



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Housing and Public Works  
Urban Development Directorate  
82 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MEHERPUR ZILLA

## REPORT ON ASSIGNMENT-1

# Reconnaissance Report of the Project Area

February 2025

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# ASSIGNMENT 1: RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF THE PROJECT AREA



FEBRUARY 27, 2025

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**PREPARAION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR**  
**MEHERPUR ZILLA**



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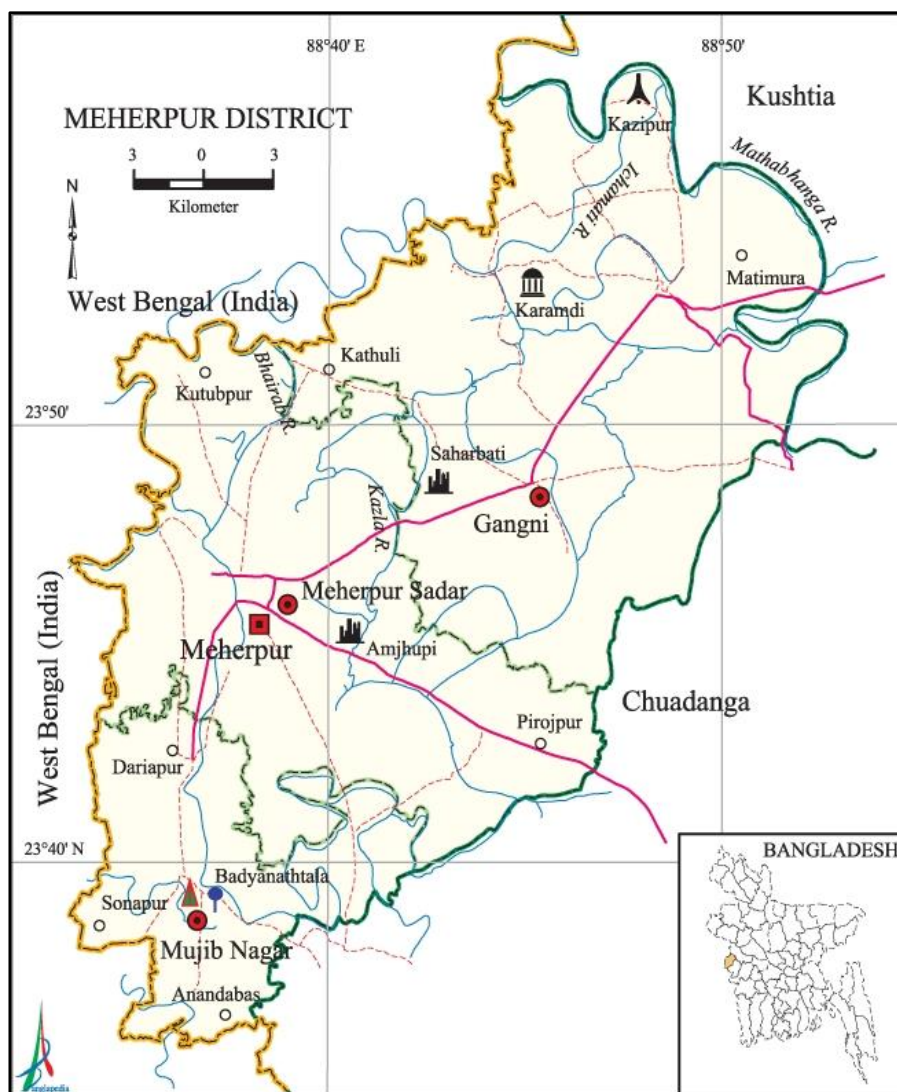
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## Reconnaissance Report of the Project Area

### Location and Geography

So far, two conjectural information is known about the naming of Meherpur. One is that the name Meherpur was created in the 16th century or sometime after the name of a person named Meher Ali, a preacher of Islam. The propagation of Islam began in this region with the onset of Muslim rule. Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali (RA) started propagating Islam widely in the regions including Greater Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Barobazar, Chuadanga and Meherpur. Pir Khan Jahan Ali went from Gaur to Barobazar via Meherpur and went to Bagerhat. It is said that there were 360 dervishes and 60 thousand soldiers with him at that time. He raised the victorious flag of Islam in the entire southern region and established settlements and governance. At the same time, several banner-bearers of Islam, the most blessed personalities of Allah, arrived in this region. The names of Shah Bhalai, Shah Alai and Enayet Ullah are notable. The name Meherpur has been established in accordance with the name of the holy soul,



**Map 01: Location Map of Meherpur District in context of Bangladesh**

Source: Banglapedia, 2025

the flag bearer of Islam, the saint Meher Ali Shah. As far as is known, Meher Ali was well known as a very influential and famous spiritual person. Due to which his name gained prominence.

The second aspect about the origin of the name Meherpur is worth mentioning here, the famous orator Mihir in the Bengali travel book of the East Bengal Railway and his own daughter-in-law Khana (Khana's orator is famous) lived in this area on the banks of the Bhairab River. It is assumed that it was first named Mihirpur and later corrupted to Meherpur after his name.

The area of Meherpur District is 751.62 sq km, located in between 23°36' and 23°58' north latitudes and in between 88°33' and 88°53' east longitudes. This area bordering the western part of Bangladesh. The district is bounded on the north by Daulatpur Upazila of Kushtia district and West Bengal (India); on the south by Jibannagar Upazila of Chuadanga district, Damurhuda Upazila and West Bengal (India); on the east by Mirpur Upazila of Kushtia district, Alamdanga Upazila of Chuadanga district, and on the west-by-West Bengal, India.

A full district status was granted to Meherpur on February 24, 1984. Meherpur Sadar Upazila was divided into Mujibnagar Upazila on February 24, 2000. It consists of 03 upazilas, 03 thanas, 02 paurashavas (1 'A' class, 1 'B' class), 18 unions, 199 mouzas, 259 villages. The names of the upazilas are Meherpur Sadar, Mujibnagar and Gangni upazilas.

**Table 1: Upazila wise Union Name of Meherpur District**

Sl No.	Upazila	Union
01	Meherpur Sadar	Kutubpur, Buripota, Aamjhupi, Aamdaha, Pirojpur, Baradi, Shyampur
02	Mujibnagar	Dariapur, Monakhali, Bagoan, Mohajonpur
03	Gangni	Kathuli, Tetulbaria, Kazipur, Bamandi, Motmura, Sholotaka, Shaharbati, Dhankhola, Raipur

Source: Bangladesh National Information Portal, 2025

### **Meherpur Sadar**

In 1857, Meherpur was established as a subdivision of Nadia district, consisting of 05 thanas, namely Meherpur Sadar, Karimpur, Gangni Tehtar and Chapra. After the partition of the



country on 14 August 1947, Meherpur was converted into a subdivision of only 02 thanas. Then, after independence, on 24 February 1984, Meherpur was recognized as an independent district. At that time, the journey of this district started with only two upazilas, Meherpur Sadar and Gangni. Later, on 24 February 2000, Meherpur Sadar upazila was divided and Mujibnagar upazila was created.

The area of Meherpur Sadar Upazila is 276.15 sq km, located between 23°40' North latitude to 23°52' North latitude and 88°34' East longitude to 88°47' East longitude. Meherpur Sadar Upazila is surrounded by Gangni Upazila and India in the north, Mujibnagar Upazila in the south, Gangni Upazila and Chuadanga district in the east and India in the west.



**Map 02: Location Map of Meherpur Sadar Upazila**

Source: Banglapedia, 2025

government in 1991 and received first class status in 2001. This municipality has a municipal council consisting of a total of 9 elected councilors, 3 reserved seat women councilors, and 1

### Meherpur Paurashava

Meherpur is an ancient town in undivided Bengal. Situated on the eastern bank of the Bhairav River, a tributary of the Ganges and Padma, this town has many legends associated with its name. This ancient town, which is associated with the memories of many world-famous sages, great saints and saints, was granted the status of a municipality in 1869. This municipality was upgraded to second class by the Bangladesh

mayor. The area of this Paurashava is 17.60 sq km. This Paurashava is bordered by Kushtia and Chuadanga roads to the east, Bhairab River and Jadavpur village of Buripota Union to the west, Ujalpur village of Kutubpur Union to the north, and Bamanpara village of Amdah Union to the south.

## Mujibnagar

Mujibnagar Upazila is the smallest upazila of Meherpur district in terms of population and area. Mujibnagar Upazila is bordered by Meherpur Sadar Upazila to the north, Chuadanga District to the east, and West Bengal, India to the southwest. Mujibnagar Upazila began its activities



**Map 03: Location Map of Mujibnagar Upazila**

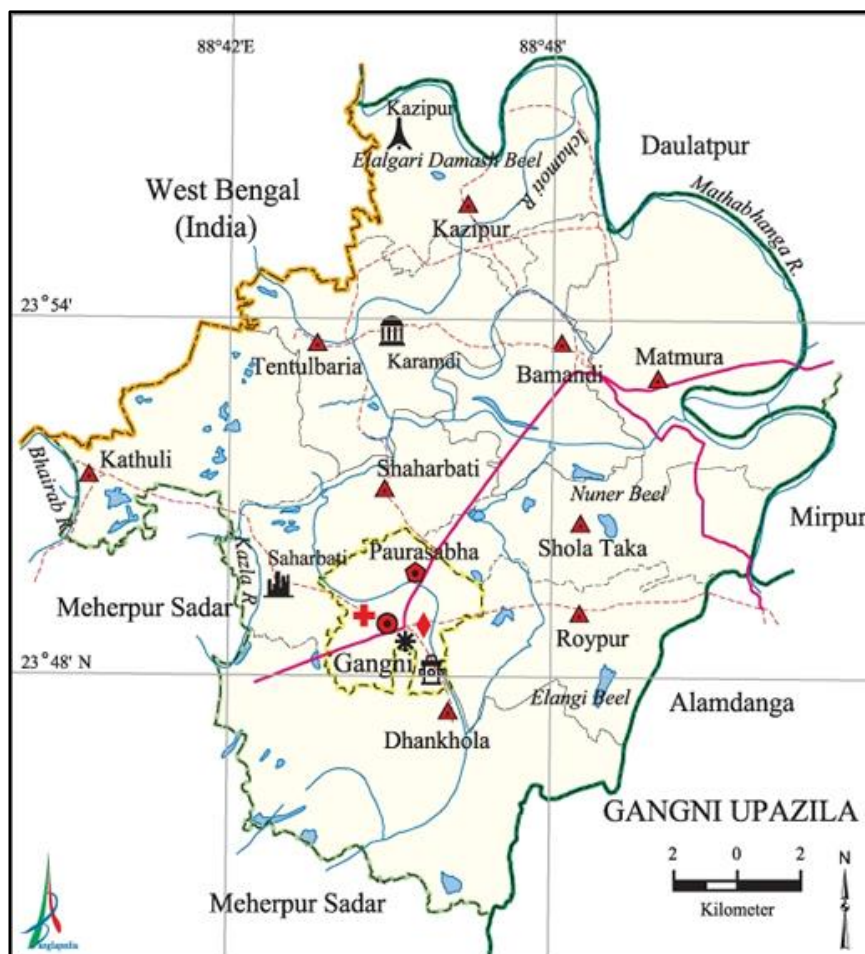
Source: Banglapedia, 2025

on 24 February 2000. Mujibnagar was formerly known as Baidyanathtala. No specific information has been found on the naming of the upazila. The area of this upazila is 112.68 sq km, located between 23°36' to 23°45' North latitude and 88°34' to 88°43' East longitude.

## Gangni

Meherpur was created in 1857 as a part of the Nadia district and was made up of five thanas: Meherpur Sadar, Karimpur, Gangni

The area of Gangni Upazila is 344.47 sq km, located in between 23°44' and 23°52' north latitudes and in between 88°34' and 88°47' east longitudes. It is bounded by Daulatpur (Kushtia) upazila on the north, Alamdanga and Meherpur Sadar upazilas on the south, Daulatpur (Kushtia), Mirpur (Kushtia) and Alamdanga upazilas on the east, Meherpur Sadar upazila and west bengal state of India on the west.



**Map 04: Location Map of Gangni Upazila**

Source: Banglapedia, 2025

### Gangni Paurashava

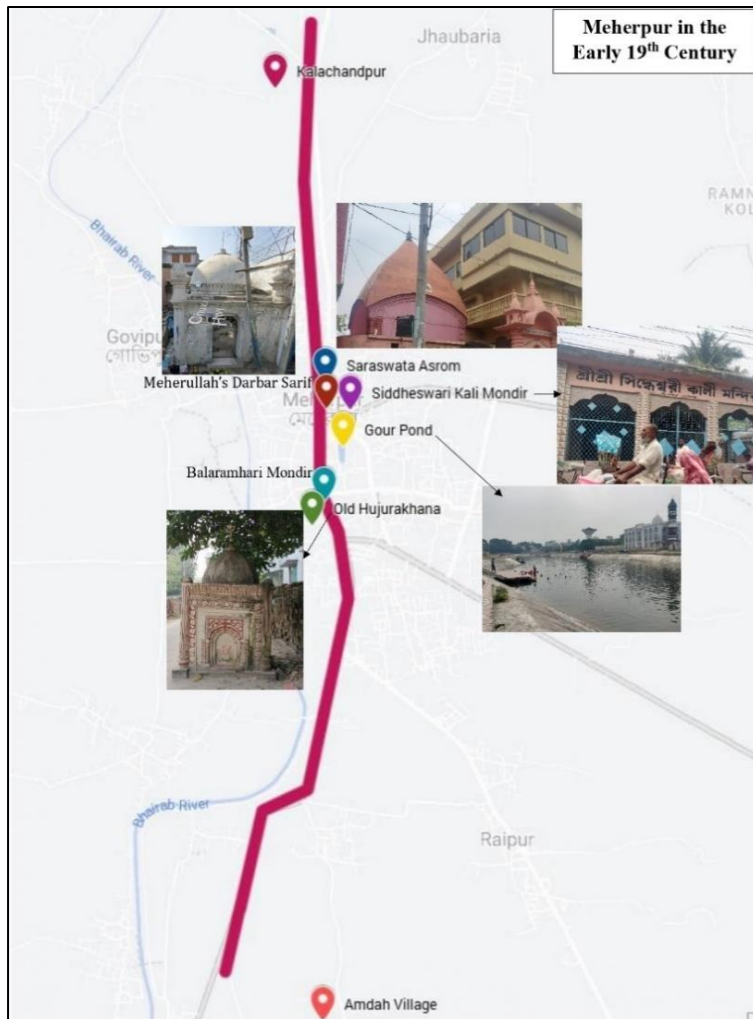
Gangni city is an ancient commercial center. On June 21, 2001 the paurashava was named after the merger of Saharbari Union, Dhakhola Union and some parts of Gangni Union. The municipality was formed with an area of 17.12 sq km on the map of 3 mouzas and 10 mouzas. Dhankhola Union in the northwest, Raipur and Sholataka Union in the east-south, Saharbari in the southwest. Gangni Municipality is located in the middle of Gangni Upazila.

Gangni Paurashava lies on 23° 49' North latitude and 88° 45' East longitude. The Paurashava came into existence on 21st June 2001 as a class B type Paurashava.



## History of Urbanization Trends of three Upazilas of the Meherpur District

Urbanization in Meherpur was further shaped by spiritual influences. In the early 19th century, Balaram Hari, a revered saint, founded the 'Upasath' sect. Following his death in 1850, landlord Jiban Mukherjee built the Balaram Hari Samadhi Temple. A mosque nearby in Jadabpur area reflects the region's religious diversity.



**Figure 1: Expansion of Meherpur in the Early 19th Century**

Source: Prepared by Consultant, 2025

Meherpur subdivision historically extended to the Bhagirathi River near Palashi, encompassing ancient villages like Saharbat, Kazipur, and Shikarpur. Growing settlements such as Amjhupi, Pirojpur, and Bagowan became populous trade centers, relying on river routes for commerce. After the Mughal era, the region thrived during the Nawabi period, with prominent landlords in Bagowan, Ballabhpur, and Bhabanandapur. In the 19th century, the Mukherjee and Mallick families became influential landlords. The Hindu religion is divided into multiple races and in the ancient time the occupation also set depending on it. The pattern of para and mahallas of Meherpur urban area seems like following many of

Kumudnath Mallick says in his 'Nadiya Kahini' that Meherpur is an 'ancient village'. 'The village is about 5 miles long from north to south.' The Bhairab River flows to the west of it. The quotation of the writer is proved similar with the above historical resources and it is assumed that the old Meherpur was expanded from Kalachandpur in the north to the Amdah village in the south alongside the Bhairab river.

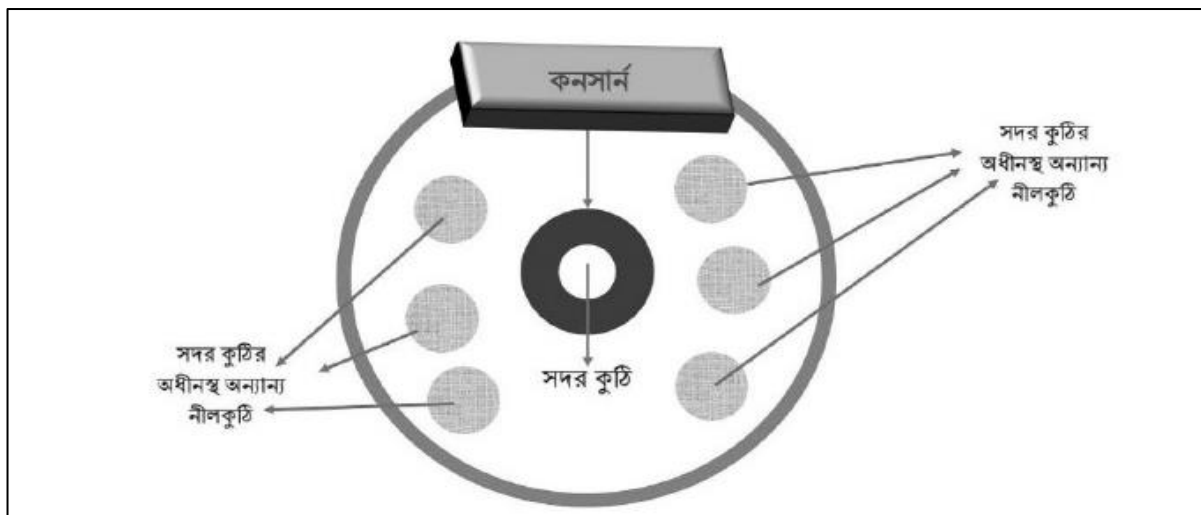
Meherpur subdivision historically extended to the Bhagirathi River near Palashi, encompassing ancient villages like Saharbat, Kazipur, and Shikarpur. Growing settlements such as Amjhupi, Pirojpur, and Bagowan became populous trade

those clan's name. From the ancient time these areas are developed and segregate following their occupations.

### Indigo Cultivation: Shaping the Urban Landscape of Meherpur

The Battle of Plassey in 1757, which marked the defeat of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula, signaled the start of British rule in India. Before British dominance, the Dutch and French established early influence in the subcontinent. In the early 1700s, Dutch missionaries, including the Italian Pilgrim Fathers, set up missions in Bhaberpara (now in Meherpur) for trade and religious activities. Later, missions expanded to Kathuli, Bandar, and Bhatpara.

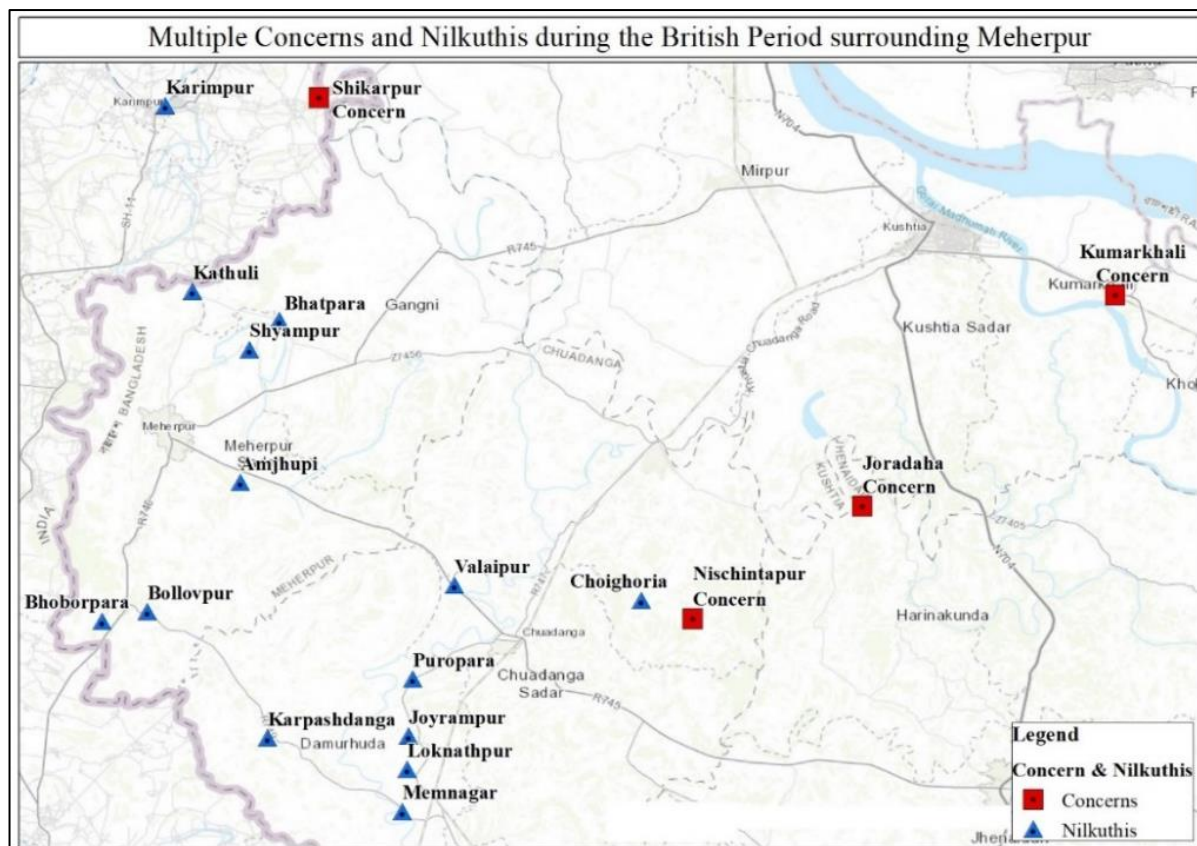
After the Company Act of 1765, Nadia and Meherpur came under East India Company control, alongside the Medinipur Zamindari. High taxation forced large zamindars to sell their lands to smaller landlords, resulting in Meherpur being divided into 81 permanent zamindaris. Instead of investing in agriculture or industry, these landlords spent their wealth on luxury and urban lifestyles. This lack of investment hindered industrial development, leaving Meherpur's economy reliant on traditional agrarian practices. By 1787, the Nadia district administration included Krishnanagar, Ranaghat, Kushtia, and Chuadanga subdivisions. In 1799, Meherpur and Gangni were established as thanas under Nadia district.



**Figure 2: Indigo Cultivation and Concern System**

Source: Purbabange Nilchash O Nil Bidroher Itihash, Md. Mahmud Ali

From the beginning of British rule, indigo cultivation was introduced in this subcontinent as a result of fertile soil and congenial weather. They established several joint companies or businesses in India for this purpose. At that time, these business entities were called 'Concerns'.



**Map 05: Concerns and Nilkuthis during the British Period surrounding Meherpur**

Source: Prepared by Consultant

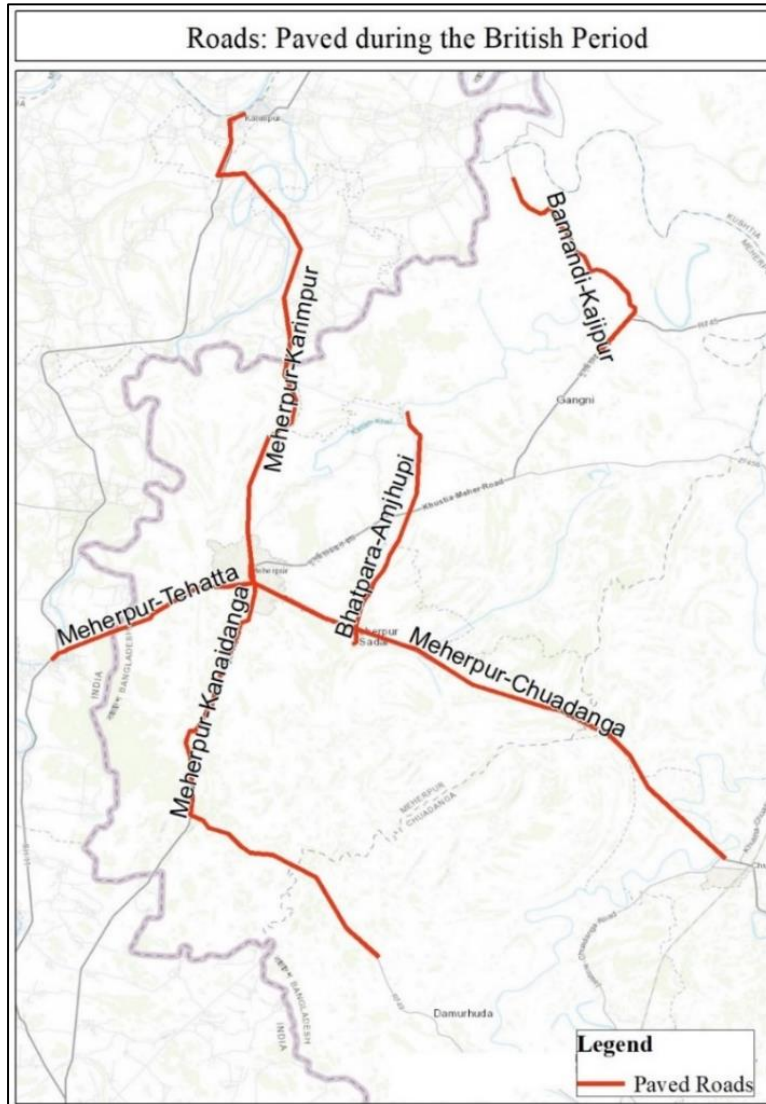


**Map 06: Location of Amjhupi and Bhatpara Nilkuthi**

Source: Prepared by Consultant



A concern is a joint company for indigo cultivation. Each concern had a board of directors to manage the business. Several indigo houses were included under a concern. The main house under the concern was called the head house. Other indigo houses were branches of the head house.



**Map 07: Paved Roads during British Period**

Source: Prepared by Consultant

According to several researches, it is deduced that most of the Nillkuthis in Meherpur district were built from 1815 to 1825. They established several Nilkuthis in Meherpur, prominent to the waterbodies, mainly near Bhairab and Kajla river. Almost 18 Nilkuthis were built at Meherpur region. Among them, Bagowan, Rajapur, Amjhupi, Kathuli, Ujalpur, Bhatpara, Kazipur are notable. In the context of time, only the structures of Bhatpara and Amjhupi Nillkuthis have been preserved, which is currently being used as DC Eco Park. Bhatpara Nilkuthi was under Shikarpur Concern, which was a village of Karimpur Thana of

West Bengla and Amjhupi was under Nischintapur Concern of Chuadanga subdivision.

Amjhupi and Bhatpara kuthis were established during 1815-1820 and 1820-1825 respectively. At that time, the largest 'Indigo Seed Production Farm' in the subcontinent was built on 550 acres of land in Chitla, Gangni Mouza. Which is now the 'Chitla Jute Seed Farm'.

To support indigo cultivation, the British developed the road networks in the region. They traveled by train from Kolkata to Chuadanga and then used the Chuadanga-Jhenaidah and



Chuadanga-Meherpur roads, planting karai trees along these routes for shade and protection. These roads were the primary links to Kolkata. Indigo farmers commonly traveled by horse-drawn carts or boats via rivers and canals.

Over time, additional roads were developed, including Meherpur-Tehatta, Meherpur-Karimpur, Meherpur-Kanaidanga, Bandar-Kajipaur, and Bhatpara-Amjhupi roads. After the 1861 law prohibiting forced indigo cultivation, its practice declined in Nadia and Jessore but persisted in parts of Meherpur until 1910. Between 1854 and 1857, Meherpur subdivision was established, comprising Meherpur Sadar, Gangni, Tehatta, Karimpur, and Chapra thanas.

### **Establishment of Meherpur and Gangni Paurashava**

Meherpur Paurashava, established on April 15, 1869, is among the earliest in Bengal, reflecting the region's urbanization as a center for trade and administration. Initially housed in a thatched building, it gradually developed infrastructure to serve its citizens. By 1921, it had a permanent municipal building, and a free adult education school was established. Street lighting began in 1922 with Kupa Lamps, transitioning to electric lights in 1968, signaling modernization.

At its founding, Meherpur Municipality spanned seven and a half square miles, but this reduced to two and a half square miles after partition. The Municipal Administration Ordinance of 1859 formalized urban governance, creating a town committee to manage the municipality, which included equal numbers of elected and official members. The committee oversaw taxation and urban services, including road maintenance, water supply, sanitation, and public lighting.

The municipality's gradual development highlights its role as a hub of trade and administration, with governance and services expanding to meet the needs of a growing urban population. In 1901, the area and population of Meherpur Mohokuma were 632 sq. mile and 348124 respectively. There was only one urban area and 607 villages in that time.

At present, Meherpur Municipality is located on the western border of Bangladesh. It is bordered by the Kushtia and Chuadanga roads to the east, the Bhairab River and Jadavpur village of Buripota Union to the west, Ujalpur village of Kutubpur Union to the north, and Bamanpara village of Amdah Union to the south, spans an area of approximately 11.73 square kilometers and serves as the administrative heart of the district. It holds population of about 47 thousand. The literacy rate in Meherpur stands at approximately 70%, reflecting steady progress in education.

**Table 2: Change of Population in Meherpur Paurashava**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
1872	5562	1951	7170
1881	5731	1961	8147
1891	5820	1974	15936
1901	5766	1981	23573
1911	5961	1991	26712
1921	5398	2001	34624
1931	6205	2011	43133
1941	7728	2022	47142

Source: BBS, 2011

From the above table it is seen that, the population growth is balanced maximum of the decades. It highlights the gradual but steady urbanization of the area. Though after the liberation war, the population growth rate has increased more, the annual growth rate has slowed in the past decade, indicating a stabilization of urban migration or limited spatial expansion of the municipality.

After the Saharbat Union, Dhakhola Union, and a portion of the Gangni Union merged, the paurashava was renamed on June 21, 2001. The municipality was created using a 17.12 square kilometer area on a map that included three and ten mouzas. In the northwest is Dhankhola Union; in the east-south are Raipur and Sholataka Union; and in the southwest is Saharbat. Gangni Upazila's center is home to Gangni Paurashava.

## Demography

### Introduction

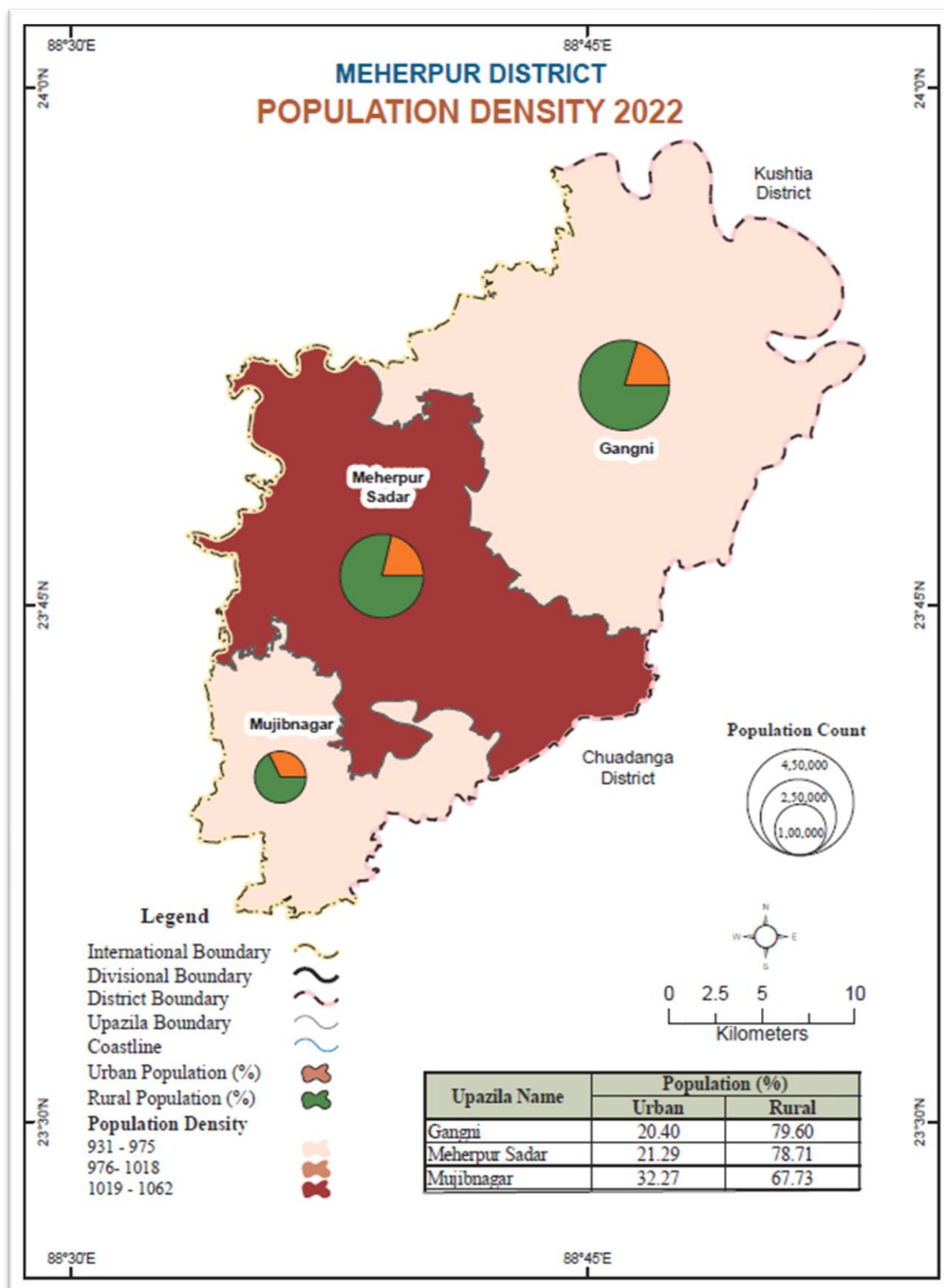
Population projection is the process of estimating the future population of a region or country based on current demographic trends, such as birth rates, death rates, migration patterns, and other factors. It helps policymakers, planners, and researchers anticipate future needs for resources, infrastructure, healthcare, and economic planning. Applying the Cohort-Component Method for population projection because this method allows for the calculation of birth rate, death rate, and net migration, which helps in making a more accurate projection. Below is a description of this method.

### Cohort Component Method

The cohort-component method is a commonly used and straightforward approach for population projection. It leverages available data and theoretical insights into population dynamics, considering both causal factors and compositional elements as its core components. This method enables the creation of consistent and comparable projections at both national and sub-national levels, which can be easily updated. It involves a thorough analysis and the development of assumptions for each component of change. Given these advantages, this study adopts the cohort-component method. The summary equation for the population at time (t+n) is defined as follows:

$$P_{t+n} = S[t, t+n] + B[t, t+n] + NM[t, t+n],$$

where  $S[t, t+n]$  is the survived population at time t+n,  $B[t, t+n]$  is the number of births observed in the period [t, t+n] and  $NM[t, t+n]$  is the net migration observed in the period [t, t+n]. To project the total population size, and the number of males and females by 5-year age groups, this study found the number of people who survive or are expected to be alive in the future. Then the survived population number, the number of births that took place and the number of net migrants is added.



**Map 08: Population Density of Meherpur District**

Source: Population and Housing Census 2022, District Report: Meherpur



## **Inputs and Outputs of the Cohort Component Method**

To apply cohort component method, we need base year population by age, assumptions on birth; assumptions on mortality: survival ratios by age; net migration rates. We expect to get a number of outputs from a population projection using cohort component method: age structure of the population; population aggregates: population size, population in selected broad age groups, mid-interval population size, number of person years lived, population growth, births, deaths, net change due to migration, indicators of the population structure: proportions by broad age groups, dependency ratios, median age of the population, proportion of women in childbearing ages, sex ratio of the population; indicators of the population distribution (national; if urban and rural populations are being projected): proportion urban, proportion rural; rates of population change: crude birth rate, crude death rate, rate of natural increase, crude net migration rates, rate of population growth etc.

To apply the cohort-component method, we need base year population data by age also by sex, along with assumptions regarding birth rates, mortality (expressed as survival ratios by age), and net migration rates. This method allows us to produce a range of outputs, including the age structure of the population and various population aggregates, such as total population size, population in broad age groups, mid-interval population size, and the number of person-years lived. We also obtain indicators of population structure, like dependency ratios, median age, the proportion of women of childbearing age, and the sex ratio. Additionally, the method provides insights into population distribution, such as the proportion of urban versus rural, crude birth rate, crude death rate, rate of natural increase, crude net migration rate, and overall population growth rate.

## **Steps of the Cohort Component Method**

The cohort component method consists of a number of steps, which are described below:

**Step 1- Collecting Information:** The cohort component method requires information from both the most recent and the prior census. Information on the number of death rate is also required. Ideally the total death is calculated from the information on death rate of the particular place or from the documented death certificates. But the local level data is unavailable, so that the divisional death rate has been used for the calculation. These rates are used to project the total number of deaths that occur during the particular year. A life table or calculated survival population are also needed to calculate the mortality rates in the projected years. For this the

existing population has been calculated by subtracting death from the present population then multiply it to the survival rate.

Existing Population = Population + n – Death

Survived Population = Existing Population X Survival rate

For the calculation of the Survived Population of Meherpur, the assumed survival rate is 1.

**Step 2-** Calculation of Birth: Information on the number of birth rate is also required. Ideally the total birth is calculated from the information on birth rate of the particular place. But the local level data is unavailable, so that the divisional birth rate has been used for the calculation. These rates are used to project the number of births that occur during the projection period.

**Step 3-** Calculation of Net Migrants: For the calculation of net migrants the following calculation has been used

Net Migrants = (Population + n – Population) - (Births - Deaths)

**Step 4-** Calculation of Projected Population: By adding the above calculations the projected population is calculated for each particular year for an area.

Projected Population = Survived Population + Birth + Net Migrants

**Table 3: Survived Population of the Upazilas**

Age	Death Rate	Gangni				Meherpur Sadar				Mujibnagar			
		Population 2022	Death *	Existing Population	**Survived Population	Population 2022	Death*	Existing Population	**Survived Population	Population 2022	Death *	Existing Population	**Survived Population
00-04	1.12	24041	27	24014	24014	20629	23	20606	20606	7879	9	7870	7870
05-09	0.58	23686	14	23673	23673	20325	12	20313	20313	7762	5	7758	7758
10-14	0.6	28462	17	28445	28445	24423	15	24408	24408	9327	6	9322	9322
15-19	0.94	30043	28	30015	30015	25780	24	25755	25755	9846	9	9836	9836
20-24	0.92	25106	23	25083	25083	21543	20	21523	21523	8228	8	8220	8220
25-29	0.77	23848	18	23829	23829	20463	16	20447	20447	7815	6	7809	7809
30-34	1.1	23041	25	23016	23016	19771	22	19749	19749	7551	8	7542	7542
35-39	1.29	27430	35	27394	27394	23537	30	23506	23506	8989	12	8977	8977
40-44	2.8	24654	69	24585	24585	21155	59	21096	21096	8079	23	8057	8057
45-49	4.54	20717	94	20623	20623	17777	81	17696	17696	6789	31	6758	6758
50-54	7.47	20040	150	19890	19890	17196	128	17067	17067	6567	49	6518	6518
55-59	13.83	14973	207	14766	14766	12848	178	12671	12671	4907	68	4839	4839
60-64	15.89	13908	221	13687	13687	11935	190	11745	11745	4558	72	4485	4485
65-69	24.65	9423	232	9191	9191	8086	199	7886	7886	3088	76	3012	3012
70-74	34.83	6519	227	6292	6292	5593	195	5399	5399	2136	74	2062	2062
75-79	61.31	2807	172	2635	2635	2409	148	2261	2261	920	56	864	864
80-84	79.47	2227	177	2050	2050	1911	152	1759	1759	730	58	672	672
85-89	117.39	807	95	712	712	692	81	611	611	264	31	233	233
90+	117.4	968	114	854	854	831	98	733	733	317	37	280	280
		322701	1946	320755	320755	276903	1670	275233	275233	105752	638	105114	105114

Source: Population and Housing Census 2022, District Report: Meherpur

\*Death= population X Death rate of Khulna Division

\*\*Survival Rate=1

Note:

Total Population 2022: 705330

Total Population 2011: 655392

**Table 4: Projected Population in Cohort Method**

Upazila	Year					
	2024	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Meherpur Sadar	293933	315988	338043	360099	382154	404209
Gangni	345940	371125	396311	421496	446681	471866
Mujibnagar	112409	119703	126997	134291	141586	148880
Projected Population	752282	806816	861351	915886	970420	1024955

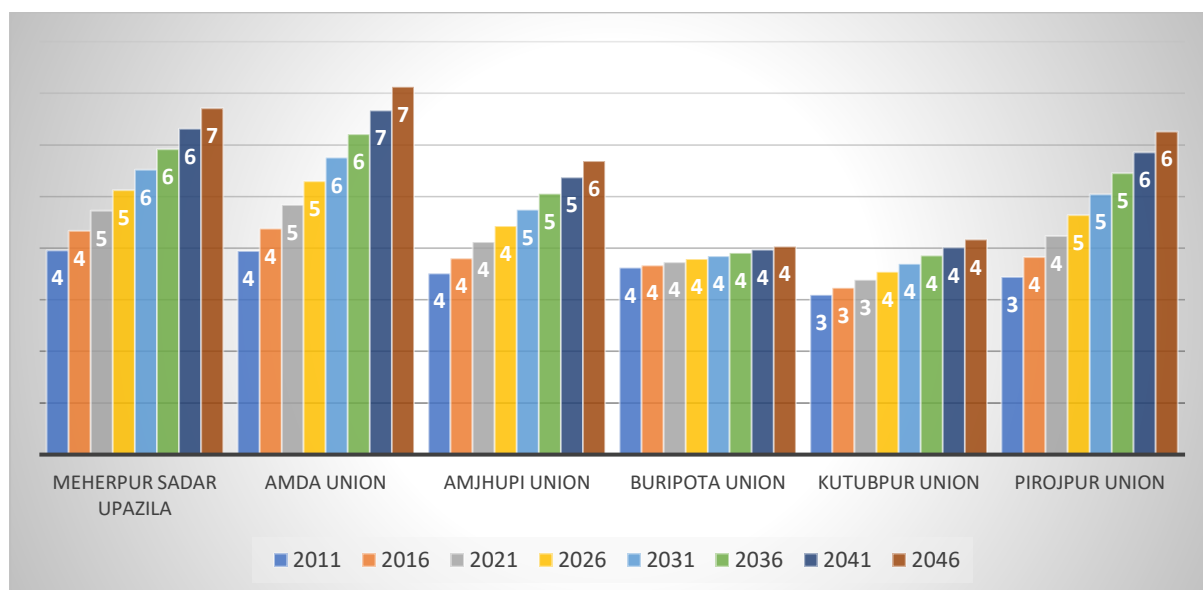
		Gangni	Meherpur Sadar	Mujibnagar
Number of Birth	13119	6002	5150	1967
Number of Death	4572	2091	1794	685
Net Migrants	41391	19183	16905	5327

Source: Prepared by Consultant

**Table 5: Population Projection of Meherpur Sadar Upazila in Cohort Method Based on Population 2011**

Upazila/Union	Year							
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Meherpur Sadar Upazila	256642	280820	306486	332152	357818	383484	409150	434816
Amda	30600	33982	37541	41100	44659	48218	51777	55336
Amjhupi	54586	59151	64033	68915	73797	78679	83561	88443
Buripota	37458	37877	38514	39151	39788	40425	41062	41699
Kutubpur	42511	44403	46541	48679	50817	52955	55093	57231
Pirojpur	48354	53765	59456	65147	70838	76529	82220	87911

Source: Prepared by Consultant



**Figure 3: Union wise Projected Population Density of Meherpur Sadar Upazilla**



According to above figure, population density has been seen higher at Meherpur Sadar Upazilla and Amda union than other unions and the density will be continuously growing year by year. In 2011, the density is 4 of Meherpur Sadar Upazilla and Amda union and this density will be 7 in 2046. For Amjhupi union, the density is 4 in 2011 and it'll be 6 in 2046. For Buripota and Kutubpur union, there will be little change of population density.

**Table 6: Population Projection of Meherpur Paurashava in Cohort Method based on Population 2011**

	Population 2011	Population 2001	Survived Population	Number of Birth	Number of Death	Net Migrants
Ward 1	6236	4873	6193	116	43	1289
Ward 2	4136	3594	4108	77	28	493
Ward 3	3350	3443	3327	62	23	-133
Ward 4	6156	4324	6114	115	42	1760
Ward 5	3860	3037	3834	72	26	778
Ward 6	3511	3140	3487	65	24	330
Ward 7	6140	4890	6098	114	42	1178
Ward 8	4114	3897	4086	77	28	169
Ward 9	5640	3426	5602	105	39	2148
<b>Total</b>	<b>43144</b>	<b>34624</b>	<b>42849</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>8012</b>

Source: Prepared by Consultant

**Table 7: Projected Population of Meherpur Paurashava**

Ward	Year					
	2024	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Ward 1	7599	9004	10409	11815	13220	14626
Ward 2	4678	5249	5819	6390	6960	7530
Ward 3	3256	3186	3115	3045	2975	2904
Ward 4	7988	9863	11737	13611	15485	17360
Ward 5	4683	5533	6382	7232	8081	8931
Ward 6	3883	4278	4674	5069	5465	5860
Ward 7	7390	8682	8724	8766	8808	8850
Ward 8	4331	4576	4618	4660	4702	4744
Ward 9	7855	10107	10149	10191	10233	10275
<b>Total</b>	<b>51663</b>	<b>60478</b>	<b>65629</b>	<b>70780</b>	<b>75930</b>	<b>81081</b>

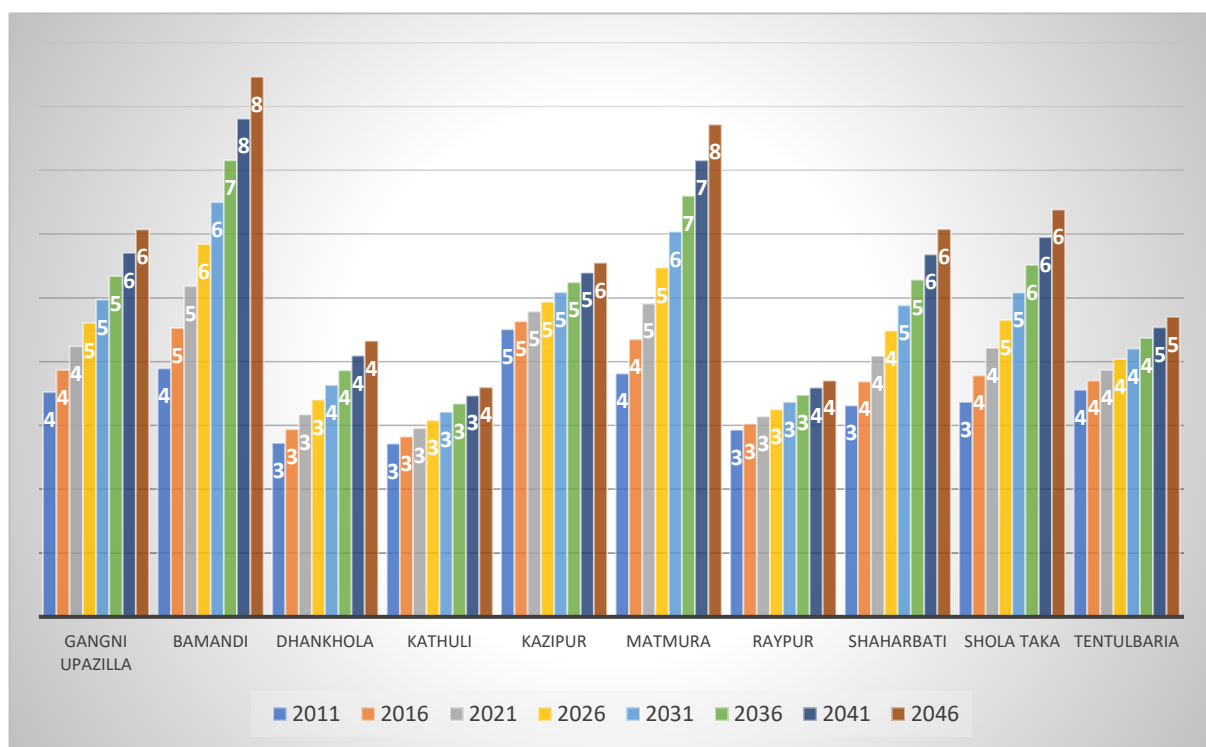
Source: Prepared by Consultant

According to Table 7, highest population growth has been seen at Ward 4, 1 and 9 respectively. In Ward 3, negative growth has been observed. In 2024 the population will be 3256 and in 2046 the population will decrease at 2904. The other Wards will have a moderate growth.

**Table 8: Population Projection of Gangni Upazila in Cohort Method Based on Population 2011**

Upazila/Union	Year							
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
<b>Gangni Upazilla</b>	299607	329031	360195	391359	422523	453687	484851	516015
<b>Bamandi</b>	26776	31137	35654	40171	44688	49205	53722	58239
<b>Dhankhola</b>	41332	44593	48095	51597	55099	58601	62103	65605
<b>Kathuli</b>	22379	23311	24373	25435	26497	27559	28621	29683
<b>Kazipur</b>	39811	40929	42279	43629	44979	46329	47679	49029
<b>Matmura</b>	44609	50917	57484	64051	70618	77185	83752	90319
<b>Raypur</b>	20665	21343	22140	22937	23734	24531	25328	26125
<b>Shaharbat</b>	23139	25786	28567	31348	34129	36910	39691	42472
<b>Shola Taka</b>	24533	27547	30703	33859	37015	40171	43327	46483
<b>Tentulbaria</b>	30863	32125	33566	35007	36448	37889	39330	40771

Source: Prepared by Consultant



**Figure 4: Union wise Projected Population Density of Gangni Upazilla**

According to above figure, population density has been seen higher at Bamandi and Matmura union than other unions and the density will be continuously growing year by year. In 2011, the density is 4 of Bamandi and Matmura union and this density will be 8 in 2046. For Shaharbatia and Shola Taka union, the density is 3 in 2011 and it'll be 6 in 2046. For other unions, there will be little change of population density.

**Table 9: Population Projection of Gangni Paurashava in Cohort Method Based on Population 2011**

	Population 2011	Population 2001	Survived Population	Number of Birth	Number of Death	Net Migrants
Ward 1	2769	2029	2753	54	16	702
Ward 2	3102	2385	3084	60	18	675
Ward 3	3603	2622	3581	70	21	932
Ward 4	3096	2326	3078	60	18	728
Ward 5	2618	2326	2603	50	15	257
Ward 6	2301	1919	2288	45	13	350
Ward 7	3158	3030	3138	61	18	85
Ward 8	2526	2224	2512	49	15	268
Ward 9	2327	2121	2314	45	14	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>25500</b>	<b>19657</b>	<b>25352</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>5496</b>

Source: Prepared by Consultant

**Table 10: Projected Population of Gangni Paurashava**

Ward	Year					
	2024	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
Ward 1	3509	4265	5021	5777	6533	7289
Ward 2	3819	4554	5289	6024	6759	7494
Ward 3	4583	5585	6587	7589	8591	9593
Ward 4	3866	4654	5442	6230	7018	7806
Ward 5	2910	3217	3524	3831	4138	4445
Ward 6	2683	3078	3473	3868	4263	4658
Ward 7	3284	3430	3576	3722	3868	4014
Ward 8	2829	3146	3463	3780	4097	4414
Ward 9	2534	2754	2974	3194	3414	3634
<b>Total</b>	<b>31343</b>	<b>37334</b>	<b>43325</b>	<b>49316</b>	<b>55307</b>	<b>61298</b>

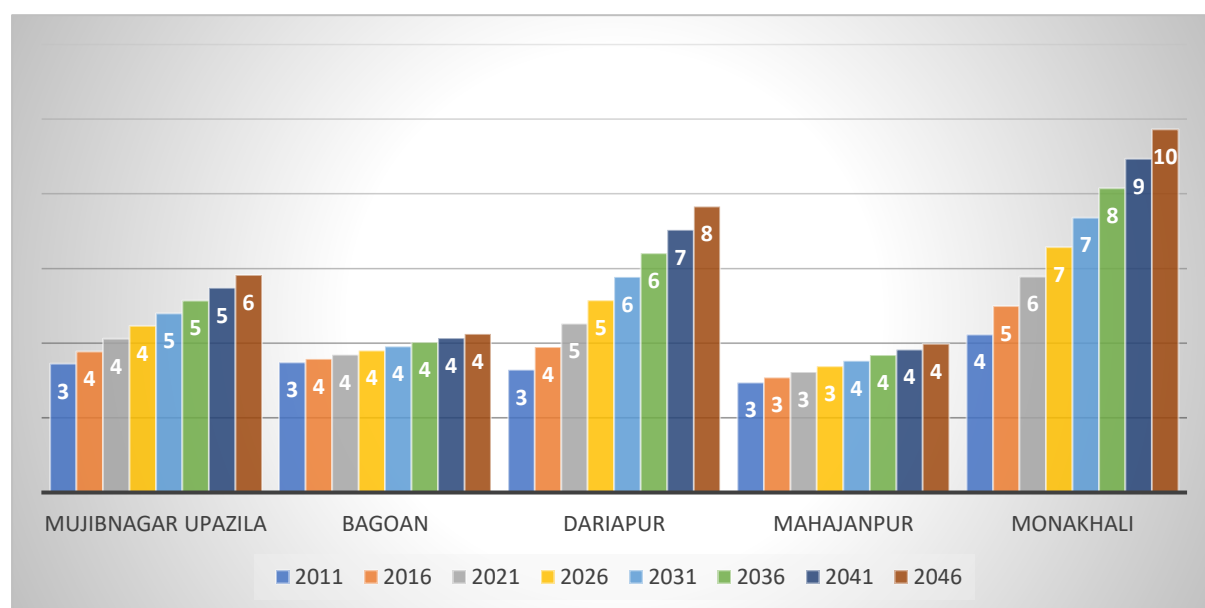
Source: Prepared by Consultant

According to Table 10, highest population growth has been seen at Ward 3 and the growth rate is higher than other Wards. In Ward 3, the population will be 4583 in 2024 and it will increase to 9593 in 2046. No negative growth has been observed. The lowest growth has been observed in Ward 9. In 2024 the population will be 2534 and in 2046 the population will decrease to 3634. The other Wards will have a moderate growth rate.

**Table 11: Population Projection of Mujibnagar Upazila in Cohort Method Based on Population 2011**

Upazila/Union	Year							
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046
<b>Mujibnagar Upazila</b>	99143	108401	118233	128065	137897	147729	157561	167393
<b>Bagoan</b>	39707	40740	42003	43266	44529	45792	47055	48318
<b>Dariapur</b>	19629	23253	26991	30729	34467	38205	41943	45681
<b>Mahajanpur</b>	19127	19990	20965	21940	22915	23890	24865	25840
<b>Monakhali</b>	20680	24417	28273	32129	35985	39841	43697	47553

Source: Prepared by Consultant



**Figure 4: Union wise Projected Population Density of Mujibnagar Upazilla**

According to above figure, population density has been seen higher at Monalhlhi union than other unions and the density will be continuously growing year by year. In 2011, the density is 4 of Monakhali union and this density will be 10 in 2046. For other unions, the density is 3 in 2011 and it'll be union wise 4 to 8 in 2046.

## Social Composition of Meherpur District

According to the Population and Housing Census 2022, the total enumerated population of Meherpur district is recorded as 7,05,356 of which male is 3,40,093, female, 3,65,237 and hijra, 26. The percentages of population living in the rural and the urban areas are 77.47% and 22.53% respectively. The total population living in slum areas is 573. There was no floating population found in this district on the night of the census.

By upazila, it is evident that the highest number of population, 3,22,690 live in Gangni while the lowest, 1,05,746 in Mujibnagar. It is found that the percentages of population live in general, institutional and other households are 99.17%, 0.57% and 0.26% respectively. In the case of general household, the percentage of male headed households is 83.70 and female headed households, 16.30. The average annual growth rate of population of the district is 0.65% which was 1.03% in 2011. The rates are 0.41% for male and 0.88% for female. The highest, 9.31% of the total population belong to the age of 15-19 years. In the case of male, the percentage is the highest, 9.50% for the age of 10-14 years, but for female, it is the highest, 9.42% for the age of 35-39 years. On the contrary, analyzing the figures by cumulative percentages, it is found that the population below 15 years and 30 years, and 60 years are 23.60%, 48.09% and 88.63%, respectively. The sex ratio is evident at 93.12, dependency ratio, 44.20 and child-woman ratio, 249.19 in the district. Out of the population aged 10 years and above, currently married population is 71.42% and never married, 21.86%. The singulate mean age at marriage for male and female are 23.70 and 18.00 years respectively. It is observed from the data that, the percentages of Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and others religion are 97.87%, 1.20%, 0.002%, 0.93% and 0.002% respectively in the district. The total number of persons with disabilities is reported as 15,819, which is 2.24% of the total population of the district.

The literacy rate of the population aged 7 years and above is 68.14%, which is 68.92% for male and 67.43% for female. The rate is recorded as 66.22% in the rural areas while it is 74.74% in the urban areas for the population of the same age group. The percentage of currently student of male and female of age 5-29 years are 60.78 and 48.96 respectively. Considering the field of education, it is evident that, general education holds the outstanding share with 93.35%, religious, 2.39%, technical, 0.84% and others, 3.42%.

The total number of ethnic population in the district is 161, of which male is 42 and female, 119. The highest, 102 persons of that category are living in Mujibnagar followed by 50 in Meherpur Sadar.

The total number of households in the district enumerated at 1,95,322, of which 1,52,313 are located in the rural areas and 43,009 in the urban areas. A total of 142 slum households and 0 floating households are also accounted. The total number of households except for floating is recorded as 1,95,322, of which the general households are 1,94,749, institutional households, 124 and other type of households, 449.

Out of the total population aged 5 years and above, 34.27% are employed, 34.50% are engaged in household work, 1.18% are looking for work, and 30.05% do not work. By sex, it is seen that the proportion of male and female in the employed population is 89.05% and 10.95% respectively. Conversely, out of the total population of age 15 years and above, the percentage of employed population is recorded as 41.31%. It is found that out of the total employed population, the highest 47.08% are engaged for salary/wages. The highest 61.03% of the total employed population are engaged in agriculture sector followed by 34.11% in service and 4.86% in industry sector. The population aged 15-24 years, who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) during the census period, is reported as 45,326, which is 37.60% of the total population of the said age group of the district.



## **Social Service of Meherpur District**

Meherpur District, like other districts in Bangladesh, has a range of social service initiatives provided by both government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These services aim to improve the well-being of the population, particularly vulnerable groups. Here's an overview:

### **District Civil Surgeon, Meherpur**

Meherpur district has a 250-bed hospital, two upazila health complexes, 72 community clinics, 12 union sub-centers, and a chest clinic. There is no medical college in Meherpur district. A nursing college is under construction. Two community clinics have been proposed, in Uttar Shalika and Baradi areas. There is no health complex in Sadar upazila.

### **Department of Public Health Engineering, Meherpur**

The following projects are ongoing through this department:

- 1) In the financial year 2024-2025, 61 (sixty-one) community-based deep tube wells with submersible pumps have been allocated under the project titled “Development of Safe Water Supply in the Nation”.
- 2) Water Supply and Sanitation Project in 30 Municipalities of Bangladesh, Gangni Municipality.
- 3) PEDP-4 Project (3 Upazilas) (Fourth Primary Education Development Programme in Meherpur)
- 4) Under the NNGPS-1 (Newly Nationalized Government Primary Schools) project, construction of WASH BLOCK is underway in 05 primary schools namely Barabamundi, Bamundi Nishipur, Bholadanga Paschimpara, Saharbat Ebadatkhana and Nabinpur New Government Primary School at a cost of 71.74 lakh taka.
- 5) Under the GPS-1 (Need Based Infrastructure Development of Government Primary Schools Project) project, construction of WASH BLOCKs is underway in 05 primary schools namely Bahagunda, Bharat, Chitla, Kazipur Badiapara and Minapara Government Primary Schools at a cost of 71 lakh taka.

## **Public Works Department, Meherpur**

The projects undertaken by the Public Works Department are:

- 1) Syed Textile and Vocational College, Mujibnagar Road, Meherpur.
- 2) 250 Bed Hospital Upgradation Project.
- 3) Model Mosques – 3 (Meherpur- 2, Gangni- 1)
- 4) Police Officers Mess (Ongoing Project)

## **Water Development Board, Meherpur**

Four rivers flow through Meherpur district. These are Bhairab, Kajla, Mathabhanga and Chhotia rivers. The information about these rivers is given below which is obtained from Meherpur District Water Development Board.

One of the ongoing projects of Meherpur District Water Development Board is “Action Plan for the Decontamination and De-pollution of Bhairab River”. The duration of this project is from 01-10-2024 to 30-06-2025.

Another ongoing project of Meherpur District Water Development Board is the “Bhairab River Dredging Project”. Through this project, agricultural work is being progressed by dredging the Bhairab River. Currently, the 1st revised period of this project is running. Their project will be completed by this 2024-25 fiscal year.

The water of this Bhairab River is mostly used for agricultural purposes. To encourage the use of surface water in Meherpur district, three WEIR structures are being constructed on the Bhairab River with the help of the Water Development Board. Two of them are being constructed in Meherpur. Through this, the water of the Bhairab River will be controlled and stored and later this water will be used for agricultural purposes in the dry season. The water will be controlled in this WEIR structure much like a rubber dam and there will be a switchgate in this structure.

Just as the water of this river is used for agricultural purposes, the people on both sides of this river are largely dependent on this river for their daily work. Since people use a lot of water from this river, it is important to prevent pollution of this river. Especially, the drainage water of the municipality is directly discharged into this river. Due to this, the pollution in this river

is increasing day by day. Therefore, the advice of the Executive Engineer of the Meherpur Water Development Board is to discharge the drainage water of the municipality into the river through a treatment process instead of discharging it directly.

The length of the Bhairab River is 59 kilometers and the length of both banks is 118 kilometers. Out of this 118 kilometers, 18.323 kilometers of walkway construction has been completed so that the river is not encroached upon. Another purpose of building this walkway is to define the boundaries of the river.

In addition to the dredging of the Bhairab River, dredging work has been undertaken on three more rivers. These are the Mathabhanga, Kajla and Chhotia rivers. So far, 10 kilometers have been dredged from Kathalpota to Baradi in the Kajla River. The chain of this dredging is from 3+000 km to 13+000 km. Permission has been obtained for dredging this river for 47 kilometers. In addition, an 8-kilometer area from Rajnagar to Dhankhola in the Chhotia River has been dredged.

The dredging of the canals is done through the Meherpur District Water Development Board. However, this dredging work is done through the availability of the government budget. So far, they have completed the dredging of 4 km 600m of Ruimari Canal, 6 km 400m of Debipur Canal, 10 km of Saraswati Canal, 1.5 km of Khola Canal and 1.5 km of Khoksa Canal.

### **District Social Services Office, Meherpur**

Various types of allowances are provided by the Meherpur District Social Services Office, such as old age allowance, widow and husband-abused women allowance, indigent disabled allowance, disabled education allowance, special allowance and education allowance for backward communities, and special allowance and education allowance for transgenders.

#### **a. Elderly Allowance:**

Eligibility and conditions for receiving allowance

- (1) Must be a permanent resident of the concerned area;
- (2) Must have a birth registration/national identification number;
- (3) Minimum age for men should be 65 years and minimum age for women should be 62 years.

(4) The average annual income of the candidate should not be less than 10,000 (ten thousand) taka;

(5) Must be selected by the selection committee.

The monthly allowance rate per person in the 2024-25 financial year is 600 taka. The number of elderly allowance recipients in Meherpur district is 30,888.

**b. Widow and Husband-Abused Women Allowance:**

Eligibility and conditions of the allowance recipient:

1. Must be a permanent resident of the concerned area;
2. Must have a birth registration/national identification number;
3. Priority will be given to elderly, helpless and distressed widows or husband-abused women;
4. Those who are distressed, helpless, almost landless, widows or husband-abused and who have 2 children under the age of 16 will get priority in getting the allowance;
5. Those who are disabled and sick among the distressed, poor, widows and husband-abused will get priority in getting the allowance;
6. The candidate's average annual income: Must not exceed 12,000 (twelve thousand) taka;
7. Must be selected by the selection committee.

The monthly allowance rate per person in the 2024-25 fiscal year is 550 taka. The number of widow and husband-abused women receiving this allowance in Meherpur district is 13,269.

**c. Indigent Disability Allowance:**

Goals and Objectives:

1. Fulfillment of constitutional and legal commitments made to persons with disabilities;
2. Socio-economic development of persons with disabilities;
3. Bringing persons with disabilities under the ambit of social security programs;
4. Provision of monthly allowance to persons with disabilities selected by the competent authority by following specific policies;

The monthly allowance rate per person in the fiscal year 2024-25 is 850 taka. The number of recipients of this indigent disability allowance in Meherpur district is 16623 people.

d. Disability Education Scholarship:

Aims and objectives of the program

1. Social protection, welfare and development of disabled students
2. Empowerment of disabled students and bringing them into the mainstream in stages;
3. Increasing the admission, attendance rate, and morale of disabled students in educational institutions by preventing dropouts and educating them in good education;

In the fiscal year 2024-25, the monthly allowance rate per person is 900 taka at the primary level, 950 at the secondary level, 1050 at the higher secondary level, and 1300 at the higher level. The number of recipients of this disability education scholarship in Meherpur district is 456.

e. Special Allowance and Educational Allowance for Backward Communities:

Backward communities: Backward communities or classes are socially and educationally backward communities. They are known as extremely neglected, isolated, and neglected communities. The backward communities include fishermen, monks, sages, beharas, barbers, washermen, barbers, nickers, patnis, kawras, oilers, patikars, sweepers, sweepers or dhangars, domars, doms, rauts, and people of lower class professions.

The following activities will be carried out with the aim of improving the living standards of the backward communities:

- 1) Providing allowance to disabled and indigent persons of the backward communities aged 50 years or above;
- 2) Providing monthly educational stipend of 700 taka at primary level, 800 taka at secondary level, 1000 taka at higher secondary level and 1200 taka at higher level to targeted students studying in educational institutions;
- 3) Providing training to persons from backward communities who are able to work above 18 years of age.

The number of special allowance recipients of this backward community in Meherpur district is 107. The number of education stipend recipients of this backward community in Meherpur district is 54.

**f. Hijra Special Allowance and Education Stipend:**

The following activities will be carried out to improve the quality of life of the Hijra community:

- 1) Providing a special allowance of 600 taka per month to distressed and indigent Hijra persons aged 50 years and above.
- 2) Providing an education stipend of 700 taka per month to Hijra students at the primary level, 800 taka at the secondary level, 1000 taka at the higher secondary level and 1200 taka at the higher level;
- 3) Providing training, financial assistance and employment of able-bodied Hijra persons in income-generating activities;
- 4) Providing one-time cash assistance of 10,000 taka after training.

The number of recipients of this Hijra special allowance in Meherpur district is 30. The number of recipients of this Hijra education stipend in Meherpur district is 1.

In addition, the Meherpur District Social Service provides interest-free microloans to unemployed youth, indigent and widowed women. In the case of this loan, a workshop is held first. This workshop is on a specific topic. After this workshop, a loan is given. The maximum is 50,000 taka and the minimum is 10,000 taka. The term of this loan is 1 year. During this, the first two months of installment are waived. This loan has to be repaid within the next ten months.

**Department of Youth Development, Meherpur**

Through the Youth Development Department of Meherpur district, training is provided to unemployed boys and girls aged 18 to 35 in various sectors. These sectors include

- 1) Computer Training
- 2) Garment Making
- 3) Electricity



4) AC Repair

5) Cattle and Bird Rearing

6) Fisheries

After the training, certificates are given to these boys and girls. After receiving this certificate, loans are given to the certificate holders for various periods based on government projects. This loan is given to about 1000 people. The main objective of this loan is to make unemployed boys and girls self-reliant. This loan is given from 60,000 taka to 1,00,000 taka until the fiscal year 2023-24. Currently, this loan is given from 1,00,000 taka to 5,00,000 taka.

### **Department of Environment, Meherpur**

Meherpur District Environment Department mainly issues permits, controls and monitors the regularity of opening factories. In giving these permits, they divide them into three categories: green, yellow and red. Currently, there are 500 factories, large and small, in Meherpur district. They emphasize on installing ETP plants in the factories. Moreover, due to the current ban on polythene, the Meherpur District Environment Department monitors the market every day through mobile courts. Moreover, due to the ban on polythene, 3000 leaflets have been distributed to create awareness among the people. In addition, the Meherpur District Environment Department has organized a workshop to reduce the use of polythene. Currently, two projects of the Meherpur District Environment Department are ongoing. Namely:

1) Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability Transformation Project in Meherpur.

2) Integrated and participatory project for noise pollution control, Meherpur.

### **Department of Minor Irrigation, Meherpur Sadar and Mujibnagar Upazila**

68 deep tube wells have been installed for Meherpur Sadar and Mujibnagar upazilas. Irrigation has been provided to 1632 hectares of land through these deep tube wells. 130-140 farmers get the benefit of each deep tube well. Moreover, 24 low lift pumps have been installed for Meherpur Sadar and Mujibnagar upazilas. Irrigation has been provided by lifting water from the Bhairab River through these pumps. This has reduced the pressure on groundwater to some extent. Irrigation has been provided to 480 hectares of land through these low lift pumps. This department issues licenses to run irrigation pumps through private enterprises. It works to remove waterlogging in areas other than municipalities. This department works on canal excavation, box culverts, hydraulic structures, switchgates, and structure-based work.

Currently, they have an ongoing project, "Kushtia Irrigation Area Development Project", which is for the entire Meherpur district. This project will be completed in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

### Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

The LGED contributes to social service by developing infrastructure that improves living conditions. This includes building roads and bridges, which enhance connectivity and access to services.

**Table 12: LGED Road Network**

Road No.	Road Name	Length (km)
R745	Kushtia (Trimohoni)-Maherpur-Chuadanga-Jhenaidah Road	45.734
R746	Meherpur-Mujibnagar (BRD Camp) Road	15.636
R749	Darsana-Mujibnagar Road	5.259
Z7408	WAPDA More-Kalibari Link Road	1.088
Z7452	Gangni-Kathuli-Kulbaria Road	20.350
Z7453	Gangni-Hatbolia Road	11.700
Z7454	Gangni (Purbo Malshadaha)-Baradi Bazar Road	13.350
Z7456	Bamundi-Hatboalia-Alamdanga Road	11.020
Z7466	Meherpur-North Shalikha-Kaligangni Road	10.160
Z7467	Amjhupi-Madandanga-Shampur-Noapara Road	12.920
Z7468	Chandpur-Dargatala-Jadukhali-Jatarpur Road	11.728
Z7469	Mujibnagar-Bhoberpara-BGB Camp Link Road	1.846

Source: LGED, Meherpur, 2025

## External Linkage

When discussing the "External Linkage" of Meherpur District, it's important to consider its connections with both neighboring regions within Bangladesh and its international border with India. Here's a breakdown:

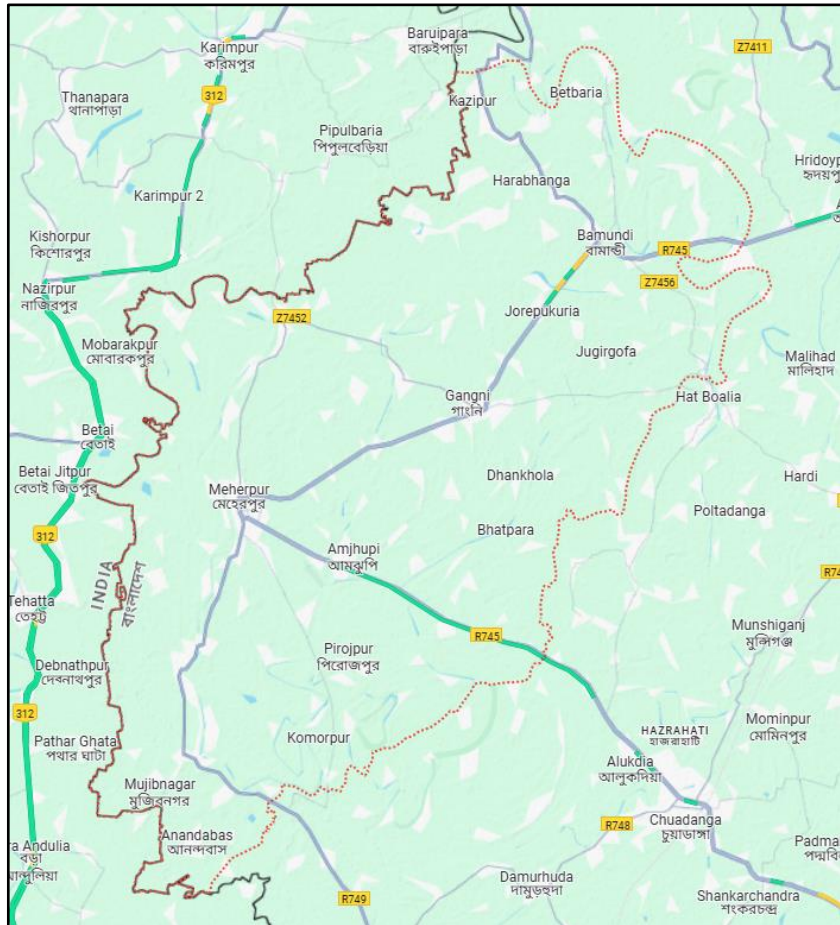
### Geographical and Border Linkages:

#### Border with India

Meherpur District shares a western border with the Indian state of West Bengal. This is a significant external linkage, influencing trade, cultural exchange, and, historically, migration patterns. The border also presents challenges related to border management and security.

#### Connections within Bangladesh

Meherpur is part of the Khulna Division in southwestern Bangladesh. It is bordered by the Bangladeshi districts of Kushtia and Chuadanga. These connections are vital for internal trade, transportation, and communication. Road networks are important for connecting Meherpur with other districts, and therefore to the rest of Bangladesh.



**Map 09: International Border Connection with India and Local Connection within Bangladesh.**

Source: Bangladesh National Information Portal, 2025

## **Economic Linkages**

### **Agricultural Trade**

As an agriculturally focused district, Meherpur engages in trade of agricultural products with other regions of Bangladesh. The border with India also potentially facilitates some level of informal or formal agricultural trade.

### **Commerce**

Commercial activities in Meherpur are linked to regional and national markets. The flow of goods and services connects the district to the broader Bangladeshi economy.

## **Historical and Cultural Linkages**

### **Historical Significance**

The historical significance of Mujibnagar, where the provisional government of Bangladesh was formed, creates a strong national linkage. This historical importance draws people from all over Bangladesh to Meherpur.

### **Cultural Exchange**

The proximity to West Bengal leads to cultural exchange, influencing language, traditions, and social practices.