



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-2

Review of Acts, Policies and Plans related to the Planning Packages

March 2025

Sanjib Saha
Urban Planner

ASSIGNMENT 2: REVIEW OF ACTS, POLICIES AND PLANS RELATED TO THE PLANNING PACKAGES



APRIL 07, 2025

SANJIB SAHA
URBAN PLANNER (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)
PREPARAION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
MEHERPUR ZILLA



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

Table of Content

Introduction.....	1
Background.....	1
Critical Review of Existing Policy and Laws	2
Sustainable and Technology based progressive Agriculture Practices	2
Sustainable and Smart Connectivity Based Multi Modal Transportation Supported by Ports, and Terminals	5
Multi Ethnocentric Everyday Life and Culture Oriented Social Space (Hyperreal class) Perspective Plan (2021-2041)	9
Disaster & Climate Change Resiliency	12
Environment Friendly and Sustainable Recycle Based Solid Waste Management and Promotion of Circular Economy	15
Access to Pure Drinking Water and Proper Sanitation.....	17
Inter-connected Multitier Drainage System.....	21

Review of Acts, Policies and Plans related to the Planning Packages

1. Introduction

By utilizing its agricultural expertise and cultural legacy, the Meherpur District's comprehensive development plan aims to establish the area as an example for inclusive and sustainable progress. Meherpur, a region in southwest Bangladesh, has a long history of agriculture and is bolstered by excellent alluvial soil that supports a variety of crop production. However, the district confronts obstacles that impede economic diversification and job prospects, such as inadequate industrialization and infrastructure deficiencies.

The Plan seeks to modernize civic facilities, encourage rural-urban integration, and capitalize on Meherpur's agricultural potential. Plans call for building sustainable infrastructure, improving communication networks, and modernizing hospital and educational facilities. The initiative aims to preserve cultural heritage and increase economic resilience by encouraging local crafts and reviving cottage enterprises.

2. Background

Meherpur district, which includes the upazilas of Meherpur Sadar, Mujibnagar, and Gangni, is 751.62 square kilometers in size. Because Mujibnagar Upazila was the site of the formation of the Provisional Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the Liberation War, it has historical significance. In light of this, the previous Prime Minister has highlighted Mujibnagar's potential for tourism growth by announcing the opening of a world level tourism center centered on the Liberation War.

Higher economic growth, increased job possibilities, and the development of human resources and young power in rural areas are the objectives of this effort. In order to support the larger goal of a developed Bangladesh, the ultimate goal is to make Meherpur district a model of high-income status and notable advancement in human development indices and other international indicators.

Three upazilas, three police stations, two paurashavas, 18 unions, 199 mauzas, and 259 villages make up Meherpur, a small district in southwest Bangladesh that covers an area of 751.62 square kilometers. There are 655,392 people living there as of the 2011 census, including 166,300 families, 324,634 men, and 330,758 women. Muslims make up the majority of the religious

demography (97.76%), followed by Hindus (1.20%), Christians (1.01%), Buddhists (0.0021%), and others (0.019%). Named for the preacher Meher Ali of the 16th century, the district gained full district status in 1984, and Mujibnagar Upazila was established in 2000.

With only 280 elementary schools, 36 lower secondary schools, 121 secondary schools, seven colleges, three technical colleges, and 25 madrasas, Meherpur has a low literacy rate of 46.3%. The district has 38,860.73 acres of forest land, 1,140 bills and floodplains, and four rivers. With average yearly rainfall of 1,467 mm and temperatures between 11.2°C and 37.1°C, it has a tropical climate.

3. Critical Review of Existing Policy and Laws

3.1 Sustainable and Technology based progressive Agriculture Practices

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Paradigm shift in agriculture to enhance productivity and ensure food security (Section 1.3, pg 6)	The plan suggested to explore proper water management by using the knowledge of precision farming, construction of storage facilities, co-operative farming societies, explore appropriate preventive measures, introduction of drone technology and, monitoring or management software to collect and analyzes data from sensors to monitor changes in plant growth, weed density and also detect pest presence.
Include climate change adaptation strategy in agriculture (Section 6.4, pg 76)	Develop climate-resilient cropping systems (including agricultural research), as well as fisheries and livestock systems to ensure local and national food security.
Diversification in agricultural output and livelihoods, involving off-farm activities (Section 6.4, pg 77); Also	To engage farming households in multiple agricultural and nonagricultural activities the plan has proposed economic regions considering geological and

Policy Statements	Reflection
promote agro based manufacturing industry (Section 6.7, pg 84)	hydrogeological attribute, better communication facilities and proximity to existing urban area.
Promote optimum land use and its conservation for food production (Section 6.4.3, pg 78)	To promote optimal land, use the plan has proposed strategic service centers at three level and defined agricultural land as urban promotion control zone to ensure food production.

Policy Statement 1: Paradigm Shift in Agriculture to Enhance Productivity and Ensure Food Security

Justification: To ensure food security and enhance agricultural productivity, the Meherpur District Development Plan must promote a paradigm shift in agriculture by adopting advanced water management techniques, precision farming, and introducing modern technologies such as drones and monitoring software. These tools will enable better data collection and analysis, aiding in plant growth monitoring, pest detection, and effective management of agricultural resources. Proposed Agriculture research institute will help achieving the goal.

Policy Statement 2: Integration of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Agricultural Practices

Justification: Recognizing the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change, the plan must prioritize the development of climate-resilient cropping systems, alongside resilient fisheries and livestock practices. This approach will ensure local and national food security, supporting the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector in Meherpur.

Policy Statement 3: Diversification of Agricultural Outputs and Livelihoods

Justification: The plan must encourage the diversification of agricultural outputs by integrating off-farm activities and promoting agro-based industries. By considering the geological and hydrogeological attributes of the region, alongside better communication facilities and proximity to urban areas, this strategy aims to enhance the economic resilience of farming households and create additional employment opportunities.

Policy Statement 4: Promotion of Optimum Land Use and Conservation for Food Production

Justification: To secure food production, the plan must define agricultural land as an urban promotion control zone, ensuring its conservation. Strategic service centers will be established at various levels to promote optimal land use, preserving fertile lands for agricultural activities and preventing their conversion to non-agricultural purposes.

7th Five Year Plan

Policy Statements	Reflection
Increase agricultural productivity and ensure food security (Chapter 4, pp 27)	Agriculture lands has been proposed as urban promotion control zone, suggested to promote salinity tolerant crop variant and integrated farming;

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

Policy Statements	Reflection
Increase resilience of agricultural production system; Diversification in agricultural output and livelihoods (pg 23)	The plan recommended to conduct research to explore regionally, ecologically, and culturally appropriate diversification strategies; the plan has conducted study on cropping pattern which will help to fix priority areas for conducting research and diversification strategies; tourism and port related facilities will generate employment opportunities for local people to support livelihood
Preserve agricultural land from flood/ erosion/ salinity to sustain food grain production (pg 22)	Agricultural lands have been defined as urban promotion control zone as a strategy to preserve agricultural lands.

Policy Statement 5: Increase Agricultural Productivity and Resilience

Justification: By designating agricultural lands as urban promotion control zones and promoting the cultivation of salinity-tolerant crops and integrated farming practices, the plan will boost agricultural productivity while enhancing the resilience of farming systems. This approach aligns with the goals of food security and sustainable agriculture.

3.4 SDG

Policy Statements	Reflection
Zero hunger; Achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture (Goal 2)	Preservation of agricultural land, sustainable management of fisheries.

3.2 Sustainable and Smart Connectivity Based Multi Modal Transportation Supported by Ports, and Terminals

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Ensure seamless flow in passenger and goods traffic and transport facilities. (Section 10.3, pg 170)	Traffic volume count survey has been performed to draw findings on traffic flow of important intersections. Road widening and bypass roads have been proposed based on those findings to ensure seamless flow in passenger and goods traffic and transport facilities.
Ensure efficient choices between different modes of transport facilities at affordable cost and time. (Section 10.3, pg 170)	Proposed road, rail and air transportation to ensure regional connectivity.
Emphasis on strong inter-district and inter-regional connectivity with neighboring countries for passengers, goods and services with choices of alternative transport modes. (Section 10.3, pg 170)	Establishment of Mujibnagar Land port with a functional deport facility, linkage establishment with major national and international economic and transit corridors, and efficient use of multimodal transportation like a combination of road transportation and inland waterway transportation etc.
Emphasis on inland water transport and railways to reduce pressure on the road and strengthen intermodal coordination (Section 10.5, pg 172)	The study region is well connected with inland water transportation system; to strengthen intermodal coordination the plan

Policy Statements	Reflection
	has taken into account R&H road and BR rail line proposal.
Upgrading National Highways through multi-laning of existing highways; Implement load control policy to reduce road damage; Ensure target mobility of 80-110 kmph for important highway corridors (Section 10.5, pg 174)	Through transportation study the plan has explored design speed of existing road which will assists relevant authority to upgrade roads.
Establish connectivity with inter-regional highways, economic zone areas, ports, airports, power stations, inland water transport facilities, rail stations and major tourist resorts (Section 10.5, pg 174)	Proposed to construct new road, upgrading existing road, and considered R&H and BR proposal to ensure proper inter-zonal and intra-zonal communication;
Upgrade all inter-district roads to at least 4 lane facilities and upgrade/extend existing bridges; Upgrade zilla and upazila roads to at least 2 lanes; Convert village roads to asphalt standard with at least one lane (Section 10.5, pg 174)	Through physical feature survey road information which includes construction material,width, road catrgory etc. has been collected to propose propoer road connectivity in structure plan and urban area plan stage following section 10.5.
Ensure railway connectivity to every district; Reconstruct, modernize and extend missing railway links; Develop dedicated freight corridors; Develop railway links with all ports (Section 10.5, pg 175-176)	The plan has taken into account BR rail line proposal in to plan proposal
Prioritize inter-regional river connectivity to facilitate trade, commerce and tourism; Improve the navigability and river port infrastructure (Section 10.5, pg 176)	The study area is well served by an inland water transportation infrastructure.
Improve productivity of ports through modernization of cargo handling techniques;	To support productivity and port related service facility the plan has proposed

Policy Statements	Reflection
Expansion of storage area. (Section 10.5, pg 178)	sufficient area close to port as "urban promotion zone"
Promote economic development corridor (Section 9.8.1, pg 549)	Proposal of transportation network considering strategic center; taken into account Regional Road and Railway Line proposal by relevant govt. agencies.

Policy Statement 1: Ensure Seamless Flow in Passenger and Goods Traffic

Justification: To facilitate efficient transportation, the plan must implement road widening and bypass roads based on traffic volume count surveys. These measures will enhance the seamless flow of passenger and goods traffic, reducing congestion and improving overall transport facilities within Meherpur.

Policy Statement 2: Provide Efficient and Affordable Multimodal Transport Options

Justification: The plan must promote regional connectivity through the development of road, rail, and waterway transportation networks. This approach ensures that people and goods can move efficiently between different modes of transport, balancing cost and time considerations to provide affordable and convenient transport options.

Policy Statement 3: Strengthen Inter-District and Inter-Regional Connectivity

Justification: To enhance connectivity between districts and regions, especially with neighboring countries, the plan proposes the establishment of the Mujibnagar Land Port and its functional depot facility. This will create strong linkages with major national and international economic and transit corridors, supporting the efficient use of multimodal transportation, including road and inland waterways.

Policy Statement 4: Promote Inland Water Transport and Bypass to Alleviate Road Traffic Pressure

Justification: Given the region's strong historical connection to the inland water transportation system, the plan emphasizes the use of waterways to reduce road traffic pressure. This will be supported by proposals from Roads & Highways (R&H) and Local Government Engineering

Department (LGED) to improve intermodal coordination, ensuring a balanced distribution of transport demand across various modes.

Policy Statement 5: Upgrade National Highways and Implement Load Control Policies

Justification: The plan must support the upgrading of national highways through multi-laning and the implementation of load control policies to minimize road damage. Target mobility of 80-110 kmph will be ensured for important highway corridors, enhancing the efficiency and safety of road transport.

Policy Statement 6: Enhance Connectivity with Economic Zones, Ports, and Major Infrastructure

Justification: To support economic growth and connectivity, the plan proposes the construction of new roads, upgrading of existing roads, and consideration of R&H and BR proposals. These measures will ensure effective inter-zonal and intra-zonal communication, linking Meherpur with economic zones, ports, airports, power stations, inland water transport facilities, rail stations, and major tourist resorts.

Policy Statement 7: Upgrade Inter-District, Zilla, Upazila, and Village Roads

Justification: The plan must prioritize the upgrading of inter-district roads to at least four lanes, zilla and upazila roads to at least two lanes, and village roads to asphalt standards with at least one lane. This will be informed by physical feature surveys, which collect data on road construction materials, widths, and categories, ensuring that road connectivity meets the demands of the district's development.

Policy Statement 8: Prioritize River Connectivity for Trade, Commerce, and Tourism

Justification: The plan must prioritize inter-regional river connectivity to facilitate trade, commerce, and tourism. By improving the navigability of rivers and enhancing river port infrastructure, Meherpur's inland water transportation system will be leveraged to support regional economic development.

Policy Statement 9: Modernize Ports and Expand Storage Areas to Boost Productivity

Justification: To enhance the productivity of ports, the plan must focus on modernizing cargo handling techniques and expanding storage areas. Sufficient land close to ports will be designated

as "urban promotion zones," supporting the efficient functioning and service capacity of these critical facilities.

Policy Statement 10: Promote Economic Development Corridors

Justification: The transportation network will be developed considering strategic centers and proposals from regional road and railway agencies. This will support the creation of economic development corridors, fostering growth and connectivity throughout the Meherpur district.

These policy statements align with the goals and objectives outlined in the Perspective Plan (2021-2041), ensuring that Meherpur District develops a sustainable, smart, and interconnected multimodal transportation system supported by ports and terminals.

3.3 Multi Ethnocentric Everyday Life and Culture Oriented Social Space (Hyperreal class)

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Promote inclusive society that caters for the need of most vulnerable (Section 4.6, pg 47)	Inclusion of youth forum like Meherpur Students Development Association (MESDA) into the planning process ensured local participation and equity as the students represent every corner of the specified society. They helped planners to find out the need of most vulnerable portion of their society.

Policy Statement 1: Promote an Inclusive Society that Caters to the Needs of the Most Vulnerable

Justification: The plan will promote inclusivity by involving youth forums such as the Meherpur Students Development Association (MESDA) in the planning process. Their local insights will help ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable populations are identified and addressed; fostering a more equitable society where every member feels represented and supported.

8th Five Year Plan:

Policy Statements	Reflection
Promote inclusiveness (Section 2.2, pg 34)	Introduction of knowledge sharing, discussion and opinion-based idea generation through social media, news

Policy Statements	Reflection
	articles from print and electronic media, gathering people's perception using android app platform, continuous discussing session and active participation of student's forum, Tea stall Meeting, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) etc. to make the plan robust and inclusive.

Policy Statement 2: Foster Inclusiveness through Knowledge Sharing and Active Participation

Justification: To enhance inclusiveness, the plan will integrate knowledge sharing, discussion, and idea generation through various platforms, including social media, news articles, and mobile apps. This approach will allow for continuous engagement with the community, incorporating diverse perspectives, particularly from students and other active social groups, to shape a socially cohesive and culturally rich environment.

7th Five Year Plan

Policy Statements	Reflection
Reduce regional disparity (Section 12.3, pp 90)	The focus on reducing regional disparity highlights the plan's commitment to addressing economic and social imbalances across different regions. By targeting regional disparities, the plan aims to ensure that all areas particularly less developed or marginalized regions receive adequate resources and support for growth and development. This approach is intended to promote more equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities, fostering balanced regional development and contributing to national unity and cohesion.

Policy Statement 3: Reduce Regional Disparities through Inclusive Planning

Justification: The plan aims to reduce regional disparities by promoting equal access to social spaces and resources across different communities in Meherpur. This includes creating

opportunities for all ethnic groups to participate in cultural activities and community events, ensuring that no community is left behind in the district's social and cultural development.

SDG

Policy Statements	Reflection
Reduce inequality (Goal 10)	The aim of reducing inequality aligns with the broader Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of addressing social and economic disparities within and among countries. This policy statement reflects a commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society by targeting various forms of inequality, including income, wealth, and access to opportunities. By addressing these issues, the goal is to ensure that all individuals have the chance to improve their quality of life, thereby contributing to sustainable and inclusive development.

Policy Statement 4: Reduce Inequality and Foster Social Equity

Justification: In alignment with SDG Goal 10, the plan will prioritize reducing inequality within the district by ensuring that social spaces are designed to be accessible and welcoming to people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses. This includes promoting cultural exchange, mutual respect, and understanding among diverse groups to build a more inclusive and equitable community.

Policy Statement 5: Encourage Multi-Ethnocentric Social Spaces That Reflect Cultural Diversity

Justification: The plan must focus on creating social spaces that reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of Meherpur's population. These spaces must serve as hubs for cultural expression, interaction, and learning, promoting a sense of belonging and cultural pride among all ethnic groups. This approach must support the development of a socially dynamic and culturally rich environment, where diverse traditions and lifestyles are recognized and respected.

These policy statements ensure that the Meherpur District Development Plan supports the creation of a multi-ethnocentric, inclusive, and culturally vibrant society, where social spaces are designed to reflect and accommodate the diverse everyday life and culture of its people.

3.4 Disaster & Climate Change Resiliency

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Conserve forest resources and improve bio-diversity (Section 12.3, pg 201)	This statement underscores the importance of preserving forest resources and enhancing biodiversity. It reflects a commitment to maintaining ecological balance and supporting the health of various ecosystems. By focusing on conservation efforts, this policy aims to protect wildlife habitats, support sustainable ecosystems, and ensure long-term ecological stability.
Target to ensure 20% of the land area under forest cover by 2041 (Table 12.1, pg 202)	Setting a target for 20% forest cover by 2041 indicates a proactive approach to reforestation and afforestation. This goal aims to expand green spaces, combat deforestation, and mitigate climate change effects. Achieving this target would contribute to improved air quality, enhanced biodiversity, and better carbon sequestration, aligning with broader environmental sustainability objectives.
Impose green tax (carbon tax) on fossil fuel; Apply polluters pay principle against illegal disposal of waste in surface waterbodies.	Imposing a green tax on fossil fuels and applying the "polluters pay" principle represent economic instruments designed to internalize environmental costs. These measures incentivize the reduction of carbon emissions and discourage illegal waste disposal, promoting cleaner production and responsible environmental practices. This approach

Policy Statements	Reflection
	aims to reduce pollution and fund environmental conservation initiatives.
Enforce Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA), promote mangrove afforestation (Section 12.7, pg 210)	Enforcing Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) and promoting mangrove afforestation reflect a commitment to protecting sensitive environmental zones and restoring vital ecosystems. ECAs are designated to preserve areas of high ecological value, while mangrove afforestation helps in coastal protection, biodiversity enhancement, and carbon sequestration. These actions contribute to resilience against climate change and ecosystem degradation.
Promote urban physical environment with proper balance between ecology (Section 11.2.1, pg 187)	Promoting a balanced urban physical environment emphasizes integrating ecological considerations into urban planning and development. This approach seeks to harmonize urban growth with environmental sustainability, ensuring that urban areas are developed with respect for natural systems. It supports green infrastructure, reduces ecological footprints, and enhances the quality of life in urban settings by maintaining ecological balance.

Policy Statement 1: Conserve Forest Resources and Improve Biodiversity

Justification: The plan must prioritize the conservation of forest resources and the enhancement of biodiversity within Meherpur District. By protecting natural habitats and promoting reforestation initiatives, the district must strengthen its natural defenses against the impacts of climate change and disasters, contributing to ecological stability and long-term sustainability.

Policy Statement 2: Achieve 20% Vegetation/Green Cover by 2041

Justification: Aiming to ensure that at least 20% of Meherpur's land area is under Vegetation/Green cover by 2041, the plan must support afforestation and reforestation efforts. This target aligns with national goals and must play a crucial role in enhancing the district's resilience

to climate change by sequestering carbon, reducing soil erosion, and mitigating the effects of extreme weather events.

Policy Statement 3: Implement Green Tax and Polluter Pays Principle

Justification: To incentivize environmentally responsible behavior, the plan must introduce a green tax (carbon tax) on fossil fuel usage and enforce the polluter pays principle against illegal waste disposal in surface water bodies. These measures might reduce environmental degradation, promote sustainable practices, and support the district's climate change resiliency by encouraging the reduction of carbon emissions and preventing pollution.

Policy Statement 4: Enforce Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) and Promote Mangrove Afforestation

Justification: The plan must enforce the protection of Ecologically Critical Areas (ECA) and promote mangrove afforestation where applicable. These actions might help safeguard sensitive ecosystems, enhance coastal resilience, and protect against natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, ensuring that vulnerable areas are shielded from the adverse effects of climate change.

Policy Statement 5: Promote an Urban Physical Environment with a Balance between Ecology

Justification: The plan must promote a well-balanced urban physical environment that harmonizes with the local ecology. This includes integrating green spaces, sustainable urban planning practices, and eco-friendly infrastructure into the development of Meherpur's urban areas. Such a balance will enhance the district's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related disasters, while also providing residents with a healthier living environment.

8th Five-year plan

Policy Statements	Reflection
Promote sustainable development that is resilient to disaster and climate change (Section 2.2, pg 34)	This policy statement emphasizes the importance of integrating resilience into sustainable development practices. By focusing on resilience to disaster and climate change, the policy aims to ensure that

Policy Statements	Reflection
	development efforts are robust and adaptable to environmental challenges.

Policy Statement 6: Promote Sustainable Development Resilient to Disaster and Climate Change

Justification: In line with the 8th Five-Year Plan, the Meherpur District Development Plan must promote sustainable development practices that are resilient to disasters and climate change. This includes adopting climate-smart agriculture, constructing disaster-resilient infrastructure, and implementing early warning systems. These strategies might reduce the district's vulnerability to natural hazards and enhance its capacity to adapt to the changing climate.

3.5 Environment Friendly and Sustainable Recycle Based Solid Waste Management and Promotion of Circular Economy

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Ensure proper waste management and clean air in cities (Section 12.3, pg 202)	This policy emphasizes implementing comprehensive waste management systems and controlling air pollution in urban areas. It involves developing efficient waste collection, recycling, and disposal methods, alongside monitoring and regulating pollution sources to enhance air quality. Public engagement and upgraded infrastructure are crucial to achieving these goals and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.
Develop effective waste management model for rural growth centers/markets (Section 6.7, pg 84)	This policy focuses on creating tailored waste management solutions for rural growth centers and markets. It involves designing models that address local waste generation, enhancing local capacities, and developing necessary infrastructure. The aim is to

Policy Statements	Reflection
	ensure sustainable and efficient waste management practices that support broader environmental and economic development in rural areas.

Policy Statement 1: Ensure Proper Waste Management and Clean Air in Urban Areas

Justification: The plan must prioritize the implementation of effective waste management systems in urban areas of Meherpur to ensure clean air and a healthier environment. This includes the development of efficient waste collection, segregation, recycling, and disposal processes that minimize environmental impact, reduce pollution, and contribute to the overall quality of life in the district's cities and towns.

Policy Statement 2: Develop a Waste Management Model for Rural Growth Centers and Markets

Justification: To address the specific needs of rural areas, the plan must focus on creating a waste management model tailored for rural growth centers and markets. This model is supposed to promote the recycling and reuse of waste materials, reducing the environmental footprint of rural communities and supporting the transition to a circular economy, where waste is minimized, and resources are conserved.

Policy Statement 3: Promote the Circular Economy through Recycling and Reuse

Justification: The plan must encourage the adoption of circular economy principles by promoting recycling and reuse practices within Meherpur. This involves integrating waste management with resource recovery processes, where waste materials are converted into valuable resources that can be reintegrated into the production cycle. By doing so, the district might reduce its reliance on finite resources, lower waste generation, and create new economic opportunities through sustainable practices.

Policy Statement 4: Implement Community-Based Waste Management Programs

Justification: The plan must support the establishment of community-based waste management programs that engage local residents in the recycling and proper disposal of waste. These programs are supposed to foster environmental stewardship, raise awareness about the benefits of recycling, and empower communities to take an active role in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

Policy Statement 5: Incentivize Environmentally Friendly Waste Management Practices

Justification: To encourage the adoption of sustainable waste management practices, the plan must introduce incentives for businesses and households that engage in recycling, composting, and other eco-friendly waste management activities. These incentives could include tax breaks, subsidies, or recognition programs that reward efforts to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

3.6 Access to Pure Drinking Water and Proper Sanitation

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Ensure tap water connectivity in 100% urban households (Table 12.1, pg 202)	This policy aims to provide universal access to safe and reliable tap water for all urban residents. It ensures that every household is connected to a municipal water supply system, improving public health and convenience.
Ensure waste water treatment facility in 100% urban centers (Table 12.1, pg 202)	This policy focuses on establishing comprehensive wastewater treatment facilities in all urban centers. It aims to prevent pollution, protect water resources, and enhance urban sanitation.
Promote rainwater harvesting in coastal/hilly/rain fed areas (Section 6.4.3, pg 79)	This policy encourages the collection and use of rainwater in regions prone to irregular water supply. It aims to enhance water availability and reduce dependency on traditional sources, particularly in areas vulnerable to water scarcity.
Ensure availability of safe water with special attention to salinity prone areas (Section 6.7, pg 83)	This policy addresses the challenge of water salinity in certain regions by ensuring access to safe, non-saline water. It aims to protect public health and improve water quality in affected areas.
Ensure better availability of river and rain based fresh surface water (Section 12.5.2, pg 203)	This policy focuses on enhancing the availability and quality of fresh surface water from rivers and rainfall. It aims to support water security and

Policy Statements	Reflection
	sustainable management of surface water resources.

Policy Statement 1: Ensure 100% Tap Water Connectivity in Urban Households

Justification: The plan must ensure that every urban household in Meherpur District has access to tap water by 2041. This initiative aims to provide reliable and safe drinking water directly to homes, improving public health outcomes and contributing to the overall quality of life in urban areas.

Policy Statement 2: Establish Wastewater Treatment Facilities in All Urban Centers

Justification: The plan must prioritize the development of wastewater treatment facilities in all urban centers within Meherpur District. This infrastructure is critical for managing wastewater, reducing pollution, and protecting water resources, ensuring a cleaner and healthier urban environment.

Policy Statement 3: Promote Rainwater Harvesting

Justification: Recognizing the importance of rainwater as a sustainable water source, the plan must promote rainwater harvesting in areas where water availability is affected by geographical and climatic conditions. This might reduce reliance on groundwater and provide an alternative source of clean water, particularly in water-stressed areas.

Policy Statement 4: Ensure Availability of Safe Water with Special Attention to Salinity-Prone Areas

Justification: The plan must focus on providing safe drinking water in salinity-prone areas of Meherpur District. Special measures, such as desalination and appropriate filtration technologies, must be implemented to ensure that residents in these areas have access to clean and safe water, addressing a critical public health need.

Policy Statement 5: Enhance Availability of River and Rain-Based Fresh Surface Water

Justification: The plan must work towards better utilization and conservation of river and rain-based fresh surface water resources. This includes strategies for capturing, storing, and distributing

surface water to meet the needs of communities, particularly in regions where groundwater is limited or stressed.

Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy (2016-2031):

Policy Statements	Reflection
Reduce dependency on groundwater and ensure natural and artificial recharge of groundwater (Section 7.2.5, pg 29)	This policy seeks to reduce over-reliance on groundwater by promoting alternative water sources and enhancing both natural and artificial recharge methods. It aims to sustain groundwater levels and ensure long-term water availability.
Reduce water pollution and ensure strict and regular quality monitoring (Section 7.2.5, pg 29)	This policy focuses on minimizing water pollution through stringent regulations and regular quality monitoring. It aims to protect water resources, improve public health, and ensure that water remains safe for all uses.

Policy Statement 6: Reduce Dependency on Groundwater and Ensure Groundwater Recharge

Justification: To sustain groundwater levels, the plan must promote a reduction in groundwater extraction and implement measures for both natural and artificial groundwater recharge. This approach is supposed to help maintain water table levels, prevent over-extraction, and ensure a sustainable supply of groundwater for future generations.

Policy Statement 7: Reduce Water Pollution and Implement Strict Quality Monitoring

Justification: The plan must enforce strict measures to reduce water pollution and establish regular water quality monitoring across Meherpur District. This may involve regulating industrial discharge, improving sanitation infrastructure, and ensuring that drinking water meets safety standards, protecting both public health and the environment.

Bangladesh Water Act 2013

Policy Statements	Reflection
Prioritize right to potable water and water for hygiene/ sanitation (Section 3, pg 4)	This policy underscores the fundamental right to access clean drinking water and water for essential hygiene and sanitation. Ensuring this priority helps meet basic human needs and supports public health.
Promote integrated use of surface and ground water, emphasizing the use of rain water.	This policy advocates for a holistic approach to water management, integrating both surface and groundwater resources. Emphasizing rainwater harvesting helps diversify water sources and enhances resilience against water shortages.
Priority of water use in Water Stress Area in following order: Water in household, Water in agriculture and aquaculture, for amusement etc. (Section 18, pg 16).	In water-stressed regions, this policy prioritizes water allocation for essential uses such as household needs and agriculture. This ensures that the most critical needs are met before allocating water for less essential purposes.

Policy Statement 8: Prioritize Potable Water and Sanitation in Water-Stressed Areas

Justification: In accordance with the Bangladesh Water Act 2013, the plan must prioritize the provision of potable water and sanitation services in water-stressed areas. This includes prioritizing water use for household consumption, followed by agriculture and aquaculture, to ensure that the most critical needs are met during periods of water scarcity.

Policy Statement 9: Promote Integrated Use of Surface and Groundwater, with Emphasis on Rainwater

Justification: The plan must advocate for an integrated approach to water resource management, combining the use of surface water, groundwater, and rainwater. This strategy shall ensure a more balanced and sustainable use of water resources, reducing pressure on any single source and enhancing the overall resilience of the district's water supply.

3.7 Inter-connected Multitier Drainage System

Perspective Plan (2021-2041)

Policy Statements	Reflection
Ensure proper drainage, and modern sewerage in cities. (Section 12.3, pg 202)	This policy focuses on improving urban infrastructure by establishing effective drainage and sewerage systems. Proper drainage and modern sewerage are essential for maintaining public health, preventing flooding, and ensuring a high quality of urban living.
Ensure modern sewerage connection in 100% urban households (Table 12.1, pg 202)	The aim is to provide comprehensive sewerage coverage to all urban households, which will enhance sanitation, reduce pollution, and improve overall urban hygiene and living standards.

Policy Statement 1: Ensure Proper Drainage and Modern Sewerage Systems in Urban Areas

Justification: The plan must prioritize the development of an integrated drainage and sewerage system in Meherpur's urban areas to manage storm water and wastewater effectively. This will help prevent urban flooding, reduce waterlogging, and improve sanitation, contributing to a healthier and more resilient urban environment.

Policy Statement 2: Achieve 100% Modern Sewerage Connectivity in Urban Households

Justification: To ensure comprehensive sanitation coverage, the plan aims to provide modern sewerage connections to 100% of urban households by 2041. This initiative is crucial for the proper disposal of wastewater, reducing environmental contamination, and protecting public health in densely populated areas.

Policy Statement 3: Develop an Inter-Connected Multitier Drainage Network

Justification: The plan must establish a multitier drainage network that interconnects various drainage systems across Meherpur District, ensuring efficient water flow and drainage across different urban and rural areas. This interconnected approach will help manage water runoff during heavy rains, prevent erosion, and reduce the risk of floods by facilitating the seamless movement of water through primary, secondary, and tertiary drains.

Policy Statement 4: Incorporate Climate-Resilient Infrastructure in Drainage Systems

Justification: The plan must integrate climate-resilient infrastructure into the design and construction of drainage systems to withstand extreme weather events and changing rainfall patterns. This includes the use of permeable materials, retention basins, and green infrastructure that not only manage water flow but also enhance the local ecosystem and reduce the urban heat island effect.

Policy Statement 5: Promote Regular Maintenance and Upgrading of Drainage Infrastructure

Justification: The plan must ensure that drainage infrastructure is regularly maintained and upgraded to meet the evolving needs of the district. Regular maintenance will prevent blockages, reduce the risk of system failure during critical times, and extend the lifespan of the infrastructure, thereby ensuring the continuous and efficient operation of the drainage network.

Policy Statement 6: Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Justification: The plan must encourage the adoption of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) that mimic natural processes to manage storm water runoff. SUDS techniques such as swales, rain gardens, and green roofs will be promoted to enhance water infiltration, reduce runoff, and improve water quality, making the urban environment more sustainable and resilient to climate change.