Pacing towards a
SMARTER BANGLADESH

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, Bangladesh is striving to keep pace by rapidly advancing its technology and startup sector. With a rapidly growing startup ecosystem, a pool of tech-savvy young talent, and government initiatives aimed at boosting the country's digital infrastructure, Bangladesh is well on its way to becoming a 'Smart Bangladesh'.

The country's startup ecosystem has grown significantly over the past decade, attracting investments from both domestic and international sources. According to the Bangladesh Startup Ecosystem Report 2021, there are now more than 2,000 startups in the country, with Dhaka serving as the main hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. The report also indicates that the startup ecosystem in Bangladesh has the potential to create more than 1.5 million jobs by 2025, a significant boost to the country's economy.

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has emerged as a hotbed for tech startups, with the number of tech ventures in the country surging. The government has played a crucial role in this growth, launching several initiatives aimed at fostering innovation

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and entrepreneurship. The Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) has also been instrumental in promoting the growth of the tech industry in Bangladesh.

One of the most notable government initiatives is the 'Digital Bangladesh' campaign, launched in 2009 with the aim of transforming the country into a digital economy. The campaign includes a number of programs aimed at building digital infrastructure, increasing access to information and communication technologies (ICT), and promoting the development of a skilled workforce in the tech sector.

One of the key components of the Digital Bangladesh campaign is the 'One Stop Service (OSS)' project, which provides a range of services to entrepreneurs, including business registration, licenses

and permits, and legal advice. This initiative has streamlined the process of starting a business in Bangladesh, making it easier for entrepreneurs to launch their ventures and contribute to the growth of the tech industry.

Another important government initiative is the 'Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA)', launched in 2016 with the aim of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The academy offers training programs, mentorship, and funding to aspiring entrepreneurs, and has already helped launch several successful startups.

The government's efforts to support the tech industry in Bangladesh have not gone unnoticed by the international community. In 2021, Bangladesh was ranked as the world's third-fastest-growing startup ecosystem, according to a report by StartupBlink.

However, it is not just government initiatives that are driving the growth of the tech industry in Bangladesh. The country's young and tech-savvy population is also playing a crucial role in fueling the growth of the sector.

With a population of over 165 million people, Bangladesh is the eighth most populous country in the world. The country also has a large youth population, with over 60 per cent of the population under the age of 25. This young and dynamic

demographic is driving the growth of the tech industry in Bangladesh, with many young people eager to develop innovative solutions to the country's problems.

The success of the country's local homegrown startups has inspired many young people in Bangladesh to pursue careers in the tech industry, and has helped to create a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Despite the impressive growth of the tech industry in Bangladesh, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. One of the biggest challenges is access to funding, with many startups struggling to secure investment. However, the government is working to address this issue, with several initiatives aimed at boosting funding for startups.

Another challenge is the lack of a robust legal and regulatory framework for the tech industry. While the government has taken steps to address this issue, there is still more work to be done to create a favourable environment for tech startups in Bangladesh.

Despite these challenges, the future looks bright for Bangladesh's tech industry. With a rapidly growing startup ecosystem, a young and talented workforce, and government initiatives aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, the country is well on its way to becoming a 'Smart Bangladesh'.

In addition to promoting the growth of the tech industry, the Digital Bangladesh campaign is also transforming other sectors of the economy. For example, the government has launched several initiatives aimed at increasing access to healthcare in rural areas through the use of telemedicine and other digital technologies.

The government has also prioritized the development of digital education, with the aim of ensuring that all children in Bangladesh have access to quality education. This includes initiatives like the 'Digital Education Program (DEP)', which provides online resources and training for teachers and students.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital technologies in our daily lives, and Bangladesh is no exception. The government has launched several initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic, including the development of a contact tracing app and the implementation of e-commerce platforms to ensure the availability of essential goods and services.

The pandemic has also led to a surge in demand for digital services, which has further fueled the growth of the tech industry in Bangladesh. With more people working and studying from home, the demand for online education and remote work solutions has increased significantly.

Bangladesh is rapidly advancing towards becoming a 'Smart Bangladesh'. With a growing startup ecosystem, a pool of tech-savvy young talent, and government initiatives aimed at boosting the country's digital infrastructure, the future looks bright for the tech industry in Bangladesh.

The government's commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, combined with the energy and creativity of the country's young people, is driving the growth of the tech industry and transforming other sectors of the economy. While there are still challenges to be addressed, the potential for Bangladesh to become a leading player in the global tech industry is immense.