# SHARED VISION

# OF

# INDIA-BANGLADESH DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

## 1. THE VISION

India-Bangladesh Digital Partnership, guided by the "Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041" and "Viksit Bharat Vision 2047", envisions a transformative collaboration between India and Bangladesh, leveraging digital technologies to foster economic growth, social development, cross-border connectivity and regional prosperity. Over the next decade, this partnership aims to strengthen bilateral ties, drive innovation, and empower citizens through collaborative deployment and utilization of digital platforms and digital public infrastructure. The forward-looking partnership draws strength from our peoples' trust in technology to achieve and sustain resilient development and create an interlinked digital ecosystem that will fulfill Bangladesh's aspiration to foster Smart Citizens, Smart Economy, Smart Government and Smart Society.

## 2. SHARED OBJECTIVES

**Through this partnership, the two countries aim to:**

a. Foster a conducive environment for digital innovation and entrepreneurship by establishing joint incubators and accelerators, providing access to funding, mentorship, and regulatory support.

b. Enhance connectivity and digital infrastructure across borders by investing in cross-border fiber optic networks, satellite communication systems, and digital trade corridors.

c. Promote digital literacy and skill development to empower citizens through nationwide awareness campaigns, training programmes, and digital education initiatives targeting diverse demographics.

d. Facilitate trade and investment through digital channels by harmonizing trade policies, reducing trade barriers, and promoting interoperability of digital platforms and payment systems.

e. Collaborate on research and development in emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, blockchain, data

analytics etc., establishing joint research centres and funding mechanisms to support collaborative projects.

f. Ensure cybersecurity and data protection for citizens and businesses through the development of bilateral cybersecurity frameworks, information sharing mechanisms, and capacity-building programmes for cybersecurity professionals.

g. Harness the potential of digital solutions for sustainable development and climate resilience by leveraging technologies such as IoT, big data analytics, and remote sensing for environmental monitoring, disaster management, and sustainable agriculture.

h. Promote cultural exchange and people-to-people connections through digital platforms by supporting initiatives such as virtual cultural exchanges, digital archives, and online language learning programmes.

## 3. FOCUS AREAS

**To realize this vision, we will build partnership to:**

### 3.1. Digital Connectivity

a. Expand broadband connectivity and digital networks to underserved areas through public-private partnerships, infrastructure investments, and regulatory incentives targeting rural arid remote regions.

b. Develop cross-border digital infrastructure to facilitate seamless connectivity, including the establishment of cross-border internet exchange points, interoperable digital payment systems, and streamlined customs procedures for digital goods and services.

c. Invest in 5G technology and next-generation communication networks to support high-speed internet access, IoT applications, and digital services such as telemedicine, smart education, smart cities, and electric vehicles.

d. Strengthen cyber infrastructure to ensure resilience against cyber threats by establishing national cybersecurity centers, conducting regular cybersecurity assessments, and enhancing collaboration between law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts.

### 3.2. Digital Economy

a. Facilitate cross-border e-commerce and digital trade by harmonizing regulations, reducing trade barriers, and establishing mutual recognition agreements for digital signatures and electronic transactions.

b. Create a conducive regulatory environment for technology startups and businesses by streamlining business registration processes, providing tax incentives, and establishing regulatory sandboxes for testing innovative digital products and services.

c. Promote digital payment systems and financial inclusion initiatives by expanding the reach of mobile banking, digital wallets, and payment platforms, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

d. Foster collaboration between tech industries, academia, and research institutions by facilitating technology transfer, supporting industry- academia partnerships, and establishing joint research and development funds.

e. Establish innovation hubs and startup incubators to nurture digital entrepreneurship by providing access to co-working spaces, mentorship programs, venture capital funding, and market access support.

### 3.3. Digital Governance

a. Develop a robust legal framework on digital security and cyber space accessibility to ensure safe and secure use of digital space by all that enables improved service delivery and quality of life.

b. Implement e-governance initiatives for efficient public service delivery by digitizing government services, establishing citizen service centers and Digi-Seva Kendras to provide digital services at the grassroots level.

c. Promote open data initiatives to enhance government-citizen engagement, encouraging the development of data-driven applications and services, and fostering collaboration between government agencies and the private sector.

d. Develop digital identity systems to streamline service delivery and access to benefits by implementing secure and interoperable digital ID systems, ensuring privacy protection and data security, and leveraging biometric authentication technologies.

e. Ensure privacy protection and data sovereignty through robust regulatory frameworks by enacting applicable national data protection laws, and promoting international standards for data privacy and security.

### 3.4. Digital Skills and Education

a. Enhance digital literacy programmes for all segments of society by integrating digital skills training into school curricula, offering adult education programmes, and providing specialized training for target groups such as women, youth, and the elderly.

b. Integrate digital skills training into formal education curricula by updating school and university curricula to include courses on digital literacy, computer science, and information technology.

c. Offer vocational training and certification programmes in emerging technologies by partnering with industry associations, training institutes, and online learning platforms to offer courses and certifications in areas such as AI, data science, cybersecurity, and digital marketing.

d. Promote lifelong learning through online platforms and skill development initiatives by supporting online learning platforms, and offering Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

e. Bridge the digital divide by ensuring equitable access to education and training opportunities through initiatives such as digital libraries, community learning centers, and mobile learning labs targeting underserved communities.

### 3.5. Innovation and Research

a. Collaborate on joint research projects in cutting edge digital and emerging technologies by establishing joint research centers, funding collaborative projects, and promoting technology transfer between research institutions and industry partners.

b. Establish technology parks and innovation clusters to foster cross-border collaboration by providing infrastructure, funding, and support services for startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs.

c. Support technology transfer and knowledge exchange between academia, start ups and industry by facilitating partnerships and joint ventures between universities, research institutions, and private sector companies.

d. Promote cross-border collaborations in cybersecurity research and development by establishing joint research programmes, organizing conferences and workshops, and sharing best practices and threat intelligence

e. Encourage joint initiatives to address societal challenges through technology innovation by funding research projects that address pressing social and environmental issues, such as healthcare, education, poverty alleviation and climate change.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

**To achieve these objectives, this partnership aims to:**

a. Establish a joint steering committee to oversee the implementation of the partnership, comprising of representatives from government, industry, academia and civil society.

b. Create working groups focused on specific areas such as digital infrastructure, digital economy, e-governance, digital skills, and innovation, tasked with developing action plans, monitoring progress, and addressing implementation challenges.

c. Facilitate regular bilateral meetings and consultations to review progress, share best practices, and identify areas for mutual collaboration and cooperation.

d. Encourage public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise from both public and private sectors, with government providing policy support, funding, and regulatory incentives, and the private sector contributing investment, technology, and innovation.

## 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**To ensure timely progress in implementation of this shared vision of a digital future, our partnership will:**

a. Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure progress towards agreed goals, including indicators related to connectivity, digital infrastructure, economic growth, social development, innovation, and governance.

b. Establish mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of various initiatives, including regular progress reports, performance dashboards, and annual reviews.

c. Conduct periodic evaluations to assess the impact of digital interventions on socio-economic development, including surveys, and impact assessments conducted by research institutions, government agencies, and experts.

This Shared Vision of India-Bangladesh Digital Partnership, jointly adopted by the two sides on 22nd of June, 2024, represents a landmark collaboration between the two countries that harnesses the transformative power of digital technologies to drive inclusive growth and development. By working together, India and Bangladesh will unlock new opportunities, address shared challenges, and create a brighter future for their citizens and the region as a whole. Through sustained cooperation and innovation, this partnership will serve as a model for digital diplomacy and regional integration in the 21st century.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

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VINAY KWATRA, FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

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MASUD BIN MOMEN FOREIGN SECRETARY OF BANGLADESH