POLICY BRIEF

# Can Bangladesh Beat India

**By Dr. Arif Hossain Talukder, Farhan Mahmud & Maliha Ahsan**

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## ABSTRACT

*This brief compares Bangladesh and India on export growth, manufacturing costs, logistics and investment climate, and identifies where Bangladesh can realistically outperform its larger neighbour in regional and global markets.*

## KEYWORDS

Bangladesh, India, competitiveness, exports, manufacturing, investment climate

## FULL TEXT

Bangladesh and India compete for many of the same buyers in garments, light manufacturing and, increasingly, services. Headline comparisons usually favour India because of its scale, but scale alone does not decide where the next factory or sourcing contract goes.

This brief compares the two economies on four practical measures that investors and buyers weigh: unit labour cost, time and cost to export, reliability of power supply, and predictability of regulation. Bangladesh leads on labour cost and apparel know-how, while India leads on port efficiency, input supply and policy continuity.

The gap is narrowest where Bangladesh can act quickly: customs clearance times, bonded-warehouse access for non-garment exporters, and a one-stop service for foreign investors that actually works end to end.

We recommend a two-year competitiveness compact with measurable targets on clearance time and investor approvals, published quarterly, so that progress is visible to the buyers and investors Bangladesh most wants to attract.

## HOW TO CITE

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