



The outcome of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Visit to India

The bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh have grown over time as a standard cooperation model wherein negotiations and constructive dialogues find amicable solutions to impending problems.

During the visit, both Prime Ministers discussed issues on bilateral cooperation, including political and security cooperation, defence, border management, trade and connectivity, water resources, power and energy, development cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people links. The major rivers between the two countries include the Ganges, Teesta, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudhkumar and Kushiya. India and Bangladesh signed a water-sharing agreement on the Kushiya river and six other pacts, including space technology and scientific collaboration, to boost ties between the two countries.

Other than the seven Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between India and Bangladesh, they agreed to extend cooperation on flood mitigation, share real-time data regarding floods with Bangladesh, and discuss terrorism.

Furthermore, the two countries also agreed to start negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) soon. Although there have been informal talks about the same since 2018, PM Hasina gave a green signal for CEPA on August 18, ahead of her visit. This proposed agreement targeted reducing the trade gap between the two nations and opening up new opportunities, including connectivity, new markets, cooperation, and partnership.

India and Bangladesh have cooperated since the latter's independence with an impeccable record of friendship and trust. They have a solid will to further the overall ties and take it to a new height. Her visit to India has, thus, been a step forward.

Given this context, this Occasional News Wrap (ONW) has reviewed and compiled various articles in print and electronic media on the outcomes of this visit.

1.	<p>India-Bangladesh Joint Statement during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India</p> <p><i>By PIB Delhi</i></p> <p>Prime Minister's Office</p> <p>September 07, 2022</p>	<p>H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid a State Visit to India from September 05-08, 2022, at the invitation of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. Her programme includes launching the "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Student Scholarship" for 200 descendants of Indian Armed Forces personnel martyred and critically injured during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.</p>
2.	<p>Sheikh Hasina's visit: Rivers shared, friendship deepened</p> <p><i>By Subimal Bhattacharjee</i></p> <p>The Indian Express</p> <p>September 08, 2022</p>	<p>Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina just completed a successful state visit to India, where seven agreements were signed besides a few project inaugurations and announcements. As bilateral trade has soared to US\$18bn now, doubling in the last five years and as Bangladesh moves from the least developed countries category to developing country status in the next couple of years. Both countries discussed the way forward to keep the special relationship growing.</p>
3.	<p>India-Bangla trade, now set for CEPA boost</p> <p><i>By Shubhajit Roy</i></p> <p>The Indian Express</p> <p>September 07, 2022</p>	<p>Following a meeting with the visiting Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India and Bangladesh would soon commence negotiations on a Bilateral CEPA. "We both believe that by taking lessons from the COVID-pandemic and recent global developments, we need to strengthen our economies," Modi said.</p>
4.	<p>Sheikh Hasina India visit: India extends nearly US\$9.5bn to Bangladesh in concessional loans</p> <p>BusinessToday.In</p> <p>September 06, 2022</p>	<p>PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina jointly unveiled Unit-I of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project. The project is constructed under India's concessional financing scheme and will add 1320 MW to Bangladesh's National Grid. The two country leaders also inaugurated the 5.13 km Rupsha rail bridge, a vital part of the 64.7 km Khulna-Mongla Port broad gauge rail project.</p>
5.	<p>India, a 'tested' friend, stood by Bangladesh in the hour of need: Sheikh Hasina thanks PM Modi for Vaccine Maitri programme</p> <p>Firstpost</p> <p>September 04, 2022</p>	<p>Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative towards rescuing students of her country who were stuck in eastern Europe following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.</p>

6.	<p>Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina confers Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Scholarship on Indian students in New Delhi</p> <p><i>By AIR News</i></p> <p>News on AIR</p> <p>September 08, 2022</p>	<p>Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Student Scholarship at a function in New Delhi. The first ever Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Student Scholarships were granted to the direct descendants of soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces of India. The latter were martyred or critically wounded during the historic Liberation war of 1971.</p>
7.	<p>Sheikh Hasina India Visit Highlights: Sheikh Hasina visits Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan</p> <p>The Indian Express</p> <p>September 08, 2022</p>	<p>Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been on a Delhi visit, paid obeisance at the Dargah of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer. She was given a red carpet welcome at the Dargah amid tight security arrangements. Hasina performed ziyarat at the shrine. There was no other devotee on the Dargah premises, and the Dargah market was also closed as per the protocol for visits by the head of a nation.</p>
8.	<p>Outcomes of PM's India visit: Between hope and despair</p> <p><i>By Mohammad Al-Masum Molla</i></p> <p>The Daily Star</p> <p>September 09, 2022</p>	<p>Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day visit to India brought some positive outcomes, like the offer of free transit through India to third countries and the Kushiyara water-sharing MoU. Experts said India's offer to Bangladesh for free transit via its territory for exporting products to third countries through specific land ports, airports, and seaports was a positive move.</p>