

BANGLADESH ELECTIONS

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Context:

- On **February 12, 2026** Bangladesh will head to the **polls to elect its next government, 18 months after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** was ousted from office by a student-led movement.

Bangladesh polls: From student protest to national vote

- **July 2024** – Student quota protests begin
- **Early August 2024** – Security forces fire on protesters
- **5 August 2024** – Sheikh Hasina resigns, leaves for India
- **Late August 2024** – Yunus interim government formed
- **June 2025** – Jamaat ban lifted
- **December 2025** – Khaleda Zia dies, Tarique returns
- **12 February 2026** – General election + July Charter referendum



1. What time do the polls open in Bangladesh?

- Polls will open at 7:30am (01:30 GMT) on February 12 and close at 4:30pm (10:30 GMT).
- Votes will be cast across 42,761 polling centres in 64 districts for 300 parliamentary constituencies, according to the Election Commission of Bangladesh (ECB).

2. How does voting work in Bangladesh?

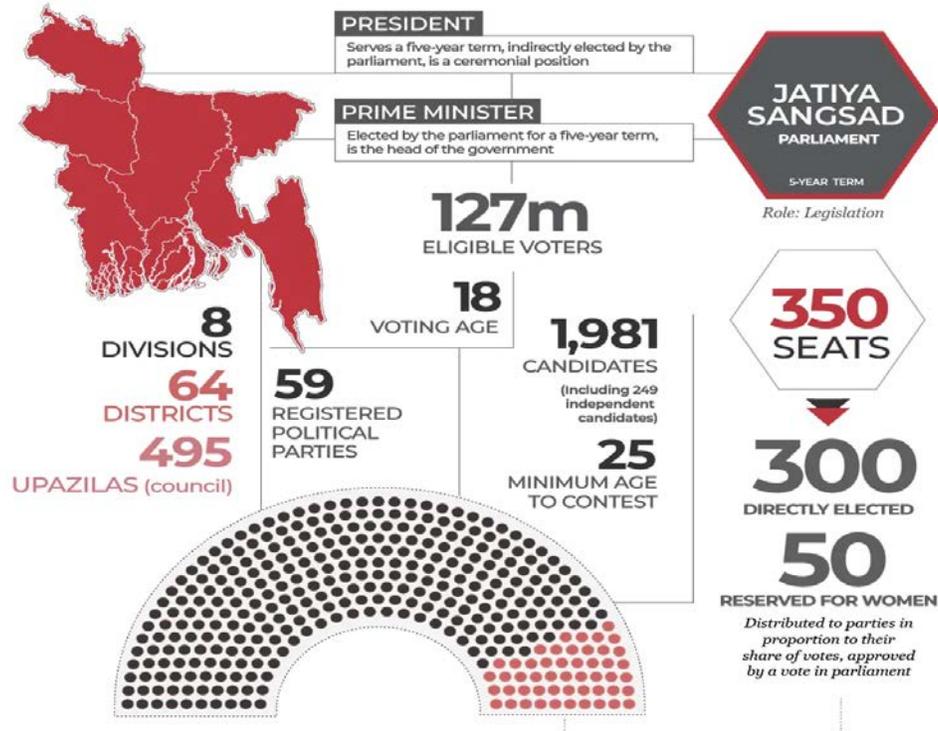
- There are 127,711,793 registered voters, aged 18 and above as of October 31, 2025, including those registered to vote via postal ballot within and outside the country.
- This is the first time postal voting has been facilitated, benefitting about 15 million overseas workers whose remittances form a vital part of the Bangladeshi economy.
- Bangladesh has a “unicameral” legislature – a single legislative chamber which makes laws – the Jatiyo Shangsad or the House of the Nation, with 350 constituencies.
- Each constituency has a single-member seat.
- Voting through the first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system is used to elect 300 members, while the remaining 50 seats are reserved for women and are allocated to parties proportionally after the election results.
- So, for example, if a party wins 60 seats, it receives 10 reserved seats to be allocated to female politicians.
- Voters will be issued two ballots:
 - A white ballot for their local MP. and
 - A pink ballot for the referendum.
- The referendum presents a single, bundled question covering four major reform areas.

3. How is the government structured in Bangladesh?

- Bangladesh is a parliamentary republic, where executive power is exercised by an elected government, consisting of the prime minister and cabinet.
- The president of Bangladesh is the ceremonial head of state and is indirectly elected by the parliament for a five-year term.
- The prime minister is the leader of the majority party or coalition in parliament.
- The prime minister appoints the cabinet, oversees government policy and directs civil service.

Bangladesh government structure

Bangladesh is currently in transition, governed by an interim administration following the overthrow of the country's longest-serving Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, in 2024.



4. Highlight the Bangladesh overview?

Bangladesh at a glance

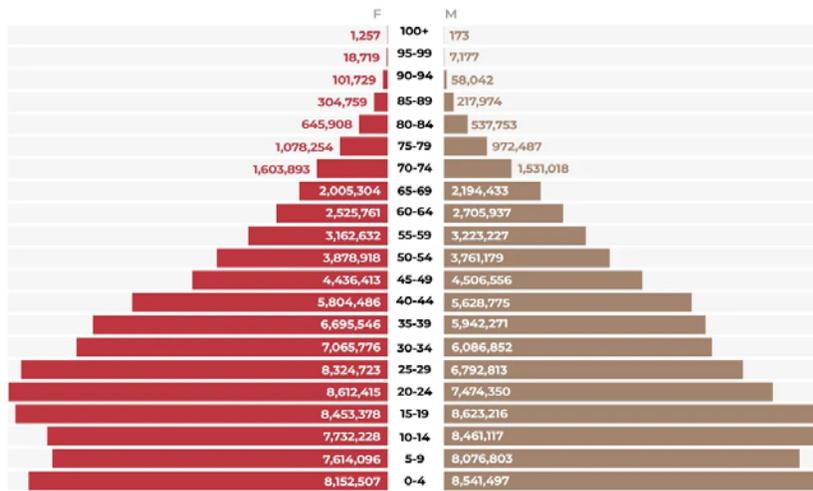
Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country globally, and its economy is one of the fastest-growing in the world.



5. Enlist key facts about Bangladesh election?

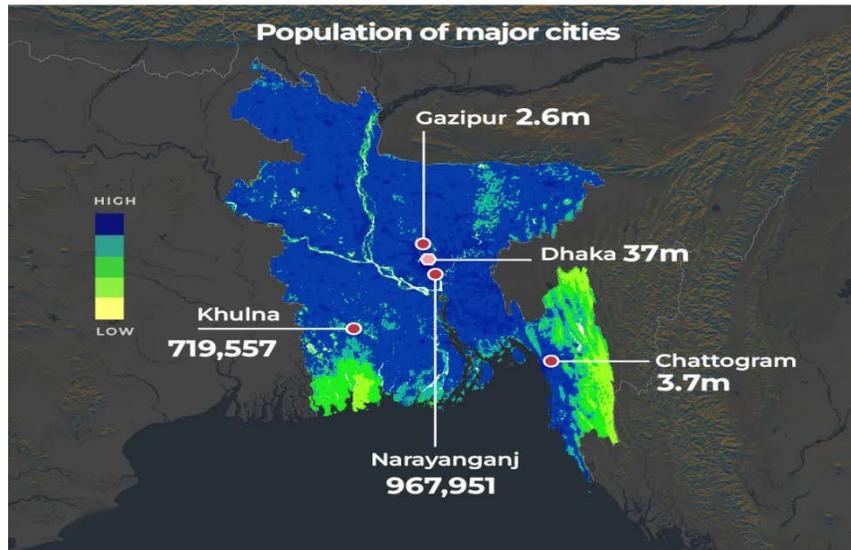
- The 2026 elections are among the most consequential in the country's 55-year history, since gaining independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Bangladesh's first-time voters



Bangladesh population density

The South Asian nation is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with 1,366 people per sq km (3,538 people per sq mile).



6. Mention about key political parties of Bangladesh?

Political parties	Description
<p>Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by Tarique Rahman, the son of recently deceased former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. • The BNP is one of Bangladesh’s two major traditional parties and positions itself as a nationalist and conservative alternative to the Awami League. <p style="text-align: center;">WHO WAS KHALEDA ZIA? (1945-2025)</p>  <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Name: Khaleda Zia</p> <p>Age: 80</p> <p>Place of birth: Jalpaiguri</p> <p>Political party: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)</p> <p>Position held: Prime Minister of Bangladesh (1991–1996; 2001–2006)</p> <p>Entered politics: 1984, after the assassination of her husband & former PM Ziaur Rehman</p> <p>Children: Two sons (Tarique Rahman and late Arafat Rahman Koko)</p> </div>
<p>Jamaat-e-Islami</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic party, led by Shafiqur Rahman, advocates for politics rooted in the religion’s principles and has formed an electoral alliance with the National Citizen Party (NCP) along with other Islamic parties.



Jamaat’s comeback: Shafiqur Rahman eyes Bangladesh’s top job

■ **From obscurity to frontrunner**

Once little known outside Islamist circles, Rahman has risen rapidly to national prominence after the 2024 uprising created political space for Jamaat’s return.

■ **Leader of a once-banned party**

He became Jamaat chief in 2020, when the party was under heavy restrictions. The ban was lifted in 2025, allowing Jamaat to re-enter mainstream politics.

■ **Medical background and political journey**

A doctor from Moulvibazar, he began in leftist student politics before joining Jamaat’s student wing. He formally joined the party in 1984 and contested multiple elections unsuccessfully before his recent rise.

■ **Rebranding Jamaat’s image**

Rahman presents himself as moderate and governance-focused, emphasising anti-corruption, social justice and equal treatment for all religions, while grounding his politics in Islamic principles.

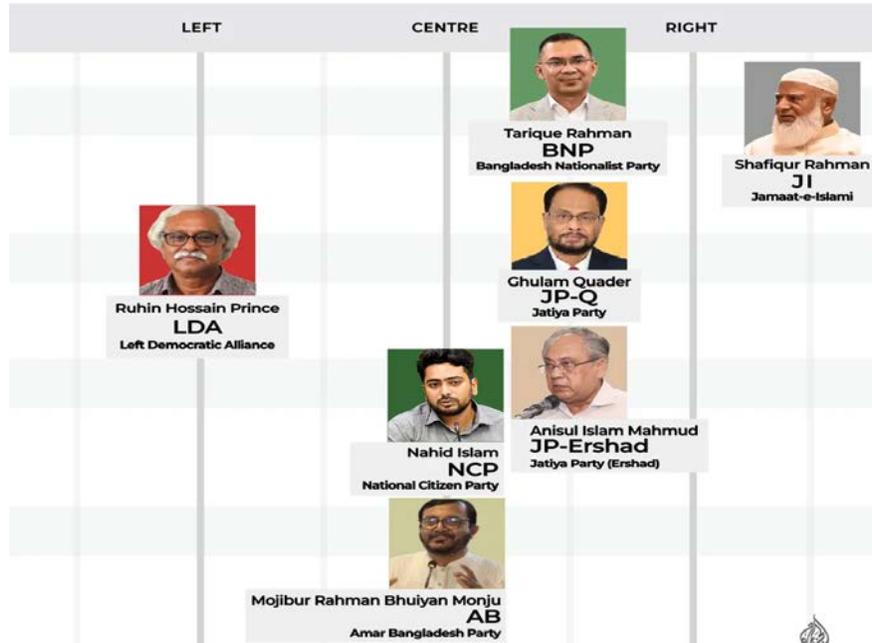
■ **Controversy over women’s roles**

He has faced backlash for suggesting women should work limited hours and for remarks critics saw as regressive. Jamaat has not fielded any female candidates, drawing further criticism.

	<p>Jamaat’s comeback: Shafiqur Rahman eyes Bangladesh’s top job</p> <p>■ From obscurity to frontrunner Once little known outside Islamist circles, Rahman has risen rapidly to national prominence after the 2024 uprising created political space for Jamaat’s return.</p> <p>■ Leader of a once-banned party He became Jamaat chief in 2020, when the party was under heavy restrictions. The ban was lifted in 2025, allowing Jamaat to re-enter mainstream politics.</p> <p>■ Medical background and political journey A doctor from Moulvibazar, he began in leftist student politics before joining Jamaat’s student wing. He formally joined the party in 1984 and contested multiple elections unsuccessfully before his recent rise.</p> <p>■ Rebranding Jamaat’s image Rahman presents himself as moderate and governance-focused, emphasising anti-corruption, social justice and equal treatment for all religions, while grounding his politics in Islamic principles.</p> <p>■ Controversy over women’s roles He has faced backlash for suggesting women should work limited hours and for remarks critics saw as regressive. Jamaat has not fielded any female candidates, drawing further criticism.</p>
<p>National Citizen Party (NCP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formed by student leaders of the 2024 uprising, it is a centrist party focused on citizen-led governance and political reform. ● It has garnered attention from younger voters and civil society groups due to increasing dissatisfaction with established parties.
<p>Left Democratic Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A coalition of left-wing parties, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh and several socialist groups.
<p>Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A centrist party that presents itself as a reform-oriented alternative to the established political blocs, appealing to voters seeking a break from traditional party politics.

Bangladesh's political parties

The February 12 election will be a contest between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and an alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami and the student-led National Citizen Party (NCP).



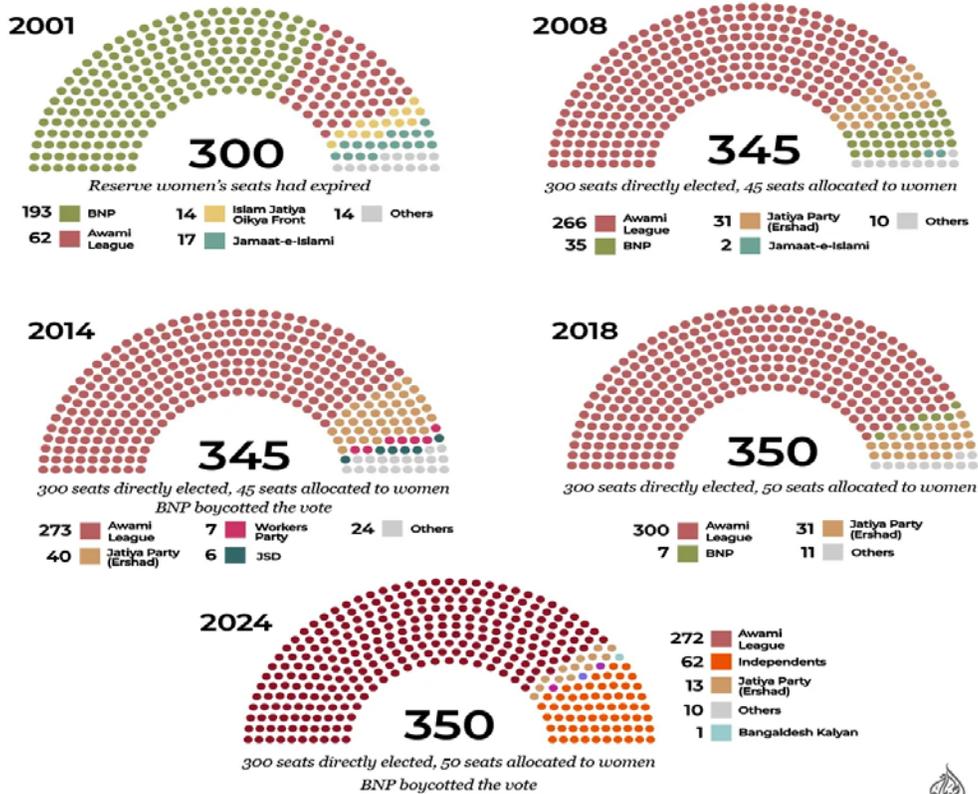
7. Mention about the past elections in Bangladesh?

Past elections	Description
2001 and 2008 Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2001 election, the Awami League suffered a major defeat, winning just 62 seats, while the BNP secured a commanding majority with 193 seats. That election marked the last clear transfer of power between the two major parties. The balance shifted decisively in 2008, when the Awami League-led Grand Alliance returned to power in a landslide. Since then, the party has consolidated its dominance.
2014 Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014, with the BNP absent from the contest, Hasina's Awami League again won in a landslide. The party further strengthened its grip in the 2018 election, securing 300 seats, while the BNP was reduced to just seven seats, its weakest performance on record. Thousands of BNP leaders were arrested in the lead-up to the elections.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jamaat was banned in 2015, and so it couldn't contest. • International observers and opposition groups described the election as neither free nor fair.
2024 Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the most recent 2024 election, the Awami League won 272 seats, maintaining a parliamentary majority. • The BNP again boycotted, amid deepening repression of opposition leaders. • The Jamaat was still banned.

Bangladesh past election results

Bangladesh's electoral history has been a struggle between the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).



8. Enlist all leaders of Bangladesh since 1975?

- **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** served as the **country's first president** who was also the **leader of the independence movement**.
- He soon **banned other political parties** and adopted increasingly repressive policies.
- Rahman was **assassinated in 1975 by army officers**, who killed him and most of his family.

- Only two members of his immediate family survived: his daughters, **Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana**, who were in **West Germany during the attack**, and then lived in India in exile.
- This event triggered a period of coups and counter-coups that established the military as a **dominant political force** in the country.

Bangladesh leaders since independence

Since independence in 1971 from Pakistan, the country's turbulent political evolution has been shaken by internal conflicts, military intervention and fragile democratic institutions.



9. Highlight key factors that could shape Bangladesh elections?

Factors	Description
Sheikh Hasina Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League has been denied permission to contest this election. • Hasina, who is in exile in New Delhi, has said that her party's absence would leave millions of supporters without a candidate and push many to boycott the election. • The BNP has made Hasina's extradition a central campaign theme. • The party argues that India's continued sheltering of the ousted leader undermines Bangladesh's justice process and sovereignty.

- While some **Bangladeshis might stay away from polling booths**, analysts **do not expect a mass boycott**, Reuters reported.
- According to, **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**, the **BNP secretary general**, said **Hasina is a factor, but not an insurmountable one**.
- A recent survey of various voters found that **nearly half of former Awami League voters now prefer the BNP**, the frontrunner in most opinion polls, followed by **roughly 30 per cent who favour Jamaat**.



Corruption

- News agency AP spoke to voters who hoped the **return to elections would restore law and order, protect civil liberties** and bring **accountable leadership**.
- But there is also **unease as some fear political instability, the marginalisation of women and minorities**, and the **rise of Islamists in a secular country**, the AP report said.
- A recent opinion poll by the **Dhaka-based Communication Research Foundation and Bangladesh Elections** and Public Opinion Studies found **corruption to be voters' top concern**.

Economy

- Bangladesh was once **Asia's fastest-growing economy**.
- It, however, **struggled to maintain momentum after the COVID-19 pandemic paralysed** its export-driven garment sector.
- The protests against the **Sheikh Hasina-led government in 2024** further disrupted the sector and weighed on overall growth.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a broader consensus that the Yunus-led administration steadied an economy that had been in free fall, but many say it failed to restore security and protect human rights, and neglected the safety of religious minorities, news agency AP said. ● For 2026, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a real GDP growth of 4.9%, a slight recovery from the 3.7% estimated for 2025. ● The nominal GDP is estimated at approximately \$519 billion for 2026.
<p>Jobs and Inflation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High consumer prices remain a concern, with inflation forecast at 8.7% for 2026. ● Food staples have seen significant price hikes, impacting household purchasing power ● Inflation edged up to 8.58% in January, according to official data, and more than two-thirds of respondents in the poll cited “prices” as their second-biggest concern, Reuters said. ● Employment remains a primary concern for the young voters who led the 2024 uprising. ● In Yunus's administration, the focus has been on reforming the government job quota system, which was the original trigger for the 2024 protests due to perceptions of unfairness ● An estimated 40 per cent of Bangladeshis are under 30. ● So the next government faces intense pressure to create jobs for millions of young people after months of instability.
<p>Attacks on Hindus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many voters expect a fair election amid a strong perception in Bangladesh that previous elections under Hasina were rigged. ● This, along with a clampdown on opposition parties, was seen as the primary reason that eventually exploded into a student-led uprising marking the end of Hasina's 15-year-long rule. ● One of the key factors in the post-Hasina era heavy on voters' minds is the rising political violence, attacks on Hindu minorities, and a collapse of law and order on the streets, AP reported. ● Following the August 2024 upheaval, violent incidents targeting the Hindu community in Bangladesh were reported, resulting in multiple deaths and attacks on homes and businesses.

<p>Women's representation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For decades, Bangladesh was governed by women prime ministers—Khaleda Zia for two full terms and Hasina for four. ● The two prime ministers gave many women a sense of representation. ● Khalida Zia died days before the election. Her son, Tarique Rehman, is the frontrunner to become the prime minister. ● Hasina and her party are banned from participating in the election. Hasina is in exile in India. ● There are fewer women candidates than before, despite the pivotal role women protesters played in the uprising that paved the way for the election.
<p>Rise of Islamists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Among other factors on voters' minds is the rise of Islamists in these elections. ● These worries have grown alongside a surge of support in Bangladesh for Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamist group that was banned under Hasina but has gained influence since her ouster. ● The party's rise has alarmed many women, especially after its leaders suggested restricting women's activities and questioned their ability to work because of their childbearing roles. ● The party, however, insists that it would rule moderately if it came to power.



BANGLADESH ELECTIONS

ECONOMY, JOBS & INFLATION

- Bangladesh seeks economic recovery after garment sector slump
- IMF projects modest growth; inflation remains high at ~8.7%
- Youth unemployment and job creation are key election issues

10. What is July National Charter?

National Consensus Commission members led by its Vice-Chairman Prof Dr Ali Riaz hand over the recommendations outlining the process to implement the July National Charter to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at state guesthouse Jamuna in Dhaka on Tuesday. — PID

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Constitution council ought to pass July National Charter (Constitution Amendment) Bill in 270 days or it'll stand passed after this timeframe
- Interim govt can implement immediately by executive orders those reforms not constitution-related
- Commission recommends immediate orders for arranging referendum on constitutional reforms
- Vote on one question if people agree or not to implement 48 constitutional reforms
- Govt to decide date of the plebiscite
- Next parliament to be effective simultaneously as Constitution Reform Council and National Parliament

- In a move set to redefine the nation’s democratic architecture, Bangladesh will hold its 13th Parliamentary Election on February 12, 2026, alongside a nationwide referendum on the July National Charter.
- The dual-polling day is positioned by the interim government as a “watershed moment” to transition from the period of mass uprising to a “Second Republic” governed by institutional accountability.
- The July National Charter is a comprehensive framework designed to dismantle the “autocratic structures” of the past.
- It is not an immediate constitutional amendment but a political covenant signed by over 25 political parties, including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

- Key reform pillars:
 - **Executive limits:** A proposed **10-year (two-term) cap** on the Prime Minister's tenure.
 - **Legislative restructuring:** Introduction of a **bicameral Parliament with a 100-member Upper House**.
 - **Judicial and electoral independence:** Restoring the neutral **Caretaker Government system** and empowering the **Election Commission**.
 - **Fundamental rights:** Strengthening protections for citizens and granting legal recognition to the **"July Fighters"** of the 2024 uprising.

Good governance, women's empowerment, and an upper house

To establish the rule of law, an "upper house" will be formed in parliament with experts and representatives from all parties. Women's representation and empowerment in national policymaking will be significantly increased.

Protecting the constitution and people's ultimate authority

If "Yes" wins in the referendum, leaders will no longer have the freedom to amend the constitution at will.

Administrative appointments and **parliamentary reforms**

Unilateral control over forming the caretaker government, Election Commission, and PSC will end; these institutions will be formed jointly by the ruling and opposition parties.

Checks and balances will be ensured by electing a deputy speaker and key committee chairs from the opposition in parliament, preventing any single party from acting without restraint.



An authoritarian-free Bangladesh and balance of power

The prime minister will not be allowed to remain in office for more than 10 years, ensuring that no one can hold power for life and turn authoritarian.



The referendum	Result
If “Yes” passes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newly elected Parliament will act as a Constituent Assembly for its first 180 days to formalise the Charter into constitutional law.
If “No” wins:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The incoming government will not be legally or morally bound by the Charter, potentially leading to a return to the previous constitutional framework.

11. How does India view the upcoming elections?

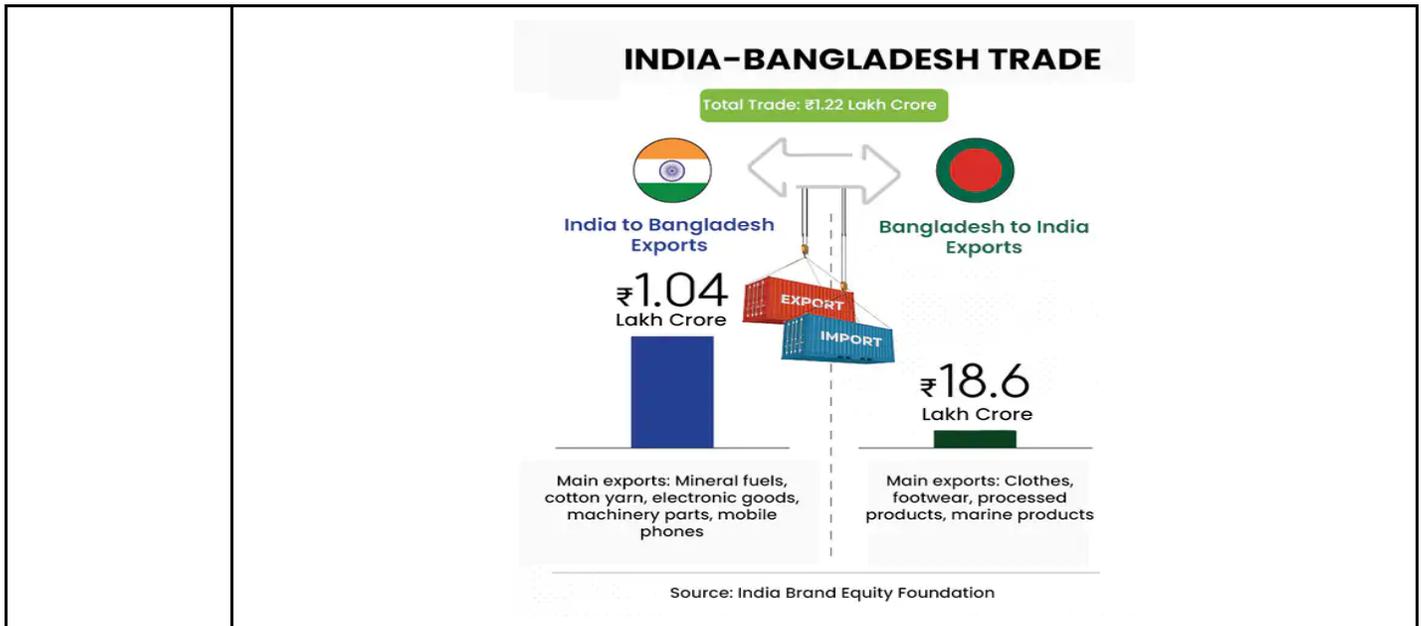
- **India is hoping** that this **upcoming election will produce a government** that is **willing to engage with India** and will not be influenced by the types of actors that **India feels threaten its interests**.
- It is **unlikely that any new government** would **ignore worsening tensions** with India, said Rejwan of Independent University, even if it includes **JIB or other Islamist parties**.
- According to the experts, It is **easy to give inflammatory and popular rhetoric against India** when you are competing for votes, but when you are in government, the **populist posture ultimately changes** while dealing with a **powerful and influential neighbour**.
- Driven by **New Delhi’s “Neighbourhood First” policy**, which focuses on **maintaining friendly relations with neighbours** to safeguard India’s security, **Indian policymakers** have often **stressed that the subcontinent** needs to maintain a **friendly relationship** with Bangladesh.
- Last month, **Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** wished Bangladesh **“well” for its upcoming elections**.
- **EAM S.Jaishankar** also visited **Dhaka in early January for the funeral** of former **Bangladeshi Prime Minister and BNP leader Khaleda Zia**.

Political party	Views
BNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BNP, traditionally viewed as a centrist party, is treading carefully. Its manifesto promises an independent and balanced foreign policy, while party supporters frequently counter Jamaat’s allegations by highlighting its controversial role during the 1971 Liberation War, when it sided with Pakistan.
Jamaat-e-Islami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As polling day approaches, Jamaat-e-Islami, historically closer to Pakistan, which long opposed Ms. Hasina’s rule, has repositioned itself as a defender of Bangladeshi sovereignty. Its manifesto emphasises mutual respect and equal dignity in foreign relations, pointedly rejecting any special status for India.

- Its campaign subtly suggests that a BNP-led government would continue Ms. Hasina’s India-centric foreign policy.

12. Why Bangladesh Elections Will be Closely Watched in India?

Factors	Description
<p>Security Concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India and Bangladesh share nearly 4,000 km long border - the longest India shares with any neighbour. ● The shared border makes stability in Dhaka a direct security concern for New Delhi. ● Illegal immigration through porous stretches, especially along the riverine terrain, has remained a sensitive security issue, particularly for West Bengal and the seven sisters. ● Also, counter-terror cooperations have been a key pillar of India-Bangladesh ties. ● In the past, Dhaka has handed over wanted militants to New Delhi, including the top ULFA leader Anup Chetia, who was transferred to Indian custody after being detained in Bangladesh. ● Any shift in Dhaka’s internal security posture or cooperation framework could directly impact New Delhi's calculus.
<p>Connectivity & Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connectivity with Bangladesh is central to India’s Act East policy and regional integration efforts. ● Under Hasina, India and Bangladesh have expanded economic cooperation beyond trade and transport, including cross-border energy projects and power trade. ● Any political uncertainty in Dhaka could ripple through these mechanisms, potentially affecting agreed transit protocols, port access and other arrangements.



<p>The China Factor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For India, Bangladesh is also central to the broader strategic contest in the region. China has significantly expanded its footprint in Bangladesh under Muhammad Yunus. ● Beijing has stepped up its investment and diplomatic outreach in Dhaka, most recently signing a defence deal to build a drone factory near Bangladesh's border with India, a territory once earmarked for India. ● China has been Bangladesh's largest trading partner for more than a decade, with annual bilateral trade hovering around \$18 billion and imports of Chinese goods accounting for nearly 95% of the total and after Hasina's ouster Chinese companies have poured hundreds of millions of dollars in Bangladesh. ● <i>"China is steadily building its influence both in the open and behind the scenes, benefiting from the crisis in India-Bangladesh relations,"</i> Constantino Xavier, a senior fellow at New Delhi think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress, told Reuters. ● And under the new government, Beijing is likely to attempt to expand its footprints. ● If Delhi and Dhaka are unable to get things back on track, after months of tensions over Hasina staying in India, the new government may find it natural to tilt towards Beijing.
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Questions for Debate :

1. **Will the election outcome significantly impact India–Bangladesh relations?**
2. **Should India prioritize stability in Bangladesh over democratic concerns?**

13. How should India respond to Bangladesh election result?

Aspects	Measures
Strengthening Border Security & Intelligence Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irrespective of which political grouping assumes power in Dhaka, the following measures are a must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance border infrastructure (fencing completion, tech-enabled surveillance, riverine monitoring), even in hinterland of border states. ▪ Bolster BSF and state police coordination along the border. ▪ Increase intelligence sharing to detect cross-border threats early.
Nuanced Diplomatic & Political Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India's engagement should emphasise democracy, stability and rule of law, not only immediate geopolitical preferences. ● India should adopt a pragmatic diplomatic approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support credibly structured, inclusive elections in Bangladesh through multilateral engagement. ▪ Maintain open channels with mainstream parties (BNP, moderate factions, civil society) and not just state actors. ▪ Encourage institutional strengthening; judiciary, legislative independence, election credibility to reduce jingoism and rise of Islamic fundamentalism.
Economic And Connectivity Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustaining economic and historic linkages could be the most pivotal and crucial step. ● Economic interdependence will anchor stability and mutual growth. ● Push for revival of stalled connectivity projects and border trade facilitation ● Use economic incentives to promote socio-economic stability in Bangladesh's border districts ● Collaborate on multi-domain initiatives in energy, digital and climate-resilience sectors
Regional Multilateral Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India should work through SAARC, BIMSTEC and other multi-national-lateral forums to foster better relations and collective security. ● This reduces bilateral burdens and brings in broader legitimacy. ● It can approach the UN and global powers to ensure protection of minorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Also, it can take a clear firm stand on minorities which it is already doing.
Human Rights & Advocation of Communal Harmony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India should advocate minority protection in Bangladesh and work with the new government towards law enforcement capacity building to prevent communal violence. ● Concurrently, it should support civil society and media freedom while countering hate speech and misinformation across borders. ● And at the same time ensure that it is not perceived as interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

Questions for Debate :

1. *Should India prioritize pragmatic engagement over concerns about democratic processes?*
2. *How should India respond if the new government takes a softer stance on anti-India insurgent groups?*
3. *How should India respond if the new government moves closer to China?*
4. *Should India increase economic and infrastructure engagement to retain strategic influence?*

14. Highlight Bangladesh's changing relations with India, Pakistan, and China?

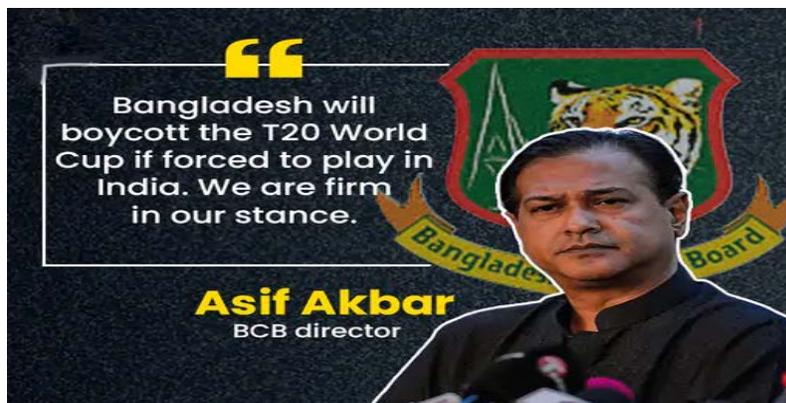
Country	Shift in Relation
Rising tensions with India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sheikh Hasina had to leave power following a student movement in Bangladesh. She came to India, which triggered tensions between the two countries. ● Reports of attacks on Hindus, temple demolitions, and violence emerged in Bangladesh, raising concerns in India. ● Social media in Bangladesh circulated provocative content, including "Greater Bangladesh" maps and references to India's northeastern states. ● Muhammad Yunus referred to India's northeastern states as landlocked, sparking controversy. ● Tensions increased along the India-Bangladesh border between the BSF and BGB over smuggling and fencing issues. ● Student leader Sharif Usman Hadi was shot dead, leading to further violence and anti-India sentiment.

<p>Improved ties with Pakistan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior leaders and officials of both countries began direct communication, gradually reducing long-standing tensions. • In 2025, cargo ships resumed operations between Karachi and Chattogram, easing maritime trade. • Early 2026 saw the resumption of direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi after several years. • Pakistan and Bangladesh discussed easing visa rules, particularly for official travel. • At international forums, both countries aligned on several issues, strengthening coordination. • Both nations expressed willingness to reactivate regional bodies like SAARC.
<p>Closer ties with China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025, Bangladeshi leaders met the Chinese President to openly discuss further strengthening bilateral relations. • Both sides decided to negotiate free trade agreements and investment-related deals to boost trade. • China agreed to continue duty-free access for most goods coming from Bangladesh. • In defence, both countries drew closer, signing agreements on drones and other military technologies. • Bangladesh and China also expressed interest in cooperation on climate, agriculture, technology, and digital development.

Questions for Debate :

- 1. Is Bangladesh moving from an India-centric foreign policy to a multi-vector balancing strategy?*
- 2. Should India be concerned about declining political goodwill in Bangladesh?*
- 3. Can historical grievances of 1971 be fully overcome in Bangladesh–Pakistan relations?*

15. What is cricket controversy between India and Bangladesh?



BANGLADESH CRICKET CRISIS

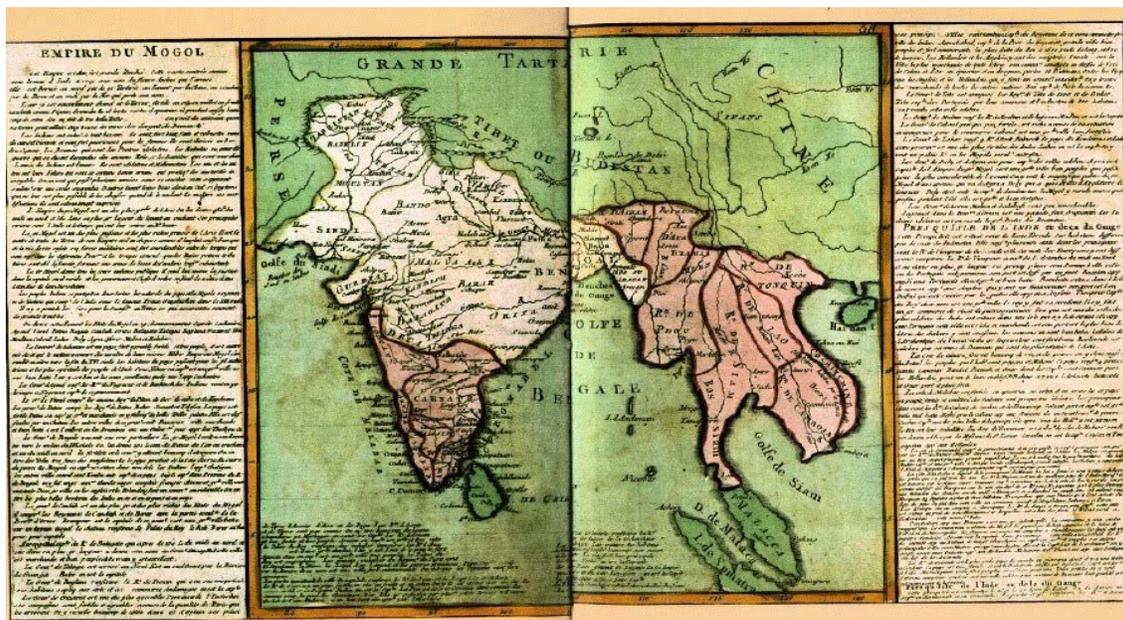
Entire timeline





January 3	KKR release Mustafizur from IPL 2026 squad following BCCI instructions
January 4	Bangladesh refuse to travel to India for T20 World Cup amid Mustafizur row
January 5	Bangladesh bans IPL broadcast over Mustafizur row
January 6	ICC to meet with BCB over refusal to play T20 World Cup matches in India ICC to Bangladesh: play in India or forfeit points
January 7	BCB: ICC willing to address concerns about playing T20 World Cup in India We want to play T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka - Bangladesh's sports advisor
January 10	'We act as if nothing affects us' - Shanto upset about T20 World Cup wrangle
January 12	No specific threat to Bangladesh team in India, says ICC security assessment
January 13	BCB firm on stance that Bangladesh won't travel to India for T20 World Cup
January 14	Players protest after BCB director Nazmul Islam called Tamim Iqbal 'Indian agent' January 15- BCB sack Nazmul Islam from role of finance director
January 15	BCB sack Nazmul Islam from role of finance director

16. What is the history of Bangladesh?



History of BANGLADESH

The Ganges Delta Civilization

1500 - 500 BC
Vanga Kingdom
The Vanga / Banga বঙ্গ রাজ্য Kingdom was an ancient seafaring nation lived in the Ganges Delta - mentioned in various Vedic and Greek text
Mahasthangarh মহাস্থানগড় 300 BC

300 BC - TO AD
Gangaridai
Bengal was known to the Greeks as **Gangaridai**, notable for mighty military power. It was described by Greek historians that **Alexander the Great** withdrew from South east Asia, anticipating a counterattack from an alliance of Gangaridai

800 - 1200 AD
Pala Empire
A **Buddhist** imperial power which originated in the Bengal.

1338 - 1576 AD
Bengal Sultante
The **Sultanate of Bengal** শাহী রাজ্য an **Independent** Bengal Empire.

1576-1757 AD
Mughal Bengal / Independent Nawab of Bengal
Babur defeated Sultan Nasiruddin Nasrat Shah of the Bengal Sultanate in Battle of Ghaghra.

1757 AD
Battle of Plassey
British invaded Bengal in 1757. Last independent Nawab of Bengal **Nawab Siraj Ud Daulah** was defeated by Robert Clive

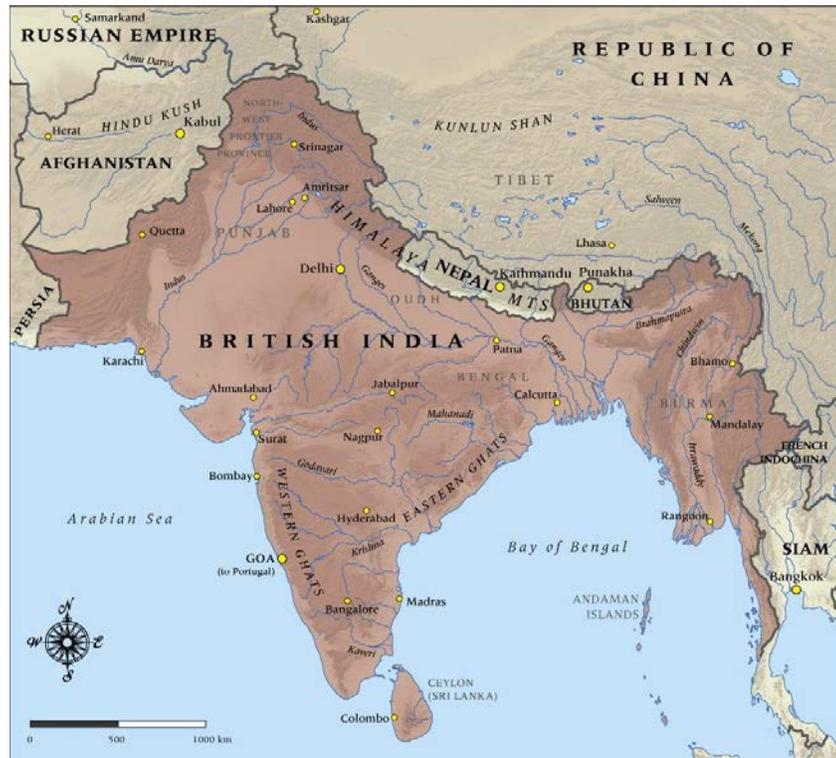
1757- 1947 AD
Bengal Presidency
The economic powerhouse of the **British colonial office** & center of Armed resistance **against British** Colonial occupation in South Asia.

1947 - 1971
East Bengal - Later Renamed East Pakistan
The Bengal presidency was **divided** into India and Pakistan, - Pakistan Ruled East Bengal **Declared Independence in 1971.**

16th December 1971
Victory day of Bangladesh
Bangladesh / Bengal gained independence after **214 years of foreign occupation** by Armed Resistance.

26 March 1971
Independence day of Bangladesh
Bengali Nationalist Leader **Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman** Declared the Independence of Bangladesh from **Pakistani Occupation Forces.**

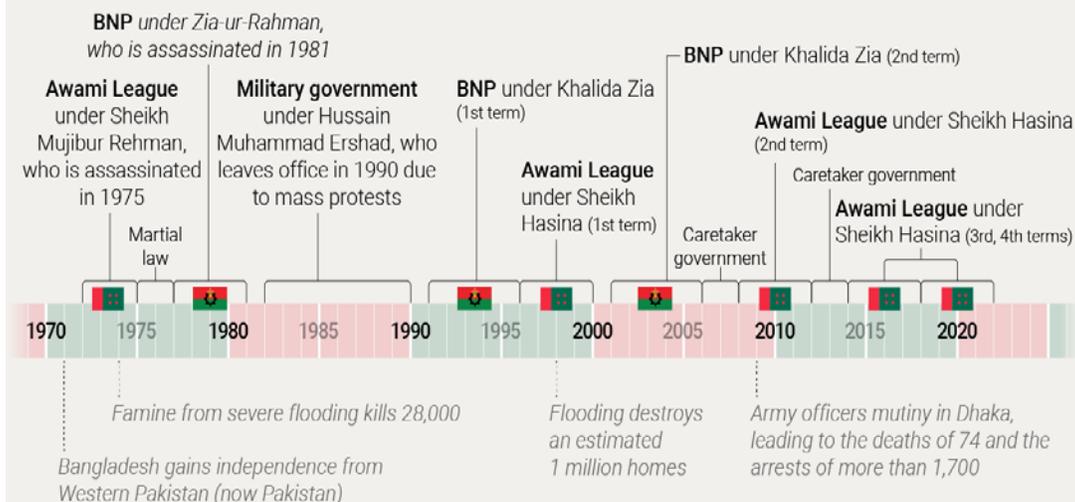
Time Period	Events
14th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bangladesh, located in South Asia, is a country with a rich history and cultural heritage. ● The first significant Islamic dynasty to rule the region was the Bengal Sultanate, established in the 14th century by Sultan Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah.
During British Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the 18th century, the British East India Company gained control of Bangladesh, leading to the exploitation of the region's natural resources and the introduction of European-style education and administration. ● This period also saw the rise of nationalist movements, culminating in the formation of the All India Muslim League in 1906 and the eventual partition of India and Pakistan in 1947.



1947-1971

- Following the partition, **East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)** became part of **Pakistan**, but it struggled to **achieve autonomy and equal rights** with West Pakistan.
- This led to a mass movement for independence, **culminating in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971**.
- After a nine-month-long war, **Bangladesh finally achieved independence on December 16, 1971**.

Bangladesh Governments, 1971-2022



17. What is India's role in the creation of Bangladesh as a nation?

- India played a pivotal role in the **Bangladesh War of Independence**, which led to the **creation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan in 1971.**
- India and Bangladesh share deep-rooted **bonds of history, language, and culture.**

Role of India	Analysis
<p>Strong support to Bangladesh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India extended strong diplomatic support to the Bengali nationalist movement led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League, which sought independence from Pakistan. ● The Indian government also provided covert training and intelligence support of Mukti Bahini in the months leading to its official involvement in the War. 
<p>Humanitarian assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of India took a firm stand of offering asylum to all those who were fleeing from East Pakistan to save their lives. ● India provided shelter, food, and medical aid to over 10 million refugees, despite the significant economic strain this placed on the country. 
<p>Military intervention by India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Indian Armed Forces led by Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, in coordination with the Mukti Bahini (Bangladeshi freedom fighters), launched a full-scale military campaign against Pakistani forces in East Pakistan.

- India’s military strategy included rapid and decisive operations by the **Army, Navy, and Air Force, culminating in the fall of Dhaka on December 16, 1971.**
- This led to the surrender of the Pakistani military and the independence of Bangladesh.

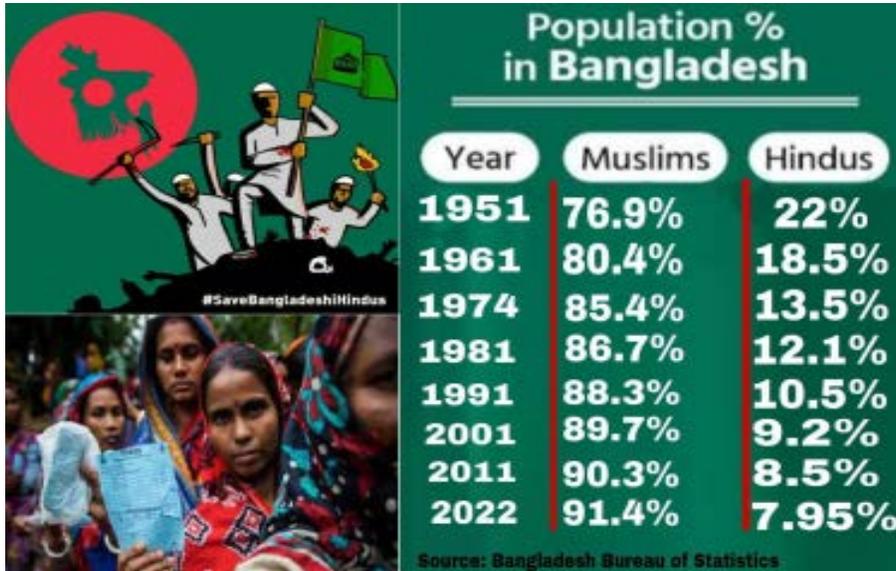


18. What were the recent developments which led to the coup in Bangladesh?

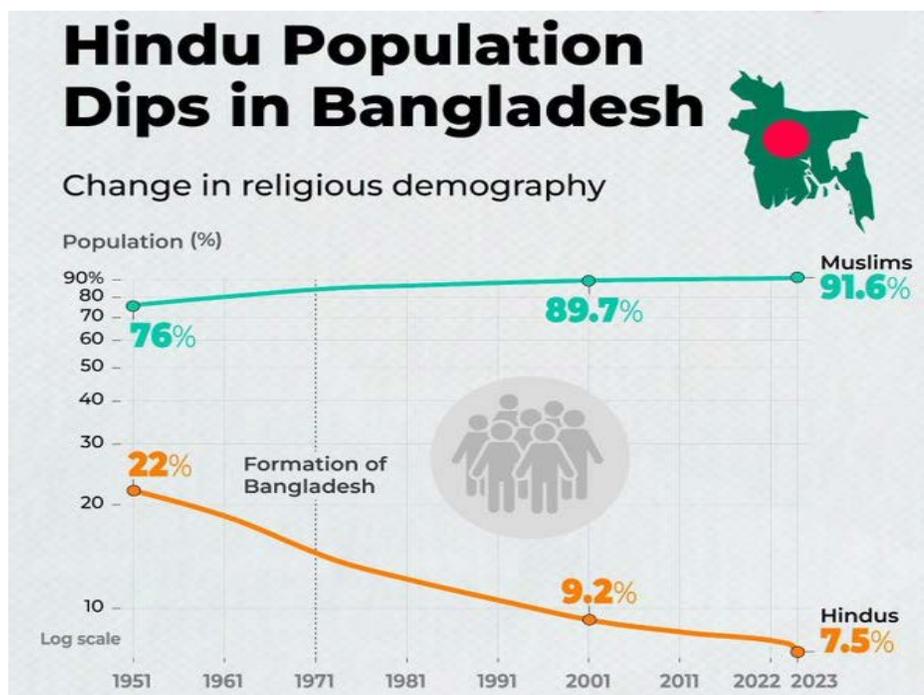
Reasons	Implications			
<p>Erosion of Democracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Parliamentary elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024 were controversial and non-participative as they were marred by low turnout, violence, and boycotts by opposition parties. <div data-bbox="552 1150 1364 1669" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">BANGLADESH ELECTIONS 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Controversial elections under Hasina</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Previous two polls were accompanied by widespread irregularities and accusations of vote rigging.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PM Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure has been marred by allegations of rights abuses, laws curtailing press and civic freedoms, and a government crackdown on the opposition.</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>2024</p> <p>Main opposition BNP and others boycotting</p> <p>BNP calls for weekend protest, asks people not to vote</p> <p>More than 20,000 opposition activists arrested</p> <p>US warns of visa ban on election officials if vote unfair</p> <p>300 foreign observers and journalists authorised to monitor polls</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>2018</p> <p>Electronic voting machines used for the first time</p> <p>Hasina's Awami League won 288 of 300 seats</p> <p>Allegations of vote rigging and intimidation by Hasina's party</p> <p>Rights groups and global observers say election is a 'sham'</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>2014</p> <p>Four major opposition parties boycotted vote</p> <p>153 of 300 seats are uncontested</p> <p>Hasina's Awami League won 234 seats</p> <p>Widespread violence, with nearly two dozen killed on polling day</p> </td> </tr> </table> </div>	<p>2024</p> <p>Main opposition BNP and others boycotting</p> <p>BNP calls for weekend protest, asks people not to vote</p> <p>More than 20,000 opposition activists arrested</p> <p>US warns of visa ban on election officials if vote unfair</p> <p>300 foreign observers and journalists authorised to monitor polls</p>	<p>2018</p> <p>Electronic voting machines used for the first time</p> <p>Hasina's Awami League won 288 of 300 seats</p> <p>Allegations of vote rigging and intimidation by Hasina's party</p> <p>Rights groups and global observers say election is a 'sham'</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Four major opposition parties boycotted vote</p> <p>153 of 300 seats are uncontested</p> <p>Hasina's Awami League won 234 seats</p> <p>Widespread violence, with nearly two dozen killed on polling day</p>
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<p>Autocratic style of governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s government increasingly relied on hard power to maintain control. ● This created a climate of fear and repression. ● Provisions like The Digital Security Act 2018 became a potent weapon to silence criticism against the government. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begum Khaleda Zia who served as the prime minister of Bangladesh and is chairperson and leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which is the main opposition party was arrested and remained in Dhaka Central Jail from 2018 until 5 August 2024.
<p>Student protest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The peaceful student protest against the freedom fighter reservation of 30% in civil services, galvanized into a nationwide movement due to the Government's heavy-handed approach. ● Around 130 people have been killed in the student protest clashes against quotas for government jobs in Bangladesh. ● The anti-quota protests have come at a time when Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was settling down to power after winning a controversial election in January that gave her an unprecedented fourth consecutive term. <div data-bbox="586 793 1333 1161" data-label="Image"> <p>The image shows a massive gathering of people, likely students, at an outdoor protest. Many individuals are holding up Bangladeshi national flags (green with a white crescent and star). The crowd is dense and extends far into the background, with trees visible in the distance. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing the scale of the demonstration.</p> </div>
<p>Government reaction to protest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina had termed the protesters who opposed quotas for freedom fighters' families as 'razakars' or traitors who supported the Pakistani military in carrying out large-scale atrocities against men and women in 1971. ● This enraged the students who demanded an apology from her and occupied public squares.
<p>2024 Elections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2024 elections in Bangladesh were marked by the Opposition's boycott, limited democratic space, erosion of human rights, economic downturn, and high youth unemployment.
<p>Rise in Islamic fundamentalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religious outfits like Hefazat-e-Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami have openly opposed the secular judicial system, calling for a revolution and creation of an Islamic State in Bangladesh under Sharia Law.

19. What is the status of minorities in Bangladesh?



- The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) presents its annual report on violence against religious and ethnic minorities recording over 1,000 cases of human rights violations in a year and resulting in the death of 45 people.
- According to the BHBCUC, 70-75 percent of the violence is centered on land grabbing, often under the influence of political parties and with the complicity of government agencies.
- Before the 1971 Bangladesh war of independence against Pakistan, the minority population was about 19 per cent but now it has come down to 8.6 per cent.
- The latest census in 2023 found that 90 percent of the total population of 170 million in Bangladesh are Muslims, with Hindus still making up the largest minority group at 8 percent, while Christians represent less than 1%.



20. What are the wider implications of the Bangladesh crisis for India?



Implications	Analysis
<p>Security Challenge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bangladesh crisis comes just three years after President Ashraf Ghani’s government fell in Kabul and the Taliban regained control over Afghanistan after about two decades, giving an advantage to Pakistan and causing unease for India.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to media sources, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, and the National Liberation Front of Tripura all run camps in Bangladesh.
<p>Border management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India shares around 4096 km of land border with Bangladesh which is still not completely fenced.

	  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There might be an increase in the incidents of Drug and Arms trafficking, cattle smuggling, cross border terrorism.
<p>Rise in Radicalisation and Terrorism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India is worried about the possibility of rise in extremism in Bangladesh with Hasina and her Awami League party out of power. ● Some of the radical organizations in Bangladesh have links with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) other terrorist outfits based in Pakistan as well as with the Pakistan Army's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which might like to expand its activities in the eastern neighbor of its arch-enemy India.
<p>India's access to North East</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India has extended three lines of credit to Bangladesh since 2016 amounting to \$8 billion for the development of road, rail, shipping and port infrastructure. ● Any disruption in Indo-Bangladesh ties could restrict India's access to northeast, which is connected to mainland India through 'Chicken's Neck' between West Bengal and Assam.



Loss of a Trusted Ally

- India has lost a key partner in Sheikh Hasina, who has been instrumental in countering terrorism and strengthening bilateral relations.



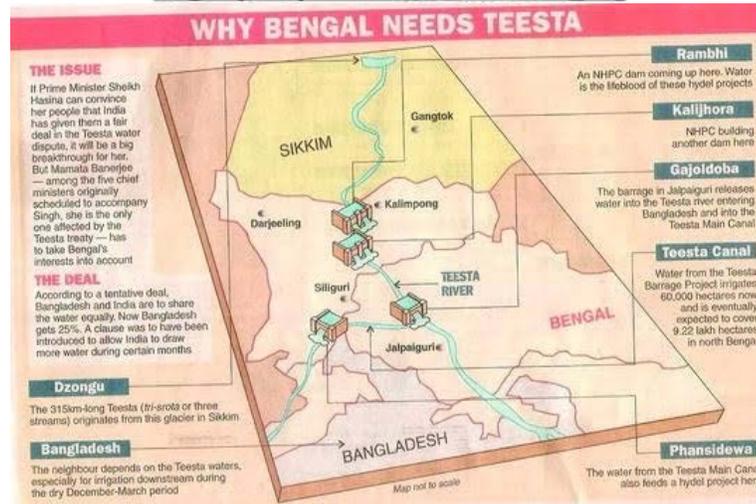
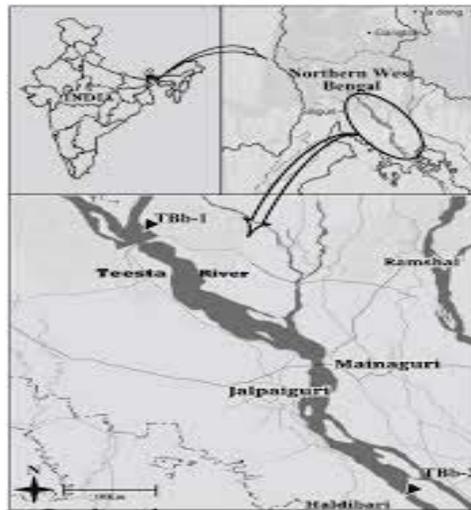
They are caused by his sponsorship of extremists, his failure to protect religious minorities, and the anti-India rhetoric emanating from his administration. These are actions of an inexperienced leader who does not recognise the value of our partnership. I am grateful for India's patience as they wait for a leader with the authority and expertise to return our country to stability.

OUSTED BANGLADESHI PM SHEIKH HASINA ON INDIA'S RESPONSE TO HER EXIT AND DHAKA'S CHANGING GEOPOLITICAL EQUATION



Teesta river dispute:

- An agreement on Teesta river was concluded in 2011 between both countries that gave India 42.5% of the water, Bangladesh 37.5%, and the remaining 20% of the river's water flow-free rein.



- The current ongoing crisis may further disrupt the **river agreements** among both nations.



Refugee Crisis:

- Due to attacks on minority communities **India will be facing a refugee influx** from Bangladesh **similar to the situation in 1971.**

- **BSF had to send back 1,000 men, mostly Hindus gathered at India-Bangladesh border in Cooch Behar district to enter India.**



Economic Implications

- The crisis in Bangladesh could disrupt **bilateral trade and regional supply chains**, particularly affecting **key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and food commodities** that are vital to **India–Bangladesh economic relations**.
- Instability may hamper ongoing **connectivity projects and transit arrangements**, thereby constraining **India’s access to its Northeast region**, which heavily depends on **Bangladesh for shorter and cost-effective routes**.
- **Prolonged uncertainty** could also slow down **regional economic integration initiatives**, **weakening cooperation under frameworks such as BIMSTEC and BBIN**, where India and Bangladesh play pivotal roles.

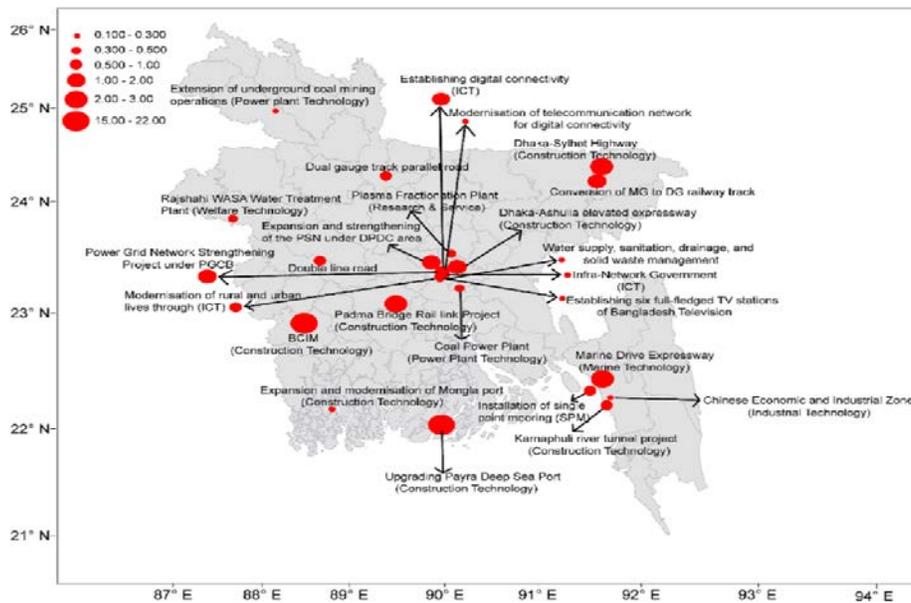


Influence of China

- China has been increasing its **investments in Bangladesh**, particularly in the areas of **infrastructure development, energy, and telecommunications**.
- **Bangladesh has been an active partner in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- **Bangladesh's total debt obligations to China** now stand at around **\$17.5 billion**, which may become a new victim of **Chinese debt trap policy in India’s neighbor after Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan**.

CHINESE PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH'S INFRASTRUCTURES

- 27 power and energy projects with over 50% local stake
- 7 railway lines, totalling 542km in length
- 12 highways and 21 bridges with total length of 550km
- 260+ Chinese firms creating 5,50,000 jobs
- Dasherbandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project to save a vast area of Dhaka city and Hatirjheel lake from further pollution



Technological projects by China in Bangladesh under BRI (red circles denote money in USD in billion).

Economic Zone	Country	No of Cos	FDI Proposals (in million US\$)
Bangabandhu Sheikh MujibShilpanagar	China, Netherlands UK, Japan (JV) Singapore, Australia South Korea, USA India, Malaysia Germany	20	3,865.00
Moheshkhali EZ-3	S Korea, Thailand	2	2,489.73
Sabrang tourism Park	Netherland, Singapore	2	98.76
Sreehatta EZ	UK	1	0.81
Private EZ	Australia, China Japan, Germany India, USA Norway	13	148.80

46,304 (Person)
Proposed employment generation from FDI

\$25,331.681M
Total investment proposals in EZ including local and FDI

10,13,581 (Person)
Total employment generation from both local and FDI proposals

Source: FE analysis based on BEZA data

21. What should be India’s approach in dealing with the Bangladesh crisis?

Approach	Analysis
<p>Diplomatic and Political Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage Broadly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India should maintain open channels of communication with the current interim government led by Muhammad Yunus and other diverse political factions, including student leaders who drove the 2024 uprising. ▪ This moves beyond the previous one-party strategy and builds goodwill with potential future leadership. <div data-bbox="748 621 1149 989" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Democratic Processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Delhi consistently advocates for free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections to restore stability and democratic governance. <div data-bbox="662 1167 1235 1478" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid Interference Perception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India must carefully balance its approach to avoid being perceived as interfering in Bangladesh's internal affairs, which could exacerbate anti-India sentiment and push Dhaka towards rivals like China and Pakistan.
<p>Support Democracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Bangladesh government's interim head and Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus and extended India's full support in restoration of peace in the neighboring country.



- **India's explicit support to Muhammad Yunus and the interim government can help restore law & order and protect citizens' rights, including minorities, in Bangladesh.**



Support to Minorities

- **India should continue advocating for minority rights but avoid focusing exclusively on the Hindu minority.**
- **A five-member committee led by a senior Border Security Force (BSF) official has been set up to communicate with Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, Hindus, and other minority communities living there.**
- **India must attempt reopening bilateral channels of communication.**

Enhancing Security Measures

- **India should bolster its security measures along the border and in areas with significant Bangladeshi expatriate populations to address potential spillover effects and maintain stability.**

Launch of BOLD-QIT project in Dhubri, Assam by Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh

River Brahmaputra in Dhubri district covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system

Provide feeds to BSF Control Rooms and enables Quick Reaction Teams to stop cross border crimes

Earlier on 17th September, 2018 Home Minister had inaugurated two smart fencing projects along International Border in J&K



<p>Geopolitical Move</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India should ensure that Pakistan and China may not take advantage of the Bangladesh crisis to harm India. ● India should use its Geopolitical influence involving US, UK, and European nations to support Bangladesh’s economic stabilization and counter extremist influences. ● Current expert opinions and policy recommendations suggest India should leverage its influence and work with international partners to manage the evolving situation in Bangladesh. ● India is advised to: ● Strengthen border management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This includes accelerated fencing and enhanced surveillance to manage potential security risks like insurgent activity and refugee spillover. ● Counter anti-India sentiment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ India needs to counter the growing anti-India propaganda and disinformation campaigns within Bangladesh. ● Diversify engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broaden outreach beyond the former Awami League government to include civil society and various political factions to ensure more balanced ties.
<p>Long-Term Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long-Term Strategy of India should include patient and empathetic approach. ● India should reaffirm with its Act East Policy. ● Cultural & People-to-People Ties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fostering shared heritage and mutual understanding through exchanges, crucial for sustained engagement.



22. How does India’s decision reflect its approach towards internal political developments in neighboring countries?



- Reiterating New Delhi's commitment towards free, fair, inclusive and credible elections, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said that India had declined Dhaka's invitation to send observers for February 12 polls.
 - Bangladesh's general election is unfolding against the backdrop of its most strained relationship with India in years, with diplomatic tensions spilling into visa suspensions, street protests and competing narratives over sovereignty and minority rights.
- Earlier on Wednesday, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, met with several election observation delegations as the country prepared for the 13th national elections, whose voting concluded on Thursday 12th February, 2026.
- The elections are taking place nearly two years after the July 2024 Uprising.
- The election observation delegation included the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and the Voice for Justice Observers.

23. What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **For Prelims:** Inflation, European Union, India-Bangladesh Relations, Bangladesh Liberation War 1971, Akhaura-Agartala rail link, CAA 2019.
- **For Mains:** India-Bangladesh Relations, Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests, Refugee crisis, Economic implication, Security challenge.

Some previous years prelims questions.**Q. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC: (2025)**

1. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.
2. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.
3. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.
4. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 1 only

Ans: (d)

Q2. Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023' are correct? (2024)

1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
3. Joint response during counter-terrorism operations was a goal of this operation.
4. Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

Q3. Consider the following statements: (2020)

1. The value of Indo-Sri Lanka trade has consistently increased in the last decade.
2. "Textile and textile articles" constitute an important item of trade between India and Bangladesh.
3. In the last five years, Nepal has been the largest trading partner of India in South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Some previous years mains questions.

Q1. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. (2018)

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sujata Chaturvedi mam:

- What's happening in Bangladesh?
- Which international laws have been violated by Bangladesh, and what recourse should India pursue?

Board Sujata Chaturvedi mam:

- What happened on 16th December wrt Bangladesh?
- Why did it happen?

Dr Ajay Kumar sir:

- How to curb illegal migration across India specifically at Bangladesh ?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- Why the youth in nepal Bangladesh protesting and indulging in violence?

Board Sheel Vardhan Sir:

- Why are Bangladesh and Vietnam ahead of us in textiles ?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- What's the name of the border line between India and Bangladesh called as?

Board BB Swain sir:

- Tell me about issues in bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh? Which river?
- What infrastructure/connectivity are we building between India and Bangladesh? Why?

Board Lt. Gen Raj Shukla Sir:

- Tell me about issues in bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh?

Some questions for QUIZ.

Q1. Consider the following Countries:

1. Bangladesh
2. India
3. Myanmar
4. Maldives
5. Bhutan

How many of the above countries are part of the SAARC grouping?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (c)

Some questions for POLL.

Q1. Do you think the elections in Bangladesh are conducted in a free and fair manner?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Do opposition parties get a fair opportunity to contest elections in Bangladesh?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q3. Has political polarization affected the fairness of elections in Bangladesh?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q4. Should international observers play a larger role in monitoring Bangladesh elections?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q5. Do you think election-related violence is a major concern in Bangladesh?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

- Q6. Do you think Bangladesh's Election Commission functions independently?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q7. Should Bangladesh reform its electoral system to improve transparency?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q8. Do election boycotts by opposition parties weaken democracy in Bangladesh?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.
- Q9. Do you think the credibility of Bangladesh elections affects its international image?
- (a) YES
 - (b) NO
 - (c) Can't say.

