

# HASINA

## THE VISION



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A portrait of Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, seated and smiling. She is wearing a dark blue shawl and a yellow and black patterned headscarf. Her hands are clasped in her lap. The background is slightly blurred, showing a flag and some foliage.


## KNOW HASINA

Sheikh Hasina was sworn-in as Bangladesh's Prime Minister on 7th January 2019, marking the start of her third consecutive term in office. Hasina has previously served as the leader of the opposition. She also has the distinction of being the longest serving female leader in the world.

Hasina is also the leader of the Awami League, the largest and the oldest political party in Bangladesh. In the 2018 parliamentary elections, Hasina led the Awami League party to record win, securing an absolute majority.

Inspired by the motto of 'prosperity for all,' Hasina has ushered in a paradigm shift in governance that has led to inclusive development. The Prime Minister has worked with speed and scale to ensure last-mile delivery of schemes and services, transforming Bangladesh as the developing-world star.

Her leadership did not go unnoticed. Leading international agencies have noted that under the leadership of Hasina, Bangladesh has been eliminating poverty at record pace. This is attributed to a series of pro-poor policies taken by her government. The pace of interventions remains as quick to fulfill PM's vision of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. Her policies have turned around 20 million lives.



Hasina has inspired the nation with her new Vision 2041 - to transform Bangladesh into a poverty-free developed country.

PM Hasina gave the nation a new vision – Vision 2021, to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country. Under her proven leadership, Bangladesh has already entered the middle-income countries' group. Hasina has now inspired the nation with her new Vision 2041 - to transform Bangladesh into a poverty-free developed country.

Hasina launched the "Digital Bangladesh" initiative to turn Bangladesh into a tech-friendly country. Understanding the challenges of the digital age, she oversaw the set-up of thousands of digital centres serving 100 million people across rural Bangladesh. She has been relentless in making technology accessible to all, particularly the poorest and the most marginalized. Her policies are gearing up the country to the 4IR era.

PM Hasina led the country to witness an economic turnaround in the last one decade. The growth has been inclusive, growth rate has reached an impressive record level in the latest decade. Per capita income has risen steadily. The country has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production for its 170 million population. It has become an exemplary export powerhouse.

HSBC Annual Report says that Bangladesh is becoming the 26th largest economy in the world and will be followed by Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam and Malaysia. The country has been enlisted into the Next Eleven countries – South Korea, Mexico, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey and Vietnam which are ready to become the biggest economies in the 21st century world after the BRIC countries. As the second largest economy in the subcontinent, Bangladesh is marching forward under Hasina's dynamic leadership.

Bangladesh has become a destination for global investors due to its growth momentum, its favorable demographics and hard-working labor force, and its track record of export dynamism. Under Sheikh Hasina's close guidance, the government is building 100 large industrial parks which are being popularized as "Economic Zones."

For the first time in the country's history, PM Hasina has demonstrated how it was possible to venture into a major mega-infrastructure, the Padma Bridge, construction without any foreign funding, defying the pressing challenges.

Hasina believes that energy is an important means towards transformation. Power shortages became the number one constraint to economic growth prior to 2009. She took up the Herculean task of lighting up Bangladesh. That is why, her administration made power generation the number one economic priority upon forming the government. She brought Bangladesh out of the dark days of 2000s, with electrification reaching 99.5 percent from a mere 47 percent in 2009.

Hasina has emphasized on the right to social security, a rather new concept for Bangladesh. Her initiative of the "National Social Security Strategy" builds on the strong track record of Bangladesh in delivering diverse social safety net schemes. It also reaffirms her government's commitment to addressing poverty and inequality in all its forms of deprivation. The extensive and foresighted social security scheme is an example for the rest of the developing countries to replicate.





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Hasina believes that education is a fundamental requirement for national progress. Her "education for all" policy has focused on increasing access and improving the quality. Her leadership has ensured the primary school enrolment rate reaching 100 percent, the highest it has ever been. Under Sheikh Hasina's watch, Bangladesh has gained remarkable success in education of girl children. She formulated targeted policies to achieve gender equality in education.

Guided by Hasina's vision to improve the health sector, focus is being brought to health service delivery from the tertiary hospitals to the community clinic level. Her government also focused on smart health sector policy making. The country has become a role model of "good health at low cost."

Bangladesh has garnered worldwide acclaim for its strides in gender parity. Among the indices that have shown improvement, gender gap is foremost. Women's empowerment

is one of the ten 'Special Initiatives' of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the progress of which she oversees herself. Since 2009, she has been undertaking a number of far-reaching and wide-ranging measures to ensure the holistic empowerment of women. It is for the first time in Bangladesh that large number of women are holding high offices. According to Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen, Bangladesh is ahead of neighbouring India in all indexes of gender equality and empowerment.

During her first tenure, she made a peace treaty ending decades-long conflict between indigenous people and Bengali settlers. Recognizing her peacebuilding effort, the United Nations honoured her with its UNESCO Peace Prize in 1998. PM Hasina has been upfront in sheltering over a million Rohingyas who fled atrocities in Rakhine state of Myanmar. Her decisive action in hosting the displaced Rohingyas have helped maintain the regional peace and security.

Bangladesh is the largest troops contributor of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Bangladeshi peacekeepers are deployed in 9 peacekeeping missions in 8 countries out of 22 current UN peacekeeping missions. Currently, Bangladesh deploys a total of 6,730 troops to the UN peacekeeping missions.

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I am less concerned about conventional “warfare”. Instead, I foresee climatic stress causing tensions to simmer and sparking different forms of conflicts within communities. We must rise above the politics of doubt, and accept that climatic vulnerabilities lead to a fragile economy and risk human security.

**Sheikh Hasina**





Hasina is deeply passionate about environmental causes. She has time and again called for closing of ranks to create a clean, blue and green planet. Bangladesh's long-term Delta Plan 2100, for the resilience of the delta, is one of the best adaptation practices to share and replicate across the globe.

She has emerged as the leading voice in advocating for actions against climate change. She is leading the charge to hold the developed world accountable for their high-consumption leading to climate change. Recognising her efforts towards environmental conservation, PM Hasina was honoured with the United Nations 'Champions of the Earth Award' in 2015.

Owing to the impacts of climate change, Bangladesh is losing 2-3 percent of its GDP. Going a step ahead of climate change, Hasina has talked about climate justice. She has boldly stated climate change to be a security threat. Hasina has shown that "development is the best resilience builder." During her tenure, Bangladesh has become home to the largest solar home system in the world.



PM Hasina has also focused on path-breaking initiatives such as National Smart ID Cards, Agriculture Assistance Card, National Helplines, e-Literacy Programs and National Space Satellite.

Hasina's foreign policy initiatives have realised the true potential and role of Bangladesh. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted her six-point resolution on poverty. Her address to create an environment of peace and fair competition by all countries in the Indo-Pacific at the World Economic Forum was appreciated across the world.

Since taking office, Hasina attended UN, SAARC, BIMSTEC and WEF Summits, where Bangladesh's interventions and views on a variety of global economic and political issues were widely appreciated. In 1998, Sheikh Hasina persuaded India and Pakistan not to start nuclear-arm competition after both the nations carried test explosions of nuclear bombs.





The zero-tolerance policy, courageously unveiled by Sheikh Hasina to prevent the country from becoming a terrorist safe haven has earned Bangladesh a round of global acclamation. Bangladesh's outlook towards a peaceful society means addressing various forms of violence and intolerance with the aims to uproot them.

The success of Sheikh Hasina is more than a miracle. She has developed the country from a downward spiral tract. She took up the reigns for consecutive terms and made the country rise like a phoenix from the ashes of ruination. The journey continued and is still continuing against all the odds.



Hasina has been conferred various honours including the highly acclaimed Planet 50-50 Champion by the United Nations. She has been penned as one of the TIME 100 in 2018, where she was praised for sheltering the displaced Rohingyas.

In 2014, the Prime Minister received the prestigious Peace Tree Award for her contribution to women's empowerment, peace and development. She won the Champions of the Earth, the highest global accolade for environment, as recognition to her farsighted programs in tackling adverse impacts of climate change.

She received the Global Women's Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership in women education and entrepreneurship in Bangladesh.





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Sheikh Hasina's popularity as a national guiding figure has earned her the fond title of "apa," the elder sister.

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Hasina was born on 28 September, 1947, in a small village in southern Bangladesh. She grew up with the values of hard work and got exposed to the unavoidable sufferings of the common people. Her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman spent most of the times organizing movements against the repressive regime of Pakistan. Hasina as a student leader took part in that independence movement.

During the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, her father was arrested and landed in a Pakistani jail. Hasina with her mother Begum Fazilatunnesa, both confined to the house, played a vital strategic role in the war. Having lost her parents and brothers to a heinous assassination on 15 August, 1975, Hasina has literally turned grief into courage to lead the country.

Sheikh Hasina is a 'people's leader', dedicated to solving their problems and improving their well-being. Nothing is more satisfying to her than being amongst the people, sharing their joys and alleviating their sorrows. She is known to be the patron of the youth and often speaks of unleashing the potential of the 50 million young Bangladeshis. Her popularity as a national guiding figure has earned her the fond title of "Apa" - the elder sister.

Following the assassination of most of her family members by a group of disgruntled army officers, she had to spend six years in exile. She escaped the assassination as she was in West Germany at that time. The military rulers, who took charge after Sheikh Mujib, barred Hasina from returning to Bangladesh. It was a heavy-handed strategy adopted to contain any mass movement or political backlash. Hasina moved to Delhi in late 1975 and was provided asylum by India.

Sheikh Hasina's comeback to Bangladesh, in 1981, meant the comeback of democracy, the farewell to unelected power and beginning of the national progress. She took charge of the movement to restore the democratic rights of the people. She successfully spearheaded the movement during the 80's and the 90's, which would overthrow autocracy and counter regressive politics.

She led Bangladesh to the path to democracy. In her struggle, she witnessed martial law, house arrest, mass uprising, assassination-attempts and many course of events.

Beyond politics, Sheikh Hasina enjoys writing. She has authored several books, including on social commentary. She also loves cooking and spending invaluable time with her family, in an otherwise fast-paced routine.







## **HASINA THE VISION**

Published by Centre for Research and Information (CRI), September 2021

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