



**CHANAKYA
UNIVERSITY**

**Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of
International Relations**

Bose Monthly Webinar

Building a Resilient India-Bangladesh Economic Relations

Speaker: Prof. Mustafizur Rehman,

Distinguished Fellow

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

29th September, 1500-1630 hrs (IST), Online

Organised by

**Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of International Relations (SCB Chair of IR),
School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Chanakya University, Bengaluru**

Programme

1500-1510 hrs	Welcome Remarks & Introduction Prof. Ashok K. Kantha, Subhas Chandra Chair Professor of International Relations, Chanakya University
1510-1515 hrs	Introduction of the Speaker & Discussion Theme Dr. Sanket Kulkarni, Assistant Professor, SCB Chair of IR, Chanakya University
1515-1600 <i>(45 mins)</i>	Talk Prof. Mustafizur Rehman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
1600-1620 hrs <i>(20 mins)</i>	Discussion and Q & A
1620-1630 hrs	Concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks Dr. Saurabh Kaushik, Research Fellow, SCB Chair of IR

About the Webinar

Cross-border economic relations between India and Bangladesh have evolved over time, since the principle of formal trade, transports, and communication was introduced under the provisions of the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement, signed in March, 1972. The two countries share one of the most substantive economic relationships in South Asia which stretches from energy cooperation in terms of cross-border energy grids, capacity building programs to extensive trade of textiles. This relationship is shaped by geographical proximity, historical ties and complementary economic structures.

In recent years, India-Bangladesh have successfully cooperated in varied economic arenas such as long-term bilateral diesel supply arrangement, first trilateral power transaction between Nepal-India-Bangladesh, digital payments mechanisms, Agricultural research, capacity building programmes etc. A recent report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs recommends that India and Bangladesh must conclude their negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of 2026ⁱ.

However, the contemporary trajectory of India-Bangladesh economic relations has also suffered phases of setbacks owing to regional and global geopolitical developments. Media reports have indicated that the trade between India and Bangladesh in financial year 2025-26 has declined as a result of trade restraints, non-tariff barriers and other policy measures and also surge in US-Bangladesh tradeⁱⁱ.

The webinar seeks to explore how joint efforts between India and Bangladesh can help in overhauling recent trade trends and infuse an element of resilience in the two countries' economic relations.

The webinar will discuss the introduction of appropriate policies and initiatives to deepen such economic relations.

About the speaker

Prof. Mustafizur Rehman serves as Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and is a member of the CPD Board of Trustees. He is an economist by training and was educated at Moscow State University, Russia, where he completed his Ph.D. He was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Oxford University and Warwick University in the United Kingdom. He was also a Senior Fullbright Fellow at Yale University, USA. Professor Rahman is a member of the Ninth Five-Year Plan Advisory Committee constituted by the Bangladesh Planning Commission. Professor Rahman is a member of the Board of Trustees and Syndicate of the BRAC University.

Dr. Rahman's recent research works includes Bangladesh's macro-trade-fiscal policies, SDG implementation, LDC graduation challenges and issues of regional and global integration of the Bangladesh economy.

His research works have been published widely in Bangladesh and abroad, in reputed journals and in volumes published by globally renowned publication houses. As a public intellectual, Dr. Rahman is a regular contributor to the print and electronic media, commenting on economic and development issues. Dr. Rahman was a Member of Panel of Economists for several of Bangladesh's Five-Year Plans, Regulatory Reforms Commission, Regional Connectivity Committee, WTO Advisory Committee and National SDG Implementation Steering Committee. He was a member of the White Paper Committee and the High-Level Expert Group on LDC graduation set up by the Interim Government.

About Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of International Relations

The Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of International Relations was created to study global affairs from an Indian vantage point. Rooted in the country's strategic culture, its purpose is to inform India's growing international profile and constructive role through original thinking and careful inquiry. The Chair works to advance interdisciplinary scholarship, to deepen the expertise of students and researchers across the core field of international relations, to articulate an Indian conceptual vocabulary for the discipline, and to cultivate partnerships and a wider community of scholars committed to sound analysis and considered policy. Established within the School of Law, Governance and Public Policy at Chanakya University, the Chair has a primary focus on Asia, with particular attention to India's neighbourhood.

ⁱ [‘Future of India-Bangladesh Relationship’](#), Standing Committee Report Summary, PRS India, Accessed on 22 September 2026.

About Chanakya University

Chanakya University was founded in 2022 under an Act of the Karnataka State Legislature and has grown quickly as a multidisciplinary institution. Its 116-acre campus near Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is taking shape with the backing of several leading technology partners. The University already runs six Schools, eight Centres of Excellence, and two Chairs, and has established itself as a serious centre for teaching, research, and engagement with public policy. Dr. S. Somanath, former Chairman of ISRO, is its Chancellor. The University sets out to combine India's intellectual traditions with scholarship and research of international standard, equipping its graduates with wisdom (*jnāna*), will (*ichhā*), and the capacity to act (*kriyā*) so that they may meet difficult developmental questions in a way that holds together Indian inheritance and universal human values.

ⁱⁱ [‘India slips to third as US becomes Bangladesh's second-largest trade partner’](#), First Post, 13 September 2026.