

## An Intro

The borders of modern Bangladesh were established with the partition of Bengal in August 1947 at the time of partition of India, when the region became East Pakistan as a part of the newly formed Dominion of Pakistan.

Later the rise of a pro-democracy movement thrived on Bengali nationalism and self-determination, leading to the Liberation War and eventually resulted in the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent nation in 1971.

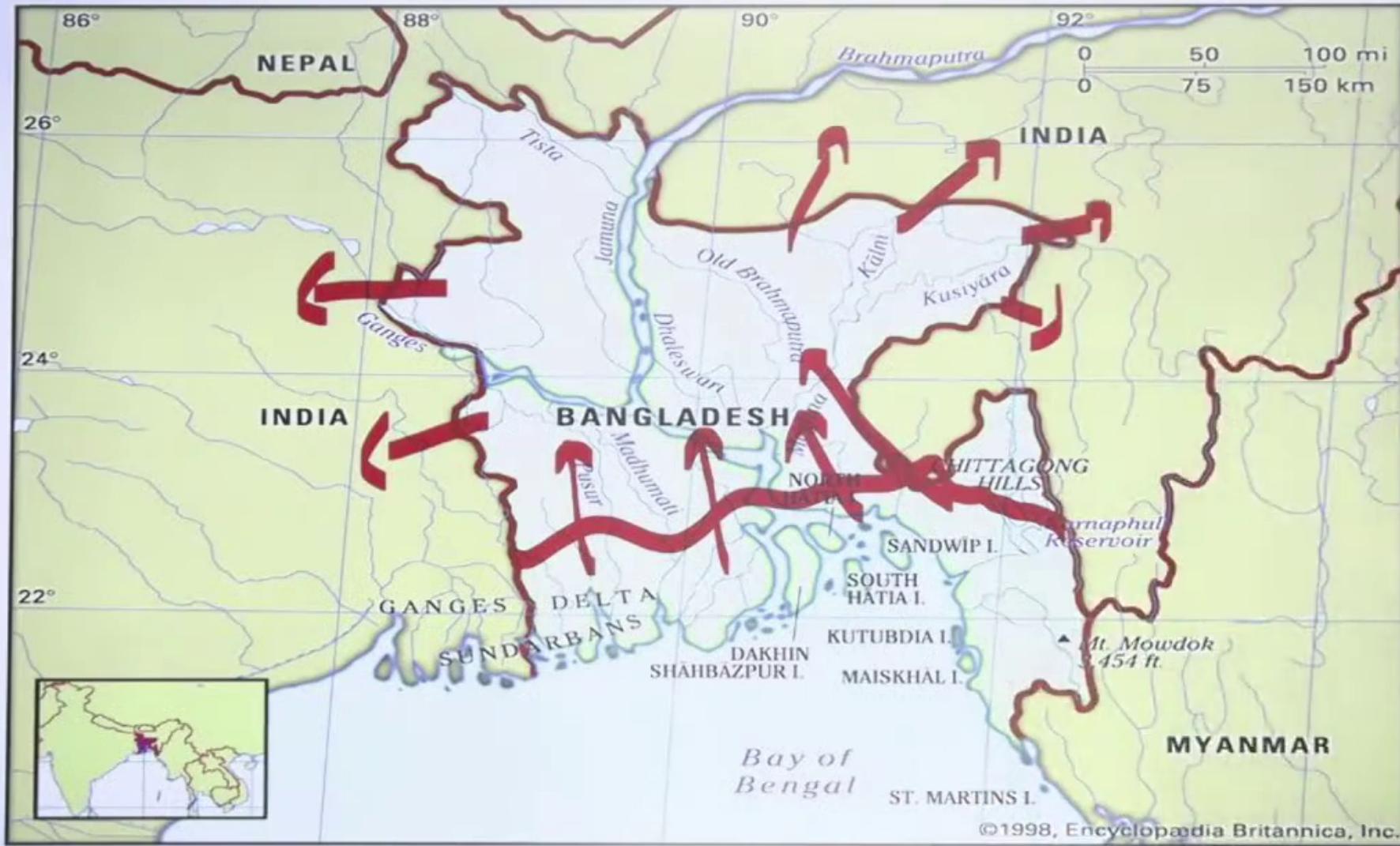
The country is divided into eight administrative divisions and sixty-four districts.

It is officially known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh, a country in South Asia.

It is the eighth-most populous country (3rd largest Muslim nation) in the world, with a population exceeding 162 million people.

Dhaka, the capital and largest city, is the nation's economic, political, and cultural hub. Chittagong, the largest seaport, is the second-largest city.

The nation continues to face the challenges of the Rohingya refugee crisis, corruption, and the adverse effects of climate change.



Political Importance	Strategic Importance	Economic Importance	Cultural Importance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangladesh is among India's most trusted neighbors.</li> <li>Bangladesh is a natural pillar of <b>Act East Policy</b>.</li> <li>Has taken stand for India many times in OIC (Organization of the Islamic cooperation).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangladesh has strategically vital <b>location</b> between Southern, Eastern and Southeast Asia.</li> <li>It is a Strategic wedge between mainland India and <b>Northeastern</b> states of the India Union which are landlocked.</li> <li>Essential for the security of North East and <b>Siliguri corridor</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India and Bangladesh are <b>largest trading partners in South Asia</b>.</li> <li>India is very active in <b>development</b> activity in Bangladesh. Eg recently taken up construction of <b>Rooppur nuclear</b> power plant in Bangladesh.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's links with Bangladesh are civilization , cultural as well as social.</li> <li>Both share common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts.</li> <li>Bangladesh and the east India states of West Bengal and Tripura are Bengali-speaking.</li> </ul>



## The 1971, Bangladesh came into existence

During the 1971, War of Liberation India provided military support to erstwhile East Pakistan to help it gain independence as Bangladesh.

Indian army assisted Mukti Bahini and was involved in direct operations on Bangladeshi soil.

India was also the first country to officially recognize Bangladesh.

India also provided it with development assistance worth 500 million rupees in the form of grants and loans.

1971

1972

→ PM - IG

## Treaty of Peace & Friendship - 1972

The India-Bangladesh Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace was a 25-year treaty that was signed on 19 march 1972

The treaty was also known as the **Indira-Mujib Treaty**, After the signatories of the treaty the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh **Sheikh Majibur Rahman**.

As per the treaty, each side shall **respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity** of the other and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other side

Both sides agreed to make joint studies and take joint action in the field of food control, river basin development and development of hydro-electric power and irrigation and promote relations in the field of arts, literature, education, culture, sports and health.



# The Refugee crises and Assam Accord – 1985

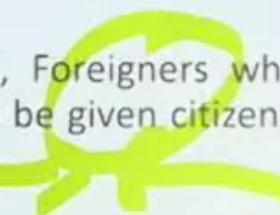
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The **Assam Movement** was a popular movement against **illegal immigrants** in Assam

The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representative of the **Government of India** and the leaders of the **Assam Movement**

Assam Accord was **signed by** Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with the **All-Assam Students Union** and the **All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad** on **15 August, 1985**

Under Assam Accord of 1985, Foreigners who had entered Assam before March 25, 1971 were to be given citizenship and the rest to be deported back as per NCR.



It also included economic development, restricting acquisition of immovable property by foreigners, prevention against encroachment of government lands & registration of births and deaths.



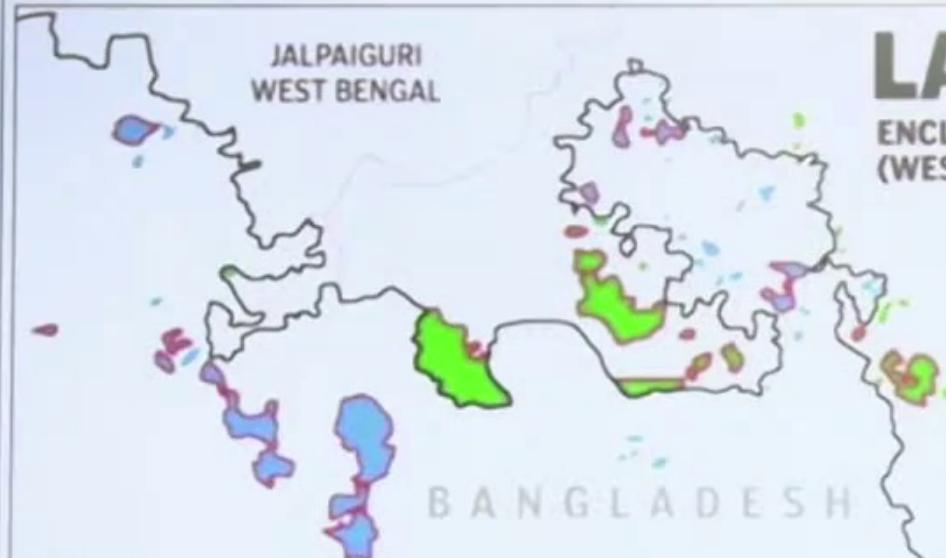
## Land Boundary agreement 2015 and 100<sup>th</sup> CAA

It was signed in **1974**, Ratified in **2015**.

The bilateral relationship between two countries gained new momentum with the conclusion of Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)

The treaty effectively settled the contentious issue of exchange of “enclaves” in adverse possession.

**India transferred 111, while Bangladesh 51 of possessed enclaves.**



- ① Enclaves are 'islands' of Indian and Bangladeshi territory surrounded completely by the other country's land
- ② Include two dozen counter-enclaves (enclaves within enclaves)
- ③ Also includes what's known as the world's only counter-counter enclave – a patch of Bangladesh that's surrounded by India, that in turn is surrounded by Bangla territory

The pact covers an area about half the size of Hong Kong Island or 2,000 cricket stadiums (The Economist)

# LAND UNLOCKED

## ENCLAVES ALONG INDIA-BANGLADESH IB (WEST BENGAL SECTOR)

- Bangladeshi enclaves come to India
- Indian enclaves go to Bangladesh

INDIA

COOCHBEHAR  
WEST BENGAL

India & Bangladesh share a  
**4,156 km border**



The border is the fifth longest in the world with its endless zigzagging

**1,149 maps** | In 2011, during former PM Manmohan Singh's visit India and Bangladesh handed over 1,149 border maps in Daula, officially finalizing boundary

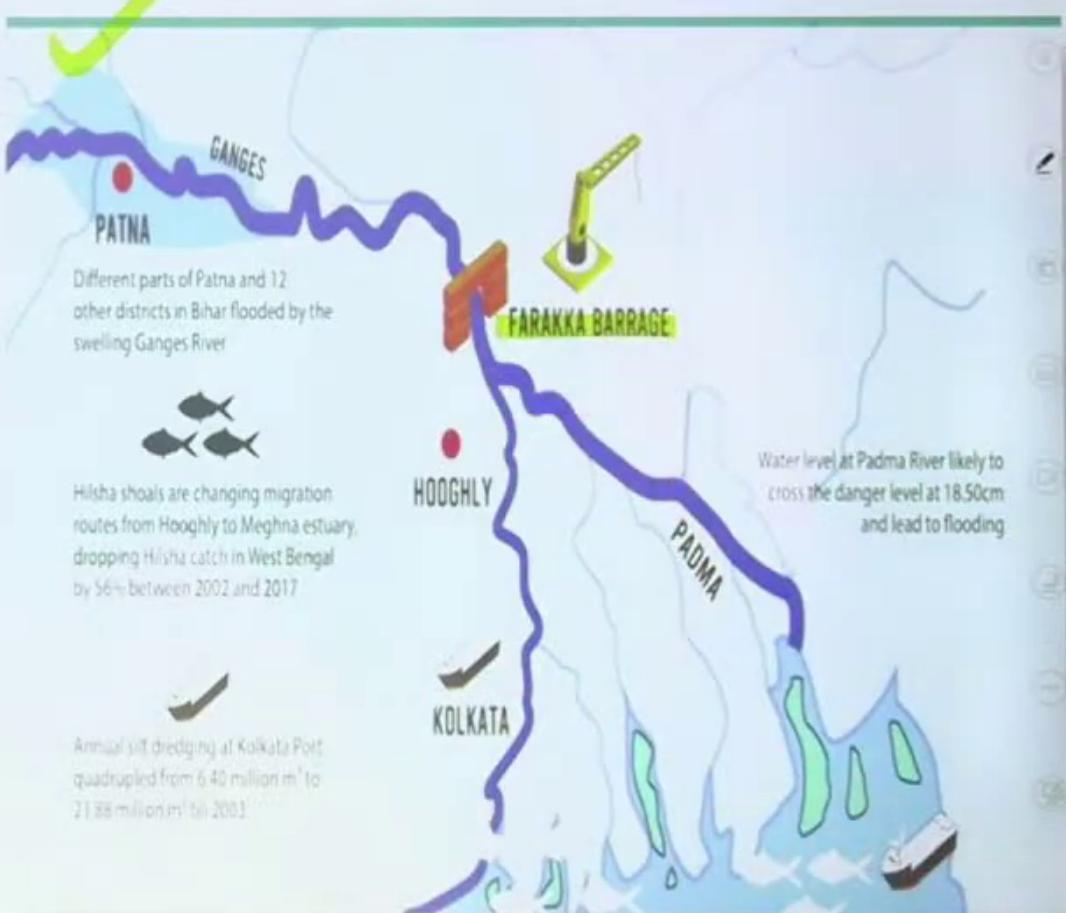


# Ganges River Sharing Treaty – 1996

In 1996, the sharing of the Ganga waters was successfully agreed upon between the two nations

However, the **major area of dispute** has been India's construction and operation of the **Farakka Barrage**.

The **inadequacy of water during the lean season** to meet the assessed demands in the two countries is the root cause of the conflict.



## The unsettled Teesta River Water Dispute – 1983

Teesta River – which has its **source in Sikkim** flows through the northern part of West Bengal in India before entering Bangladesh

In **1983, an ad-hoc water sharing agreement was reached** between India and Bangladesh, whereby both countries were allocated 39% and 36% of the water flow respectively

Equal sharing of water is being opposed by West Bengal state government.

# WHY BENGAL NEEDS TEESTA

## THE ISSUE

If Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina can convince her people that India has given them a fair deal in the Teesta water dispute, it will be a big breakthrough for her. But Mamata Banerjee — among the five chief ministers originally scheduled to accompany Singh, she is the only one affected by the Teesta treaty — has to take Bengal's interests into account.

## THE DEAL

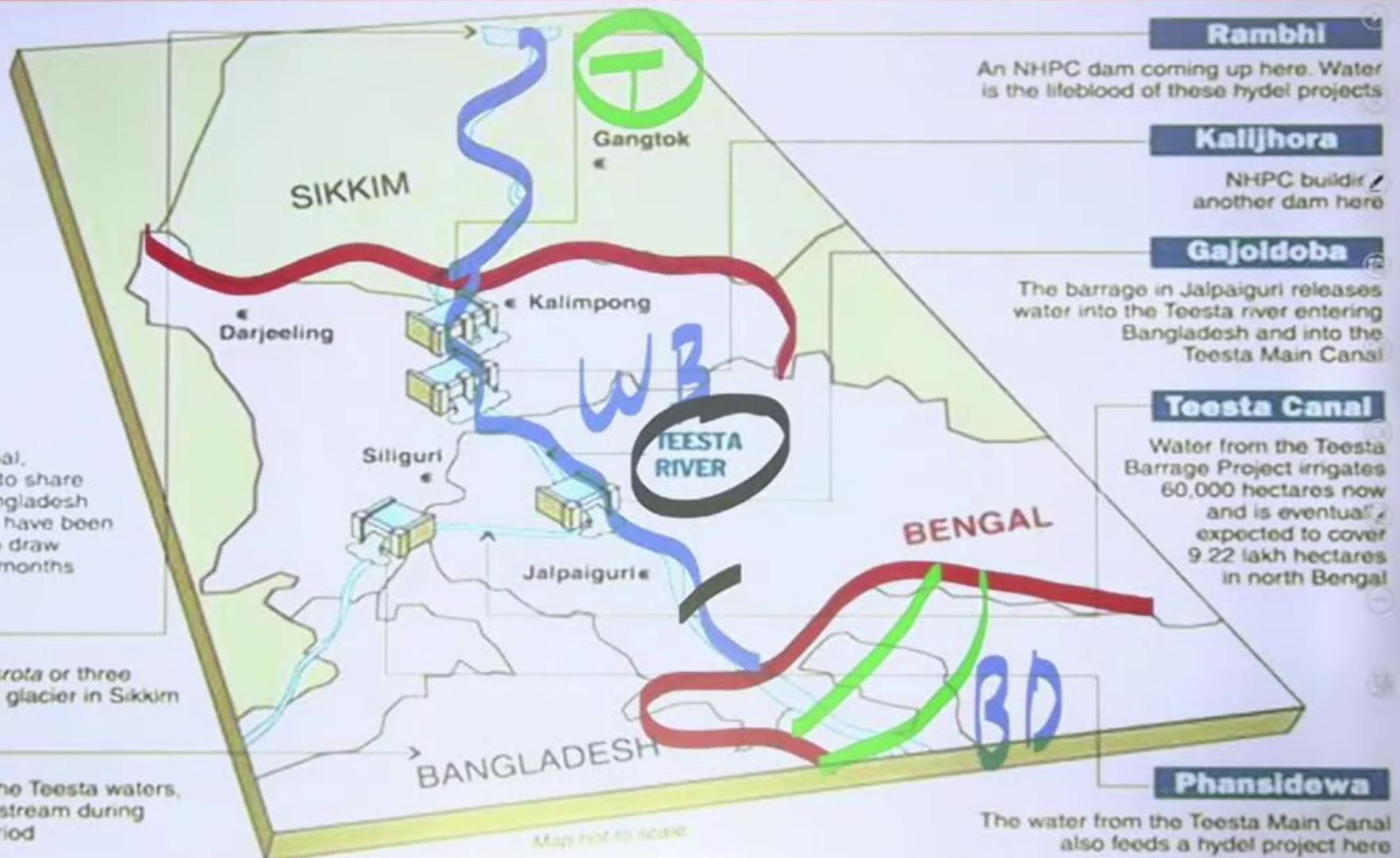
According to a tentative deal, Bangladesh and India are to share the water equally. Now Bangladesh gets 25%. A clause was to have been introduced to allow India to draw more water during certain months.

## Dzongu

The 315km-long Teesta (*tri-srota* or three streams) originates from this glacier in Sikkim.

## Bangladesh

The neighbour depends on the Teesta waters, especially for irrigation downstream during the dry December-March period.



The water from the Teesta Main Canal also feeds a hydel project here

# Tipaimukh Dam issue

Tipaimukh Dam is a proposed embankment dam on the river Barak in Manipur.

Bangladesh's objection is that it would have adverse ecological effects in its eastern Sylhet district

India and Bangladesh have agreed on a joint study group to examine the points raised by Bangladesh





## Maritime and Territorial Waters Dispute

Bangladesh went in for arbitration over the delimitation of maritime boundary under the United Nations Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS) on October 8, 2009.

The tribunal ruled in favor of Bangladesh and against India regarding a sea boundary dispute between the two countries in 2016.

The Hague based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Awarded Bangladesh nearly 80 Percent of an area sprawling over 25,000 sq km in the Bay of Bengal

The verdict settled a major part of the disputed EEZ between the two neighbors as the verdict is binding on both parties.

The permanent court of arbitration also resolved the contentious issue of sovereignty over New Moore Island by ruling in India's favor.

## Trade & investment between India & Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the largest trading partner of in India in South Asia. The annual trade crosses **10 billion USD.**

In November 2011, India granted duty free access to all products, except tobacco and liquor items from Bangladesh which amounts 30% of Bangladesh export.

As much as 98 percent of Bangladesh products now enjoy zero duty benefits in the Indian Market

**Bangladesh imports more than 1100 MW of power from India.**

Bangladeshi tourists accounted for around 25% of the total percentage of tourists visiting India in 2018-19. Bangladesh contributes about 50% of India's medical tourism revenue.

## Economic Cooperation

CSA

India's concessional **line of credit** of nearly **USD 10 billion to Bangladesh** is the largest it has offered to any country.

**Grant-in-aid** forms an important part of India's **developmental assistance** in Bangladesh

A Significant portion of such grants are utilized to support High Impact Community Development projects like **orphanages, student hostels, academic buildings, cultural centers, etc.** in Bangladesh.

India has offered all possible help at time of crises likes floods, cyclones etc or the **latest Operation Insaniyat** to cop up the influx of Rohingya refugee issue.

## Modi visit to Bangladesh 2017

- India and Bangladesh signed **22 agreements** to boost cooperation in a wide array of sectors, including cyber security, **nuclear energy, space, shipping, electricity transmission** and energy pipelines and setting up more border haats.
- The visit included an **additional \$4.5-billion concessional line of credit** from India for implementation of projects in Bangladesh.
- India has also agreed to finance a **diesel oil pipeline** from Numaligarh Refinery in Assam to Parbatipur in Bangladesh



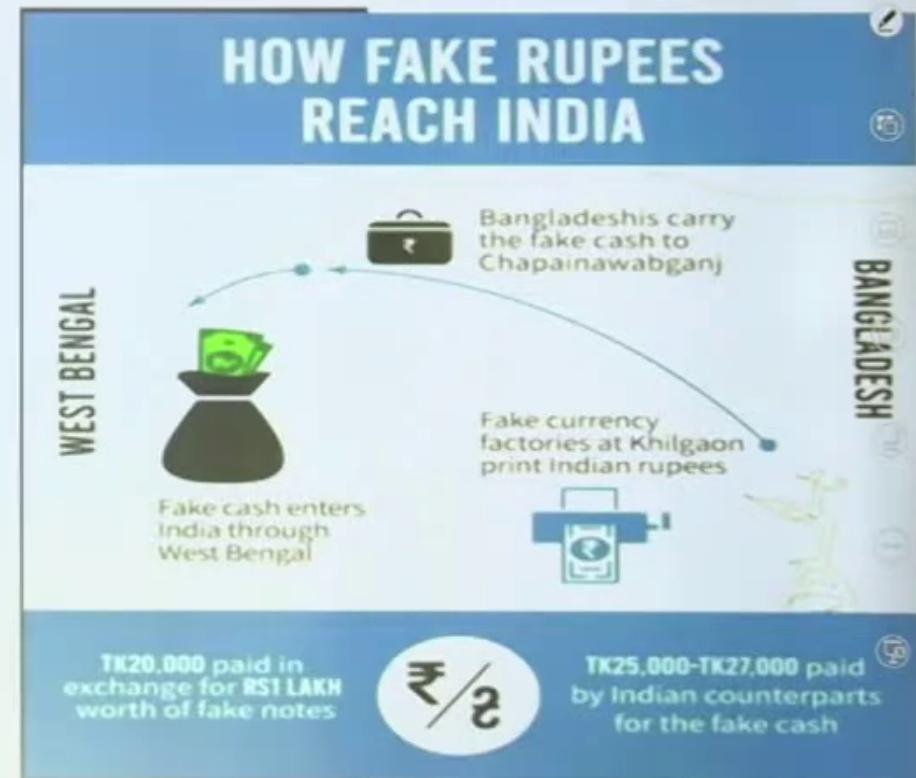
## Sheikh Hasina visit to India 2019

- PM Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina signed **several MoUs** that included **connectivity, trade transport and defense**. For example a Coastal Surveillance system to be operationalized, water utilization from **Feni river** (Tripura), Implementation of Line of Credit committed by India to Bangladesh, cultural exchanges programs.
- Decision to **operationalize the Daudkandi-Sonamura Route** under Protocol on **Inland Water Transit and Trade**
- Early operationalization of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement for movement of goods and passengers between the member countries.



# Security concerns

- Illegal migration (NRC/Assam Accord/Citizenship Amendment Act 2019) Assam and West Bengal worst affected whereas in
- Tripura demographics have declined as now tribal's are in minority.
- Insurgency (ULFA, Bodo Front).
- Drugs/Arms/Cattle/FCIN Human Trafficking.
- Extremism (ISI funded).
- Porous borders.



# China's Growing Influence in Bangladesh

Successive governments in Bangladesh have tried to use China as a counterbalance against India

China is Bangladesh's leading trade partner and has also promised Bangladesh billions of dollars in investments and economic aid

Bangladesh' defence assets are primarily of Chinese origin

Bangladesh also supports China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative and is a key component of the initiative.

In April 2020, China's Beijing Construction Group beat out Indian competition to secure a \$ 250 million contract for an airport terminal in the northeastern city of Sylhet close to Bangladesh's sensitive border with India

# Prime Minister of Bangladesh visit India- 2022

The two sides have signed seven Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which includes:

- The withdrawal of water from the cross-border Kushiyara river.
  - The agreement will benefit southern Assam in India and the Sylhet region of Bangladesh.
- Cooperation in space technology.
- Collaboration on Information Technology systems used by railways in areas such as movement of freight.
- Science and technology cooperation.
- Training of Bangladesh Railway personnel and Bangladeshi judicial officers in India.
- Cooperation in broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh Television.

The two nations unveiled the first unit of the Maitree super thermal power project being built in **Khulna division of Bangladesh** with **concessional funding from India**.

- The 5.13-km **Rupsha rail bridge** was also inaugurated, a key part of the 64.7-km **Khulna-Mongla** port broad gauge railway project.
- The bridge was constructed with an Indian **line of credit** of \$389 million.

India has provided **concessional loans** worth USD 9.5 billion for development projects in Bangladesh.

India has extended **USD 500 million** defence Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh for defense procurement from India.

## India Bangladesh – Current Status

**India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project** construction was launched in 2019. It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India.

India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute Coordinated Patrol (**CORPAT**) as an annual exercise between navies of two countries.  
**(Sampriti-X 2022)**

India had sent relief material to Bangladesh under **Operation Insaniyat** to help tens of thousand of displaced **Rohingya Muslims** who fled from **Myanmar into Bangladesh**.