



PM's Visit to Bangladesh

Why in News

The **Prime Minister of India paid a State Visit to Bangladesh** to join the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the [Independence of Bangladesh](#), the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation [Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman](#) and **50 years of establishment of diplomatic relations** between India and Bangladesh.

Key Points

▪ Joint Celebrations of Historical Links:

- Bangladesh thanked India for conferring [Gandhi Peace Prize](#) for the year 2020 on **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- Jointly inaugurated the **Bangabandhu - Bapu Digital Exhibition** in Dhaka.
- To mark the **50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship**:
 - Both sides released respective **commemorative postage stamps**.
 - Decided to **commemorate 6th December as Maitri Diwas**, the day when India recognized Bangladesh in the year 1971.
 - India announced the establishment of the **Bangabandhu Chair at the University of Delhi**.
- Bangladesh **thanked India for naming the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nadia** on the Bangladesh-India border as "**Shadhinota Shorok**" commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh's [Liberation War](#).

▪ Water Resources Cooperation:

- Bangladesh reiterated its long-pending request for concluding the interim agreement on the **sharing of the waters of the Teesta river**.
 - The draft agreement has already been agreed upon by both Governments in January 2011.
- India also requested for early finalization of the draft of the interim agreement for sharing of water of **Feni River**, pending with the Bangladesh side which had been agreed upon by both sides in 2011.
 - Also, requested working towards an early conclusion of the Framework of Interim Agreement on sharing of waters of six common rivers, namely, **Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar**.
- Directed the **Joint Technical Committee** to expeditiously commence the feasibility study of the **Ganges-Padma barrage** for optimum utilization of the Ganges waters received by Bangladesh as per the [Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996](#).



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▪ **Trade for Growth:**

- Stressed the need for **predictability of trade policies, regulations and procedures** and the need for **removal of non-tariff barriers**.
- Stressed the urgent need for up-gradation of infrastructure and facilities of the [Land Customs Stations \(LCSs\)/Land Ports](#) in a coordinated manner to facilitate trade between the two countries.
- Reiterated the importance of **harmonization of standards and mutual recognition** of agreements and certificates for enhancing bilateral trade.
 - **Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) and the [Bureau of Indian Standards \(BIS\)](#)** would collaborate for the capacity building and development of testing and Lab facilities.
- India congratulated Bangladesh on its **upcoming graduation from the [Least Developed Country \(LDC\) status](#)**.
- **Emphasized on expeditious conclusion** of the ongoing joint study on the prospects of entering into a [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#).
- Bangladesh invited **Indian investment in the jute mills of Bangladesh** to revitalize and modernize the jute sector.
- India requested early finalization of modalities for implementation of the **Katihar - Parbotipur - Bornagar cross border electricity interconnection**.
- Took stock of progress in the implementation of the **India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** and unit-1 of the **Maitree Super Thermal Power Project**.

▪ **Connectivity for Prosperity:**

- India expressed gratitude for Bangladesh's initiative of **revitalizing the pre-1965 rail connectivity**.
- Bangladesh reiterated its eagerness to partner in the ongoing initiative of the [India - Myanmar - Thailand trilateral highway project](#).
- Also agreed to an early operationalization of the **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement** through expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU for Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to commence the movement of goods and passengers, with provision for Bhutan to join at a later date.

- India urged for **early operationalization of the trans-shipment Agreement** on the use of **Chattogram and Mongla Ports** for the Movement of Goods to and from India (**Kolkata to Agartala via Chattogram**).
 - India also requested for trans-shipment arrangement in Munshiganj and Pangaon as part of the **Protocol on [Inland Water Transit and Trade](#)**.
 - Recently, **Maitree Setu** (between India and Bangladesh) **over River Feni in South Tripura** has been inaugurated.
- Bangladesh offered the use of **Chattogram and Sylhet International Airport**, by the people of North East India, especially of Tripura.
- **Cooperation in Public Health:**
 - Bangladesh thanked the Government of India for giving 3.2 million doses of **[Oxford Astra Zeneca Covishield](#)** vaccine made in India.
- **Border Management and Security Cooperation:**
 - Bangladesh reiterated the request for 1.3 km **Innocent Passage** through river route along with **River Padma**, on humanitarian grounds.
 - India requested for completion of border fencing at all pending sectors at the international border at the earliest, beginning from the Tripura (India) - Bangladesh sector.
 - **Defence Cooperation:** Emphasized on the frequent exchange of programs and enhancing cooperation in **training and capacity building**.
 - India has offered a **USD 500 million line of credit** for defence imports from India into Bangladesh and thus requested for early operationalization of this defense Line of Credit.
 - Welcomed the signing of an MoU on **[Disaster Management](#), Resilience and Mitigation**.
- **New Areas of Cooperation:**
 - Acknowledged the potential of new and emerging areas of cooperation in cutting edge areas of science, **[artificial intelligence](#), peaceful uses of nuclear technology, [big data](#) and technology enabled services in health and education**.
 - **50 young entrepreneurs from Bangladesh** were invited to visit India and present their ideas to venture capitalists.
- **Partners in the Region and the World:**
 - Agreed to continue working together for common objectives in the **[United Nations](#)** and other multilateral fora.
 - Emphasized that the regional organizations, such as **[SAARC](#)** and **[BIMSTEC](#)** have an important role to play, particularly in the post-**Covid-19** situation.
 - Bangladesh thanked India for convening the **[SAARC leaders Video Conference](#)** in March 2020 and for proposing creation of the **SAARC Emergency Response Fund** to counter effects of the global pandemic in the South Asian region.
 - Bangladesh highlighted that the country would assume chairmanship of the **[Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\)](#)** for the first time in October 2021 and requested the support of India for working towards greater maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean region.
 - India welcomed the **decision of Bangladesh to join the [New Development Bank \(NDB\)](#)**.
- The two Prime Ministers also announced/ unveiled the following:
 - Foundation stone laying ceremony for a **memorial in the honour of the Martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces** who sacrificed their lives during Liberation War of 1971 at Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria.
 - Foundation stone for five packages out of total eight packages of **Rooppur Power Evacuation Project**.
 - Inauguration of **3 border haats, Nalikata (India) - Saydabad (Bangladesh), Ryngku (India) - Bagan Bari (Bangladesh) and Bholagunj (India) - Bholagunj (Bangladesh)**.

- Border Haats aim at promoting the wellbeing of the people dwelling in remote areas across the borders of two countries, by establishing a traditional system of marketing the local produce through local markets.
- Inauguration of '**Mitali Express**' - passenger train connecting Dhaka on Bangladesh side and New Jalpaiguri on the Indian.

Source:TH

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