resources for a country.
- Forest provides oxygen, wood, a shelter for birds and animals and raw materials for industry.
- Many men directly or indirectly depend on forests for their livelihood.
- Every country must maintain 25 percent of its area under forest to maintain a good natural environment but Bangladesh has only 11.1 percent forest.



Bangladesh divided its forest area into five zones, those are:

- Sundarban forest
- Chattogram hill tracts forest
- Madhupur and Bhawal forest
- Forest in Sylhet
- Forest of Rangpur and Dinajpur

## Animal Resources

- In Bangladesh we can see different species of birds and animals.
- Here there are abounds of fishes in haors, rivers, seas and beels.
- Bangladesh has plenty of domestic animals: cows, sheep, goats, duck, chicken etc.
- Deer, elephant and tigers are seen here in forests.

## Power Resources

- Everyday Bangladeshi people consume huge powers in factories, cultivation, household, communication etc.
- Bangladesh has discovered some coal mines but extraction of those is so tough.
- This country extracts only a few barrels of petroleum from Sylhet and imports the rest of the petroleum from foreign countries.
- Atomic and solar energy will be the next power source of this country.
- Electricity, natural gas and traditional sources are the main power source of this country.
- There is also a hydro-electricity station in Kaptai.

## Water Resources

- Water is the most essential elements to survive on this land.
- No animal and plants will exist here without water.
- There are mainly three sources of water found in this country; those are,
  1. Rivers, haor, beels, stream, canals, ponds and seas
  2. Precipitation
  3. Waters inside the land.
- These three sources of water are the life of our agricultural system.
- Any drought or flood creates harm to our agriculture.
- Water helps us in many ways like fishes grown on water, the water transport system has a low cost, hydro-electricity system.

# Human Resources of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is an endless reservoir of manpower.
- The country is rich in human resources of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower.
- The country has a more than fifty million strong labour force out of a population of approximately 160 million. Moreover, Bangladesh's manpower occupies a prominent place in the world's manpower map, especially in the Far East, South East, Middle East, South East, Gulf and Africa.
- Millions of Bangladeshi workers are now working in the region.
- Bangladesh's manpower export trade has grown tremendously in recent years.
- There are many reasons for this. The country is rich in trained manpower.
- Bangladesh being a tropical country has a different climate in different seasons.

- The labor force can adapt itself to any climate in the shortest possible time.
- This creates a high demand for them in the East and West simultaneously.
- They have earned a reputation as humble, honest and reasonable workers in UK, USA, Canada, Middle East, Africa, Far East, South East and Europe.
- Moreover, Bangladeshi workers occupy a prominent place in the manpower map of the Islamic world, such as Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Brunei, the Gulf region, the Middle East, South East, North Africa etc.
- Bangladesh offers significant reserves of skilled, unskilled, educated manpower.
- The country has a good supply of labor at a relatively low cost.
- Many of them have basic skills in English and Arabic language and industry.
- In recent times, the supply of professionals, technicians, and another middle- and low-level skilled workers has been increasing.

# Categories of Manpower

## (A) Technical Manpower:

- Bangladesh produce annually about 100,000 highly skilled technicians on different trades, suitable for overseas employment.
- Technicians tradesmen skilled in building trades like electricians, petrol/diesel mechanics, air conditioning mechanics, radio/TV mechanics, fabricators, marine mechanist, molders, plumbers, pipe fitters, painters, steel fixtures, carpenters, masons, garments workers, draftsmen, welder, bricklayer, etc. are available for overseas employment.

## **(B) Healthcare manpower:**

- Bangladesh turning out about 5000 medical graduates and 300 dental surgeons and 6000 nurses every year.
- A good number of specialized consultants/ physicians are also available for overseas employment.
- Facilities to train Blood Bank Technicians, Radio Therapist, x-ray technicians, Radiographers, compounders, Dressers, Dental Technicians, Health Assistant, Sanitary Inspectors, etc. also exist in the country.
- A good numbers of paramedics and medical personnel available for employment at home and abroad.

### **C) Engineering Manpower:**

- Bangladesh produces about 2000 Graduate Engineers (from Govt. institutes) and about 70000 Diploma Engineers annually.

### **(D) Industrial Manpower:**

- Professional, managerial, administrative, technical, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers including experienced garments workers, both male and female with several years of experience in different industrial fields are available for overseas employment.

### **(E) IT and IT enabled service personnel:**

- Bangladesh has now a large number of Computer Operators, Computer Engineers (both Hardware and Software), Programmers, Web Page Developer, Networking Specialist, System Analyst, etc. available for overseas employment.



### **(F) Power Station, Petroleum and Fertilizer Manpower:**

- Bangladesh has vast reservoir of professional, highly skilled and skilled manpower in electricity/power, petroleum and fertilizer sectors.

### **(G) Road Transport workers:**

- Professional, technical and skilled personnel experienced in operation, repair and maintenance of all categories of vehicles including trucks and heavy vehicle equipment's are available for employment.

### **(H) Agricultural Workers**

- Trained persons in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries, livestock, horticulture and related fields are available.

## **(I) Manpower for Financial Institutions, Insurance, Audit and Accounts:**

- Different categories of Banking personnel, Chartered Accountants, Cost Management Accounts and persons with long experience in Insurance business, Government and Commercial Audit and Accounting are available in the Country, and they can be spared for service abroad.

## **(J) Administrative and Defense Personnel:**

- People in public administration sector with Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. degrees and specialized training and long experience in economic planning and research are available for employment.
- Retired army, navy and air force personnel with adequate experience can also be deployed abroad for manning defense and security services.

### **(K) Port and Water Transport Workers:**

- Personas of all categories needed for administration and operation of port facilities are available.
- These include inland Masters, Engine Drivers, Oil Men, Pre-sea Trained Nautical Cadres, Stevedores, Tally Clears, Crane Operators, Fork Lift Operators, Riggers, Security Personnel, Management Personnel and other categories of Personnel.
- They have international level of efficiency to the credit.

### **(L) University/College/School Teachers:**

- A large number of persons with university degrees in engineering science, humanities, fine arts and social sciences with experience of teaching in Schools, Colleges and Universities are available for foreign employment.

### **(M) Hotel Management and Catering Staff:**

- All categories of trained hotel staff experience or working in five star hotels can be provided for the departments of food and beverage, housekeeping, front office, accounts and engineering.

### **(N) Marine Crew:**

- Bangladesh has a large number of qualified and experienced Ship/Cargo/Vessel Crew possessing.
- Continuous Discharge Certificates (C.D.C.) Crew can be provided from Bangladesh at short notice.
- Certificated merchant navy officers are also available for overseas employment.

## **(O) Ship Building industries:**

- Bangladesh has quality workers who are experienced in ship building industries.

## **(P) Miscellaneous Manpower:**

- Qualified photographers, printers, printing technicians, journalists, translators, musical entertainers, operators, tailors, sewing men, barbers, shoe makers, domestic servants, house keepers, cleaners and all types of semi-skilled, unskilled workers are available for employment abroad.
- Besides, Bangladesh has a huge numbers of manual workers to do heavy and difficult jobs like agricultural work, plantation, timber extraction, pottering and excavation work, etc.

## Achievements of Bangladesh

- Name a nation where 44 percent of people live in extreme poverty, women have an average of 4.5 children, and the per capita income is less than \$500?
- The answer -- Bangladesh around 1990.
- Despite its issues, the nation is changing today.
- The average GDP has multiplied eight-fold.
- Women typically have two children, which gives parents more money to spend on each child's education, health, and wellness — and more funds for banks to lend to business.
- Less than half as many individuals now live in absolute poverty, writes David Pilling in an opinion piece for the Financial Times.
- Women now have much better status.

- Secondary enrollment is higher for girls than for boys.
- One in five children died before the age of five in 1971. It is now one in thirty.
- However, one should not overstate. Bangladesh still lives under poverty.
- Political unrest, environmental dangers, and a high level of corruption are still some of the challenges it faces today.
- It only approached the IMF to request a multibillion-dollar loan.
- However, if we look at Bangladesh in the long term, which Henry Kissinger once called a "bottomless basket," we will see that it is a development success.

- This is due to three primary factors, according to Oxford University's Stefan Dercon, a development economist.
- **The first** is the textile sector, whose exports increased from \$32 million in 1984 to \$34 billion in 2018.
- Bangladesh made twice as much money from exporting clothing in 2020 as all 54 African nations put together.
- **The second** are the remittances .
- Last year, \$22 billion was sent home by Bangladeshis working abroad.
- **Third of all**, Dercon places non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like BRAC and the Grameen Bank, which act as a safety net and lift some impoverished people out of poverty.



# Achievements of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of its independence.
- The golden jubilee of independence is the biggest milestone for the nation to celebrate.
- The country and its people have repeatedly overcome hurdles after hurdles to become a South Asian powerhouse.
- Today, the country's economic performance is often defined as the "Bangladesh Surprise."
- The United Nations' announcement of graduating Bangladesh to a "developing country" from a "least-developed country" has added a time-befitting dimension to the milestone celebration.
- Bangladesh's journey in the post-independence period was tough.

- Task of rehabilitation and reconstruction after independence was overwhelming.
- Bangladesh's development journey was derailed because of turmoil in the form of assassinations, coups, counter-coups and military rule.
- The major derailment happened when military dictators grabbed state power and ruled for around 15 years, after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.
- Now, the country become witness of an economic turn around guided by prudent macro-economic and fiscal management.
- The growth has been inclusive accompanying major socio-economic and human indices.
- Fifty years into the journey, Bangladesh now is considered as a role-model for other developing countries.

## Transforming into a Tiger

- Bangladesh inherited a war-hit poor economy in 1971.
- The country started its journey with an empty coffer.
- Due to two decades of Pakistani colonial exploitation, the economy was stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty.
- Despite limited resources, Bangladesh has made spectacular economic progress over the last five decades.
- The GDP growth rate has reached an impressive record level in the latest decade. Per capita income has risen steadily.
- Its poverty slashing performance is among the best in the world.
- The country has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production for its 170 million population.

- The country now even shoulders the burden of the world's largest refugee population of over 1 million Rohingya fleeing persecution in neighboring Myanmar.
- It has become an exemplary export powerhouse.

### **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate**

- Bangladesh's GDP growth rate was -5.48% in 1971 and 8.15% in 2019.
- As the covid-19 pandemic hit the economy like the rest of the world, the GDP stood at 5.2% in 2020.

### **Per Capita Income**

- Bangladesh's per capita income was \$134 when it became independent and in 2020 it reached to \$2064.

## Diminishing poverty

- Economic development achieved over the time, has impacted the social lives of the population positively on many fronts.
- Share of population below the poverty line had declined from more than 80% in the early 1970s.
- Inclusive growth policies, firm fiscal management, domestic and overseas employment generation, and broad-arching social security program have resulted in reduction in both moderate and extreme poverty.
- The poverty rate in 2019 was 20%, extreme poverty rate was to 10%.
- The country will halve its poverty rate by 2030.

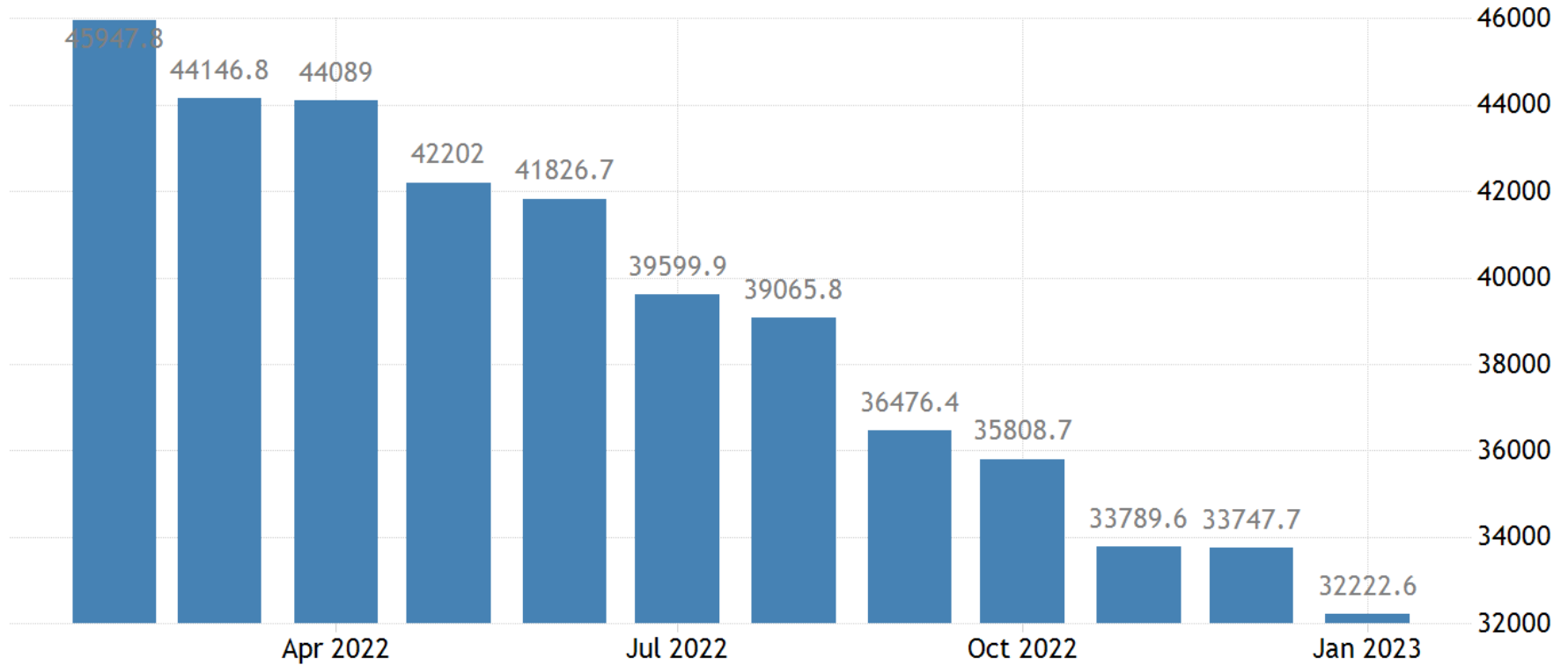
## Export earning

- Bangladesh became notable in South Asia for its successful export-led development model.
- Export earnings have heavily contributed to Bangladesh's economy since 1980s.
- Bangladesh's exports have risen by around 80% in the past decade, driven by the booming garments industry.
- The total export earnings for FY2018-19 stood at \$40.5 billion.
- Currently, Bangladesh is the second largest global apparel producer.
- The economy is diversifying.
- Pharmaceuticals, basic steel, cement, ceramic and various other industries have potential to flourish.

## Foreign currencies reserve

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves reached a new record of over \$43 billion at the end of the year 2020.
- To put it in context, the amount is sufficient to pay import bills for over 10 months.
- Remittance inflow plays a vital role in boosting the foreign exchange reserves.
- The central bank and the government have also relaxed the process of sending money from abroad and given incentives to the remittance senders.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves in Bangladesh decreased to 32222.60 USD Million in January from 33747.70 USD Million in December of 2022 due to world over economic crisis for Russia-Ukraine war and other reasons.

# Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Reserves (USD) millions))





## Investment

- For Bangladesh, both public and private investments have been instrumental to stimulate economic growth.
- Investment to GDP ratio was 31.6% in FY 2018-19, out of which 23.4% came from the private sector and only 8.13% from the public sector.
- From 1980s, government of Bangladesh shifted its policy-strategy and open up different sectors for private as well as foreign investment.
- In recent years, the private sector investment contributed almost 75% of the total investment.
- In order to increase domestic and foreign investment, the government of Bangladesh has formulated investment friendly policies, acts and laws.

- It is also focusing on enhancing Public Private Partnership (PPP) programs and building 100 large industrial parks which are being popularized as “Economic Zones.”
- Other functional areas of investment have been power sector, communication infrastructure and digitization.

## Foreign Direct Investment

- In 1971, Bangladesh started receiving foreign direct investment (FDI).
- In 1972 Bangladesh received \$90,000 FDI, and in 2019 Bangladesh received a record \$3.61 billion FDI.

## Agriculture and food security

- Due to internal displacement during the War of Liberation in 1971, Bangladesh's agricultural sector severely suffered and food production and supply chain faced complete breakdown.
- In 1972, Bangladesh prioritized agriculture sector and rural economy to ensure food security for its people.
- In 2021, the country achieved self-sufficiency in food.
- The agricultural sector recorded gigantic growth in terms of food-grain, fish, poultry, and meat production.
- In 1972, total food-grain production was 9.9 million metric ton and in 2020 total food-grain production reached 45.4 million metric ton.
- Bangladesh is the fourth largest rice and third largest freshwater fish producing country in the world.

## Industry

- During 1972–1980, Bangladesh pursued an import-substituting industrialization strategy aiming to safeguard the country's infant industries.
- Over recent years, the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP increased from 4% in 1972 to 18% in 2019, and the share of the non-manufacturing industry increased from 2% to 11% during the same period of time.
- The industrial sector reform in 80s and 90s helped Bangladesh achieve the current level of progress in manufacturing sector.
- To accelerate the industrial boom, Bangladesh government took an initiative to set up 100 Economic Zones.

## Service

- The Bangladesh economy is dominated by the services sectors.
- Over the years, share of the service sectors increased to 56%.
- During last 50 years, Bangladesh economy experienced a significant decline in agriculture sector employment and rapid increase in industry and service sectors employment growth.
- Between 1980 and 2010, the service sector recorded steady growth of 3.6% to 6.7%.

## Access to electricity

- Bangladesh has witnessed a strong headway in terms of access to electricity in fifty years.
- In 1991, the access to electricity was 14% and in 2021 it reached 99%.

## Infrastructure

- In 1971, the Pakistani forces crippled Bangladesh's infrastructure by strategically destroying its all communication, socially-valuable and industrial infrastructures.
- According to an estimate of World Bank, 4.3 million houses were destroyed only in the rural areas.
- Over the fifty years, Bangladesh has consistently invested in infrastructure development from housing to communication infrastructure to industrial infrastructure to water supply, solid waste management, electricity.
- Bangladesh's high growth trajectory is the result of heavy public spending on mega infrastructure development project such as Padma Multipurpose Bridge, Bangabandhu Tunnel, and Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant are notable.

## Education

- Bangladesh has made spectacular progress in human development front over the last five decades.
- The country has been implementing well-devised plans and channeling resources to enhance access of education.
- One major success has been the achievement of the goal of universal enrolment at the primary level.
- A significant decrease in school dropout rate of 18% currently is another milestone.
- Gender parity was achieved at primary and secondary education ahead of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Targets.
- The country's literacy rate has risen to 74.7% in 2019 from 26.8% in 1974.

## Health

- Bangladesh health sector has witnessed a silent revolution in the last five decades.
- Substantiated with policy interventions, Bangladesh has successfully halved infant mortality and cut maternal mortality rate by 75%.
- Moreover, the total fertility rate has brought down to 2.04 in 2020 from about 7 in 1970s.
- Bangladesh has been applauded as an example of 'good health at low cost' in 2011.
- Vibrant presence of both public and private healthcare interventions, along with NGO interventions, catalyzed the transformation.

## Life expectancy

- In the founding year of Bangladesh, the life expectancy was 46.6 years.
- In 2020, the life expectancy is 72.6 years.



## Maternal and child mortality ratio

- Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Bangladesh has declined by 75% over the five decades.
- The maternal mortality ratio was 600 per 100,000 live births in 1975 and 574 in 1990.
- In 2017, the MMR for Bangladesh was 173 per 100,000 live births.
- Bangladesh has been successful in terms of bringing down infant mortality ratio drastically.
- In 1973, the infant mortality ratio was 167 per 1000 live birth and in 2020, the ratio brought down to 21 per thousand live birth.

## Immunization

- Immunization is a very significant health sector indicator for any country in the world and Bangladesh is a global success story and leader in this indicator.
- Bangladesh has officially initiated Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), a global immunization effort in 1979.
- In the year 1985, the vaccination coverage was 2%.
- As of September 2019, Bangladesh has immunized 38 million children since 2003.
- Bangladesh is a polio free country since 2006 and has eliminated the neonatal tetanus threat.

## Gender parity

- Gender parity in Bangladesh has improved across all sectors due to greater participation of women in socio-economic and political activities.
- Bangladesh has secured the first position in gender equality among South Asian countries for the second consecutive year at the Gender Gap Index.
- Bangladesh has closed 73% of its overall gender gap, according to the Global Gender Gap Index 2020.
- During the period of 1996-2017, the national rate of female labor force increased from 15.8 to 36.3%, which is higher than the South Asian average of 35%.

## Disaster resilience

- Bangladesh has the world's largest river delta system which is vulnerable to climate change.
- Bangladesh has experienced six major floods and five cyclones since 1970.
- In the past fifty years, Bangladesh has demonstrated a high level of adaptability in adopting existing technologies to reach out to people.
- Bangladesh utilized satellite imagery to learn the severity of the storm in 2007.
- The country has also developed new types of unique cyclone shelters where people can take shelter.

## Digitization

- Bangladesh has made immense strides in technology in a number of sectors such as telecommunication, internet connectivity and speed, digitization, and media.
- The government's promise of Digital Bangladesh, since 2009, has translated into huge ICT progress.

## Satellite launching

- On May 12, 2018, Bangladesh entered the space era with the successful launching of its first satellite 'Bangabandhu-1'.
- With this technological feat, Bangladesh became the 57th nation to have its own satellite in outer space.

# Milestone Recognitions

## LDC graduation

- Bangladesh received the recommendation on graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status by the UN's Committee for Development.
- In February 2021, Bangladesh fulfilled all three criteria to graduate from a LDC to a developing country, for the second time since 2018.
- The UN would recommend Bangladesh's graduation by 2026.
- Bangladesh has been on the list of LDC countries since 1975 when the country's economy was still recovering from the devastating Liberation War of 1971.

## Milestone Recognitions

### Middle-income bracket

- In 2015, Bangladesh became a lower-middle income (LMC) country from being a low-income country, according to the World Bank's classification of countries.
- Rising per capita income pushed the country out of the LMC bracket for the first time since its independence in 1971.

### MDG achievement

- Bangladesh has been recognized as one of the role-model for emulation for other developing nations in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Bangladesh's achievements are remarkable in the area of poverty alleviation, food security, primary education, mortality ratio, immunization coverage, and tackling communicable diseases.

## SDG headway

- Bangladesh is an active participant in formulating the 2030 Global Development Agendas (SDGs).
- Since the declaration of SDGs, Bangladesh has embraced the SDGs through inclusion of the 17 Global Goals into its National Development Plan.
- The SDGs have been included in the national plans – such as the 8th Five Year Plan (8FYP), the Delta Plan 2100 and the Perspective Plan 2041.