

Implementation of Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Commitments of the New Government: Strategic Priorities Recommended by TIB

With a strong public mandate, the new government led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has assumed office through the 13th National Parliament at a pivotal moment in Bangladesh's democratic transition. Following the fall of an authoritarian and kleptocratic regime—brought about through the unprecedented sacrifices and bloodshed of the masses—the country now faces a rare opportunity to rebuild its governance system on the foundations of accountability, transparency, and integrity.

The government's commitment to this aspiration has been reflected in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework, particularly as articulated in the party's election manifesto, the election address delivered by the BNP Chairperson and broadcast on Bangladesh Television (BTV), and the Prime Minister's first address to the nation after taking the oath of office. Shortly after the cabinet was formed, the government introduced several notable initiatives intended to demonstrate ethical leadership. These include the announcement that the Leader of the House and Members of Parliament will refrain from availing themselves of duty-free vehicles and government-allocated plots, as well as the Prime Minister's decision to forego certain official privileges by using a personal vehicle for official duties and covering associated fuel expenses personally. Such measures have set important precedents and contributed to strengthening public confidence.

In support of efforts to reinforce accountable democratic institutions, promote good governance, and advance effective anti-corruption measures, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has long been engaged in research, advocacy, and citizen engagement initiatives. The present set of strategic recommendations has been developed based on evidence-based research and contextual analysis, to integrate anti-corruption and good governance strategies into the core structure of the government's strategic planning and implementation roadmap for its five-year term.

In formulating these recommendations, due consideration has been given to the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework, the party's election manifesto, the July Charter, the reform proposals of the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission, and TIB's ongoing research and advocacy on governance and anti-corruption. TIB is eager to provide further support in developing more detailed sector-specific and institution-based policy recommendations and action plans to advance these reform objectives.

Strategic Recommendations for Strengthening Accountable Governance and Anti-Corruption

- ❖ An integrated national strategy and implementation roadmap should be formulated, drawing on the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework, election manifesto, and the July Charter, ensuring coherence among reform commitments.
- ❖ In accordance with this integrated roadmap, good governance and anti-corruption measures must be embedded as mandatory components within all major policy and

implementation plans. Effective and visible corruption prevention is essential for the successful realisation of the government's commitments.

- ❖ In implementing electoral commitments related to anti-corruption, the government should systematically identify the sources, nature, and mechanisms of corruption risks and adopt targeted strategies to mitigate these challenges.
- ❖ In the interest of transparency, the government should proactively disclose which ordinances issued during the interim government will be presented before the 13th National Parliament, which will not be considered, and the reasons for such decisions.
- ❖ The government should demonstrate zero tolerance for corruption at the highest political level, ensuring integrity within the ruling party, its affiliated organizations, and all spheres influenced by partisan loyalty. Particular care must be taken to prevent the emergence of a “now it is our turn” culture among party leaders, activists, and supporters, as well as within the bureaucracy, business community, and professional groups.
- ❖ A preventive strategy should be adopted to address internal risks within the ruling party, ensuring that the party's electoral success does not lead to the emergence of factions or networks that could undermine governance integrity. Any association with political or public office must not become a license for abuse of power or corrupt practices.
- ❖ Drawing upon international good practice, a comprehensive code of conduct for elected representatives at all levels should be formulated in consultation with experts and stakeholders.
- ❖ Clear and enforceable directives must be issued from the highest levels of government to prevent and punish abuse of power, corruption, factional favoritism, extortion, and illegal occupation of public or private property.
- ❖ To operationalise anti-corruption commitments, and in line with Article 74 of the July Charter, all elected representatives should be required to submit and publicly disclose their income, expenditures, and assets—including those of immediate family members—within three months of assuming office, with annual updates published on official websites. Similar disclosure requirements should apply to public officials and employees whose remuneration is funded by the state.
- ❖ In line with the unanimously adopted Article 43 of the July National Charter, Article 20(2) of the Constitution should be amended to explicitly criminalise the abuse of constitutional or legal authority.
- ❖ A comprehensive National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) should be adopted, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors. These should include the legislature, executive, judiciary, public administration, law enforcement agencies, Election Commission, Ombudsperson, Office of the

Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), local government institutions, political parties, media, civil society, and the corporate sector.

- ❖ An Office of the Ombudsperson, as provided under Article 77 of the Constitution, should be established through appropriate legislation and empowered to monitor and support the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy.
- ❖ Legislation should be enacted to permanently abolish the practice of legalising undisclosed or illicit wealth (“black money”).
- ❖ A clear legal framework should be introduced to prevent and manage conflicts of interest among public officials and influential decision-makers whose actions affect the public interest.
- ❖ A Beneficial Ownership Transparency Act should be enacted, requiring the mandatory disclosure of beneficial ownership of companies, trusts, and foundations through a publicly accessible register to prevent fraud, corruption, and misuse of public resources.
- ❖ To address tax evasion, money laundering, and illicit financial flows, Bangladesh should join the Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters Convention (MAAC) and implement the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) to strengthen transparency in financial transactions.
- ❖ The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) should be abolished, and credible investigations should be conducted into allegations of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, corruption, and abuse of authority, ensuring accountability through due legal processes.
- ❖ Comprehensive reforms should be undertaken within intelligence agencies (DGFI, SB, DB, NSI, etc.) to prevent their misuse of political repression, human rights violations, extortion, or institutional capture.
- ❖ The flawed Police Commission Ordinance, 2025, issued during the interim government, should be repealed and replaced with a new Police Commission Act developed through consultation with experts and stakeholders.
- ❖ Immediate steps should be taken to constitute the Information Commission and ensure its effective functioning.
- ❖ An enabling environment must be ensured so that all constitutional and statutory oversight institutions—including the Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Information Commission, Human Rights Commission, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and Public Service Commission—can operate independently and free from political influence. Partisan appointments to these institutions should be discontinued.

- ❖ In line with the recommendations of the Local Government Reform Commission, arrangements should be made to ensure non-partisan local government elections. A roadmap should also be developed to strengthen the financial, institutional, and administrative capacity of local government institutions (LGIs).
- ❖ Appointments and promotions within government bodies, autonomous institutions, regulatory agencies, and local government should be based strictly on merit, competence, and experience, free from political considerations.
- ❖ Government employees should be prohibited from direct or indirect involvement in partisan political activities.
- ❖ Politically affiliated professional or service-based associations should be restructured or replaced with non-partisan bodies to safeguard professional integrity and independence.
- ❖ National development planning should be guided by transparency, accountability, equity, and citizen-centered principles, ensuring freedom from corruption and discrimination.
- ❖ Alongside improving domestic resource mobilisation, strong mechanisms for transparency and accountability should be established in revenue collection and public financial management.
- ❖ A Diversity Commission should be established to safeguard the rights and identities of communities based on ethnicity, religion, caste, language, and occupation, while promoting social cohesion and mutual respect.
- ❖ A clear and time-bound roadmap should be adopted for the full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.
- ❖ All activities that undermine freedom of thought and conscience, freedom of expression, cultural diversity, peaceful assembly, and freedom of religion or belief must be halted.
- ❖ Investigations into corruption allegations involving high-profile individuals initiated during and after the authoritarian regime should continue without interference.
- ❖ To prevent policy capture, collusion, syndicate practices, corruption, and illicit financial flows within the private sector, a Business Integrity Strategy should be developed and implemented.
- ❖ To ensure the independent and conflict-of-interest-free functioning of Bangladesh Bank, the appointment of the Governor should be cancelled to ensure transparency, merit, and independence. A new Governor should be appointed who possesses proven competence and experience in the relevant sector and, above all, is capable of performing the responsibilities of the position free from any conflict of interest.
- ❖ Amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 should introduce a transparent framework for the appointment and removal of senior officials, reduce government

representation on the board, and increase the number of independent expert members.

- ❖ The Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP 2023) should be cancelled, and a revised energy strategy should be developed through stakeholder consultation, prioritizing renewable energy and long-term sustainability.
- ❖ As a climate-vulnerable country, Bangladesh should advocate internationally for climate finance to be provided as compensation rather than loans, insurance schemes, or conditional grants.
- ❖ Transparency and accountability must be ensured in the management of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund and other climate funds, including measures to prevent misuse and recover funds currently stuck in Padma Bank.

Policy Recommendations for the Prevention of Corruption

Significant Commitments in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework

Adoption of visible and effective measures to prevent corruption, including the appointment of an Ombudsperson

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- Building a such Bangladesh where the sacredness of the vote is upheld; terrorism, corruption, and discrimination will be eliminated; and no one will be above the law
- Enacting legislation to regulate appointments to the Public Service Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- Reforming the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Anti-Corruption Act, alongside procedural reforms to ensure transparency and accountability within the Commission
- With parliamentary approval, formally joining the Open Government Partnership (OGP) as a state party
- Ensuring legal provisions enabling the Anti-Corruption Commission or any authorised authority, through court approval, to requisition income tax returns of any individual
- Ensure full transparency across all sectors through a strong Right to Information framework, including open tendering, mandatory asset declarations, and real-time auditing, to build a corruption-free Bangladesh
- Implementing performance audits of public expenditure and government projects
- Preventing money laundering and repatriating money illicitly transferred abroad during the previous authoritarian period

Given that no reform initiative can be effective or sustainable without successfully preventing irregularities and corruption, the recommendations proposed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Reform Commission must be implemented with due priority. In particular, the following legal and institutional reform measures should be undertaken:

Amendment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

1. To address the deficiencies of the *Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*, which was promulgated at the final stage of the interim government's tenure, necessary amendments should be undertaken in line with the

recommendations of the ACC Reform Commission. In particular, the following legal and institutional provisions should be revised and incorporated:

- Transfer the authority to choose the opposition party-nominated member of the ACC selection committee from the Speaker of Parliament to the Leader of the Opposition [Article 7 (1) (e)].
- Assign the responsibility to the Chief Justice for nominating one Bangladeshi citizen with proven expertise in anti-corruption and good governance to serve as a member of the Selection Committee [Article 7 (1) (f)].
- With a view to ensuring the highest level of independence and accountability of ACC, the highly significant strategic proposal “Review Committee” should be incorporated into law (ACC-RC Recommendation -15).
- Reduce the condition of professional experience for appointment as Commissioner of ACC from 20 years to 15 years [Article 8 (a) (1)].
- To address the lack of transparency in the appointment of the Chairperson and Commissioners, a provision should be introduced requiring the publication of the names of shortlisted candidates. To ensure the formation of a strong and participatory Search Committee, a clear provision should be introduced that prevents executive and bureaucratic control. [Article 7 (2)].
- Establish an independent “Integrity Unit” within the ACC to combat internal corruption (ACC-RC Recommendation -46).
- Ensure the Commission’s adequate financial capacity with full independence (ACC-RC proposal-42).
- The ACC's overall operations, especially complaint management, investigation, undercover inquiries, and prosecution, should be brought under end-to-end automation (ACC-RC Recommendation -38).
- Introduce provisions for both positive and negative incentives for ACC personnel, including the effective enforcement of disciplinary measures against corrupt officials within the Commission [Article 26(3) and 27(3)].
- The proportion of appointments on deputation to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), particularly to senior positions, should be limited to a maximum of 10 percent [Article 16].
- Repeal the requirement for mandatory preliminary inquiry by the Commission before investigation upon receipt of specific information about an offense, and instead allow for the direct filing of a First Information Report (FIR) at both local and central levels [Article 20 AA (1)].
- Abolish the provision in the ordinance that allows compromise in corruption cases, specifically, the broad opportunity for sentence remission if an accused person admits guilt and agrees to pay a fine, compensation, or both [Article 28 (4)].
- In light of Article 21 of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC); define private sector bribery as a distinct criminal offense (ACC-RC Recommendation -8).

- The current vacant positions in the ACC must be filled without delay. Additionally, a new organogram including required human resource must be enforced as soon as possible (ACC-RC Recommendation -32).

Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission (ACC-RC) Recommendations

2. To prevent the abuse of constitutional and legal powers, Article 20(2) of the Constitution should be amended as follows: *“The State shall create conditions where as a general principle, no individual can abuse constitutional or legal authority for personal gain, or enjoy unearned income, and in which human labour in every form, intellectual and physical, shall become a fuller expression of creative endeavour and of the human personality”* (ACC-RC Recommendation-1).
3. Enact clear legal provisions to ensure transparency in political and electoral financing. This should include mandatory submission of annually updated, item-wise income and asset statements by all elected representatives and their family members immediately after assuming office, with the provision of publishing on the Election Commission’s website for public scrutiny (ACC-RC Recommendation-6).
4. Bangladesh should formally join the *Open Government Partnership (OGP)* to adopt international best practices in transparent governance across public, private, and individual sectors (ACC-RC Recommendation-10).
5. Through the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), focal persons must be designated, authorized by respective agencies such as NBR, CID, Bangladesh Police, BFIU, Office of the Attorney General, and the Directorate of Registration to assist the ACC in its work (ACC-RC Recommendation-27).
6. Adopt broad preventive measures against corruption through short, medium, and long-term action plans. These should creatively engage citizens and the younger generation with the understanding that corruption is not only a punishable offense but also a socially, culturally, and religiously unacceptable, destructive, and discriminatory disease (ACC-RC Recommendation-47).

Recommendations on Rule of Law and Human Rights

Significant Commitments in the BNP’s 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Forming a Judicial Commission, reinstate the Supreme Judicial Council, and enact a law for appointing judges in accordance with the constitution for reforming the judicial system
- Establishing the rule of law and human rights at all levels.

Significant Commitments in the BNP’s Election Manifesto

- Building a Bangladesh where no one is above the law.
- Ensuring the effective independence of the judiciary in light of the Constitution of Bangladesh and the verdict of the Masdar Hossain case.
- Strengthening the Supreme Judicial Council.
- Ensuring the protection of human rights as per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and appointing members to the Human Rights Commission based on specific criteria.

- Forming a Police Commission to ensure professionalism and accountability in the police force and to make police services people-friendly; reviewing and reforming the relevant ordinance to enact appropriate law.
- Establishing victim-centric and restorative justice through a *Truth and Healing Commission* to uncover human rights violations committed during the fascist period, ensure meaningful compensation to victims and survivors, and bring perpetrators to justice through due process.

7. Continue fair investigations and judicial proceedings, free from partisan political considerations of all killings, crimes, and human rights violations committed during the July mass uprising and under the authoritarian government; and take effective measures and initiatives to prevent such grave human rights violations in the future.
8. Take initiatives to enhance the necessary financial and institutional capacity to ensure the practical implementation of all reform measures undertaken to guarantee the distinct identity, independence, and impartiality of the judiciary, including the establishment of an independent secretariat.
9. The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) must be abolished, and exemplary punishment must be ensured following proper investigations into allegations against RAB members involving extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, other human rights violations, irregularities, corruption, and abuse of power.
10. Adopt specific strategies or visible measures to address law-and-order-related issues in the country—such as murder, robbery, theft, mugging, rape, violence against women and children, looting, anarchy, attacks on minority and marginalised communities, tendencies of taking the law into one’s own hands (“mob” actions), and the use of mobs to force fulfill the demands.

Repeal the “Police Commission Ordinance, 2025” and Enact a New Law

11. The flawed and unacceptable “*Police Commission Ordinance, 2025*” issued during the interim government must be repealed, and a new Police Commission Act should be enacted based on feedback from relevant stakeholders. The following issues must be taken into consideration:
 - In forming an independent and impartial Police Commission (appointment of chairperson and members), opportunities for former and current bureaucrats and police officers to become members of the commission should be stopped, in line with international good practices.
 - The rank, salary, allowances, and other benefits of the commission’s chairperson and members should be aligned with those of judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division, respectively, ensuring consistency with other commissions of similar status.
 - The number of persons appointed on deputation or as government employees must not exceed 10% of the commission’s total workforce; the reasons for appointing government officials on deputation must be made public; and recruitment for such positions must always remain open, clear, transparent, and merit-based.

Recommendations on the Right to Information and Information Disclosure

Significant Commitments in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Ensuring freedom of information and expression through establishing a Media Commission

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- Ensuring full transparency in all sectors and strengthening the Right to Information law to build a corruption-free Bangladesh

12. The *“Right to Information (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026”* issued at the end of the interim government must be amended through consultations with relevant stakeholders, and the following issues should be included:

- Include “note sheets” in the definition of information, so that the role played by each officer or employee involved in a decision-making process becomes clear.
- Expand the scope of authorities obligated to provide information to include any private organisation or institution acting on behalf of the government or under contract with the government or any government body or institution, political parties registered with the Election Commission, government, autonomous, or local government bodies or institutions.
- Harmonize the status, salary, allowances, and benefits of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners with those of judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division, ensuring consistency with other commissions.
- Bring the appellate authorities under accountability.

13. To ensure citizens' right to information, the unrestricted flow of information within state institutions must be guaranteed; the existing practices of withholding information and failing to proactively disclose information in government offices must be stopped.

14. To ensure the right to information, the *“Official Secrets Act, 1923”* must be repealed.

Cyber Security and Data Protection Recommendations

15. The *“Cyber Security Ordinance, 2025”* must be amended to address the following risks and shortcomings:

- Risk of misuse of imprisonment or fines for publishing religious or ethnic violence, hate, or inflammatory content in cyberspace
- Since the National Cyber Security Agency remains fully under government control, there is a risk of conflict of interest in sensitive matters such as content blocking
- As the National Cyber Security Council is formed under the leadership of the head of government, it creates a risk of excessive government power in cyberspace. In addition, among the 25 members of the council, there are only two ICT or human

rights experts, leading to inadequate representation of stakeholders outside the government.

16. The “*Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025*” must be amended to address the following risks and gaps:

- The law does not adequately reflect internationally recognized data-protection principles (fairness, transparency, lawfulness, primacy of human rights, purpose limitation, data minimization, accuracy, integrity and confidentiality, and accountability).
- The provision of allowing data controllers and processors to avoid responsibilities on the grounds of “disproportionate effort or expense” creates opportunities for exemption and gives authorities discretionary power, which may lead to misuse.
- Under the pretext of “crime prevention,” the law permits broad access to personal data, raising concerns that such powers may be used for control and surveillance. Due to a lack of clear definitions, authorities may access personal data in the name of national security or the protection of public interest.

17. The “*National Data Management Ordinance, 2025*” must be amended to address the following risks and deficiencies:

- Under the *Personal Data Protection Ordinance, 2025*, the responsibility for ensuring the management, interoperability, and security of all types of data has been assigned to the National Data Management Authority through a separate ordinance. However, according to international best practices, such authorities are usually established as an integral part of the main data protection law itself.
- Although the ordinance states that “*the Authority will remain independent in performing its duties*”, its Chairperson and Members are selected by a committee led by the Cabinet Secretary, which may undermine the Authority’s independence and neutrality due to bureaucratic influence.
- The Authority is simultaneously tasked with developing and operating an interoperability gateway or NRDEX platform under the same ordinance, effectively making it a data-management operator itself, creating a clear conflict-of-interest environment.

Recommendations regarding constitutional, statutory, government, autonomous, and local government institutions

Significant Commitments in the BNP’s 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Reorganizing and strengthening all state, constitutional, and statutory institutions to ensure transparency.
- Forming an Administrative Reform Commission to establish people-centric and welfare-oriented administration.
- Empowering and making local government institutions autonomous to promote decentralization of administration and services.

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- Ensuring accountability at every level of the state; fostering a culture of accountability through the practice of democracy.
- Enacting laws for appointments to the Public Service Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- The Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, and the Chairman and members of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, shall be appointed by the government in accordance with the law.
- Establishing people-friendly and accountable public administration.
- Enhancing the accountability of local government institutions and freeing them from undue control

18. To ensure the capacity, effectiveness, and accountability of local government institutions, the following measures must be taken in line with the recommendations of the Local Government Reform Commission:

- Ensure non-partisan elections free from political influence at all levels of local government institutions.
- Formulate specific plans and roadmaps to guarantee economic and institutional capacity, effectiveness, and accountability of local government.

19. The **"Public Audit Ordinance, 2025"** must be amended to address the following shortcomings:

- The lack of provision to audit revenue assessment and collection (Section 6) could undermine the constitutional status and independence of the CAG, reduce accountability in government revenue mobilisation, and leave irregularities and tax evasion outside the scope of oversight.
- Requirements for prior government approval for contracts with international/foreign organizations, and provision for the government to formulate rules in consultation with the OCAg, are contradictory to the constitutional status of the OCAg.
- There is no mandatory requirement for the timely publication of the annual report.

20. The **"Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance, 2025"** must be amended to address the following issues:

- The restructuring of the NBR (National Board of Revenue) into two separate divisions, namely the Revenue Policy Division and the Revenue Management Division, is encouraging. However, considering international best practices, the revenue-collecting division has not been transformed into an independent statutory authority/agency with sufficient legal protection. This raises questions about how effective the reforms will be in achieving the core objective of increasing revenue collection.

21. The practice of mobilizing "mobs" from various state institutions to oust responsible officials must be strictly prevented.

Recommendations for Adopting a Transparent, Accountable, and People-Centric Development Strategy

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- Implement “performance audits” of government and project expenditures to enhance accountability in public spending and ensure that each project achieves its intended objectives.
- Take a strict stance against waste, inefficiency, and politically motivated display-oriented expenditures. For all major projects, cost-benefit analysis, parliamentary oversight, and transparent audits must be made mandatory.

22. The legal and institutional weaknesses that hinder in achieving “value for money” in all types of public procurement, development project planning, and implementation, and that create opportunities for irregularities and corruption must be identified and reformed.

23. Maximum transparency and accountability must be ensured in the use of *public money* or state funds.

Recommendations for Ensuring Equality of Rights and Justice

Significant Commitments in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Ensuring the highest and most effective guarantee of religious freedom

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- BNP is committed to ensuring equitable, equality-based, and balanced development for all people in all regions of the country.
- Based on the principle “*Religion belongs to individuals, but the State belongs to everyone,*” every person of every faith will enjoy full freedom to practice their own religion. People of all religions, communities, clans, and groups across the country will peacefully and safely observe their religious practices and festivals.
- Ensure full protection of the constitutional social, political, cultural, economic, religious, and civic rights of all ethnic groups—large or small, in the hills or plains—regardless of political affiliation, religion, caste, or ethnicity; and guarantee the security of their lives, dignity, and property.
- Establish a “Department of Ethnic Community Development” to preserve the linguistic, literary, and cultural distinctiveness of ethnic communities living in different parts of the country and to promote balanced development.
- Reassess the 1997 Peace Accord with the participation of all relevant parties, and adopt confidence-building measures (CBMs) and social rehabilitation programs for reintegrating members of armed groups into normal civilian life after renouncing violence.
- Modernize district hospitals in the three hill districts to ensure healthcare services; develop special programs and special economic zones for investment in hill products, handicrafts, and eco-tourism, as well as for local youth employment and skills development; and gradually bring eligible members of small ethnic groups from both hills and plains under the coverage of 100% social safety-net protection.

24. A specific, actionable, and time-bound work plan must be adopted to ensure that the benefits of socio-economic development reach everyone, particularly the poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged populations, as well as reduce the income and wealth inequality.
25. The distinct ethnic identities of Indigenous peoples and the identity of Dalit communities must be granted through constitutional recognition, and international conventions relating to Indigenous peoples' rights must be effectively implemented.
26. Issues related to the rights and interests of Indigenous and Dalit communities must be included under the jurisdiction of a specialised ministry.
27. Establishing a separate 'Land Commission' to resolve land-related issues of indigenous peoples living in the plain lands.
28. An anti-discrimination law must be enacted and implemented to eliminate barriers that prevent marginalized groups from accessing government services, and to ensure inclusive and accountable service delivery.

Recommendations for Establishing Good Governance in the Private and Corporate Sectors

29. Undertake legal and institutional reforms in the relevant regulatory and oversight systems to ensure transparent, accountable, and corruption-free private sector services, especially in private education, health, telecommunications, and mobile financial services.
30. Identify all forms of irregularities and corruption existing in the transport sector, including owner-worker associations, politically influential groups, toll-collection syndicates, and private transport businesses, and take strict measures to stop them and ensure commuter-friendly and safe transport services.
31. End syndicate control over daily essential commodities and establish an efficient, competitive market system through necessary legal reforms and coordinated efforts among relevant institutions to maintain prices at an affordable level.

Recommendations related to Ensuring Governance in Bank and Financial Sector

Significant Commitments in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework

- The central bank's autonomy, power, and oversight system will be strengthened to ensure discipline in the country's financial institutions.
- Increase effective supervision of the Bangladesh Bank over public and private banks and financial institutions.
- Abolishing the banking division of the Ministry of Finance, and the responsibility of the management and supervision of the state-owned banks will be entrusted to the central bank.
- Political interference in bank operations will be stopped, and bank management policies will be freed from family influence.
- The problem of high non-performing loans (NPL) in financial institutions will be reviewed, those responsible will be brought under the law, and swift measures will be taken to resolve the problems of these institutions.

- Ensure transparency by breaking the syndicate to protect the interests of investors in the stock market.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission will be developed as an independent and autonomous institution through increasing the transparency and accountability and bringing it under artificial intelligence-based supervision.
- A 'Capital Market Reform Commission' will be formed for capital market reforms; a special investigation commission will be formed to investigate irregularities in the capital market over the past 15 years; punitive measures will be taken against those involved in irregularities and fraud in the share market.

32. To establish governance in the banking Sector

- Eliminate the dual governance system in the regulation and supervision of the banking sector, especially state-owned banks, by dissolving the Financial Institutions Division under the Ministry of Finance.
- Ensure exemplary punishment for individuals, as well as officials and directors of the Bangladesh Bank and commercial banks, involved in loan fraud, all types of deception, irregularities, and corruption in the banking sector.
- Free the bank and financial sectors from group and family control (cronyism/nepotism); remove politically and business-interested individuals from the board of directors and management of the Bangladesh Bank and all commercial banks, and stop this practice.
- An independent, autonomous, and highly empowered organization should be established, considering the large volume of non-performing loans and the slow, complex recovery process in the banking sector, in line with international best practices, and in consultation with relevant experts free from any conflict of interest.

33. To prevent money laundering, the capacity of the BFIU, NBR, Bangladesh Bank, the Attorney General's Office, CID, Bangladesh Police, and other relevant institutions should be strengthened, and accountability should be ensured.

34. Investigate the irregularities and corruption that occurred in the capital market in the past and bring those involved in corruption to justice; create an independent, transparent, and accountable regulatory framework for the capital market, freeing it from syndicates and corruption.

Recommendations related to the Power and Energy Sector

Significant Commitments in the BNP's 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Modernize the power, energy, and mineral sectors by prioritizing the exploration of natural resources and the use of renewable and mixed energy.

Significant Commitments in the BNP's Election Manifesto

- Tax breaks and low-cost green financing facilities will be provided for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Efforts will be intensified to achieve the goal of raising the share of renewable energy to 20% in the total energy mix by 2030; gradually reducing the dependence on fossil fuels, a green energy-based economy will be built.

- Initiatives will be taken for water management and low-cost hydropower generation through regional cooperation.

35. The use of fossil fuels should be gradually phased out, and the share of renewable energy should increase in the energy mix; in this regard, the following actions are recommended on a priority basis:

- To achieve the ‘Net-Zero’ target by 2050, including the transition to renewable energy, an independent oversight and regulatory authority should be formed, comprising relevant experts and civil society representatives to stop policy capture, prevent conflicts of interest, and ensure accountability in the decision-making process for the energy sector.
- Time-bound targets should be set to gradually reduce the financing and use of fossil fuel-based projects to implement international commitments and achieve renewable energy goals.
- The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) should be given the status of an autonomous institution, and its capacity should be increased to lead the activities related to the transition to renewable energy.

Recommendations related to Environment, Climate vulnerability, Climate justice, and Climate Finance Governance

Significant Commitments in the BNP’s 31-Point State Reform Framework

- Effective initiatives will be taken to address climate change-related crises and prevent natural disasters, and for the river management and canal excavation.

Significant Commitments in the BNP’s Election Manifesto

- Conservation of forests, wetlands, and grazing lands: Effective initiatives will be taken to revitalize the country’s forest areas.
- Deforestation, forest encroachment, theft of forest resources, hill razing, damage to mangrove forests, killing of wildlife, etc., activities will be strictly suppressed; ensure exemplary punishment against those involved in such activities.
- Discourage the establishment of industries and factories in wildlife habitats and sanctuary areas; Take effective initiatives to conserve natural resources and maintain the balance of the ecosystem.
- Recovery of encroached natural locations or scenic sites

36. Refrain from initiating development projects in environmentally sensitive and protected forest areas and ecologically critical areas that are harmful to the environment and biodiversity and cause environmental pollution.

37. To meet the expectations of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), its financial and technical capacity should be increased in line with its goals and objectives and implement projects with transparency and accountability.
