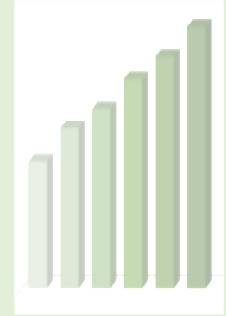


Project Review Meeting of Joint IPv4/IPv6 Research Project

Topic: Internet Governance – Bangladesh Perspective

Presented by: Mohammad Tawrit, CEO, BdREN

Date: 24 May 2023



**Connect
Collaborate
Innovate**

What is Internet Governance?



The 2005 Tunis Agenda on the Information Society provided the first internationally recognized working definition of multi-stakeholder Internet governance: “Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”

The academic and technical communities, as well intergovernmental and international organizations, were mentioned elsewhere in the Tunis Agenda. Over time, all of these groups were recognized as stakeholders in Internet governance.

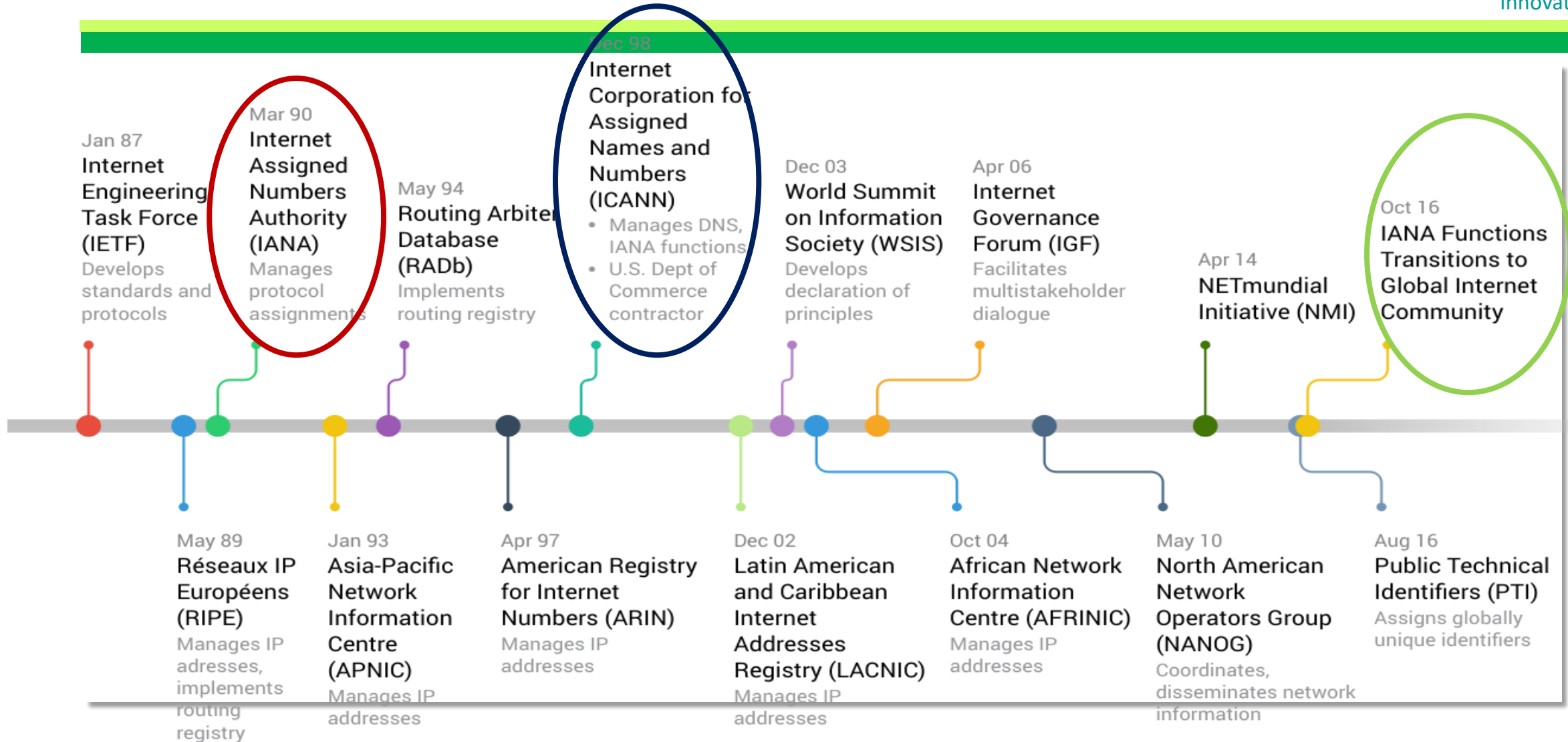
“

The IANA transition is a powerful illustration of the multi-stakeholder model and an affirmation of the principle that the best approach to address challenges is through bottom-up, transparent, and consensus-driven processes.

”

Internet Society

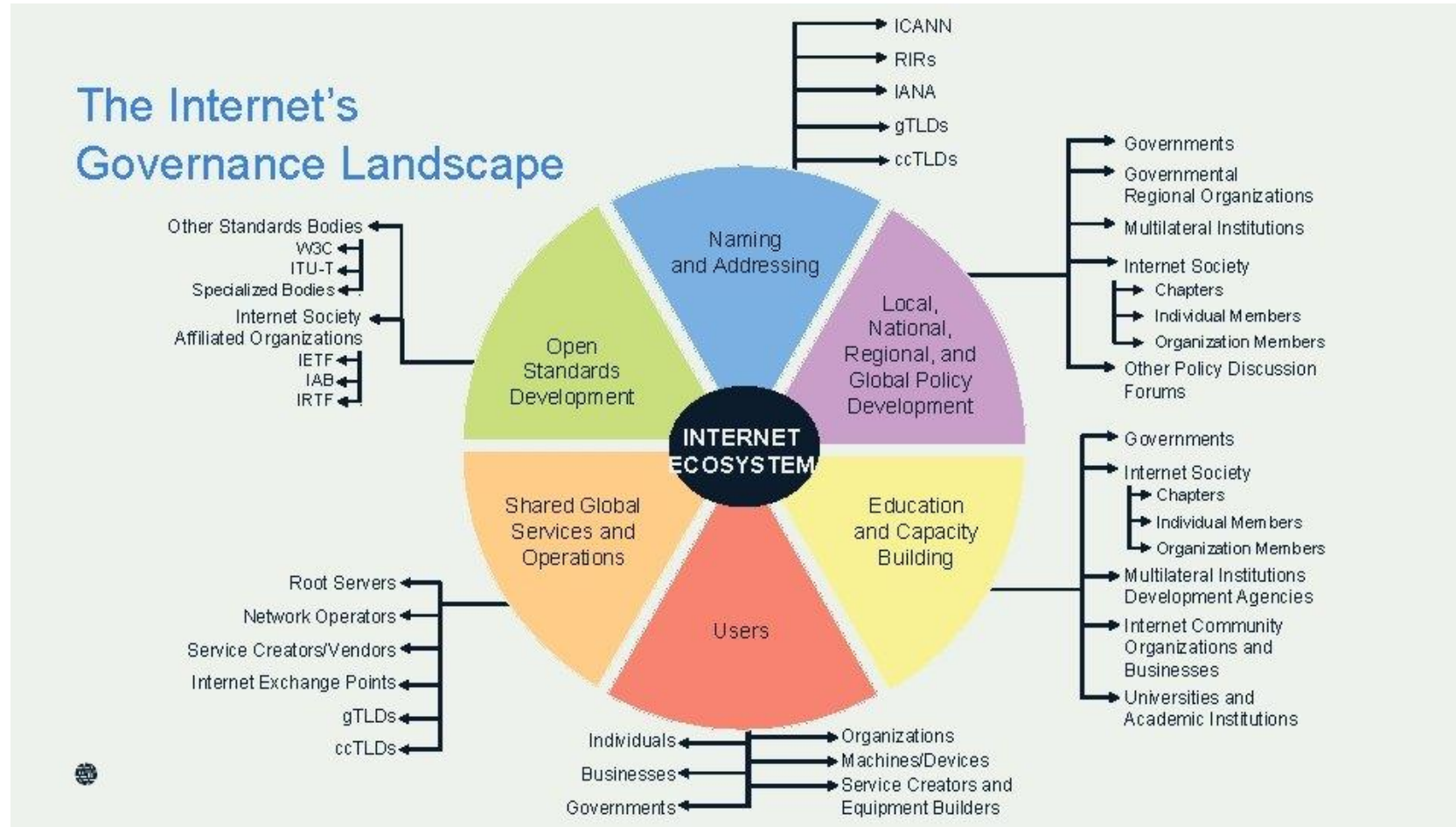
Internet governance timeline



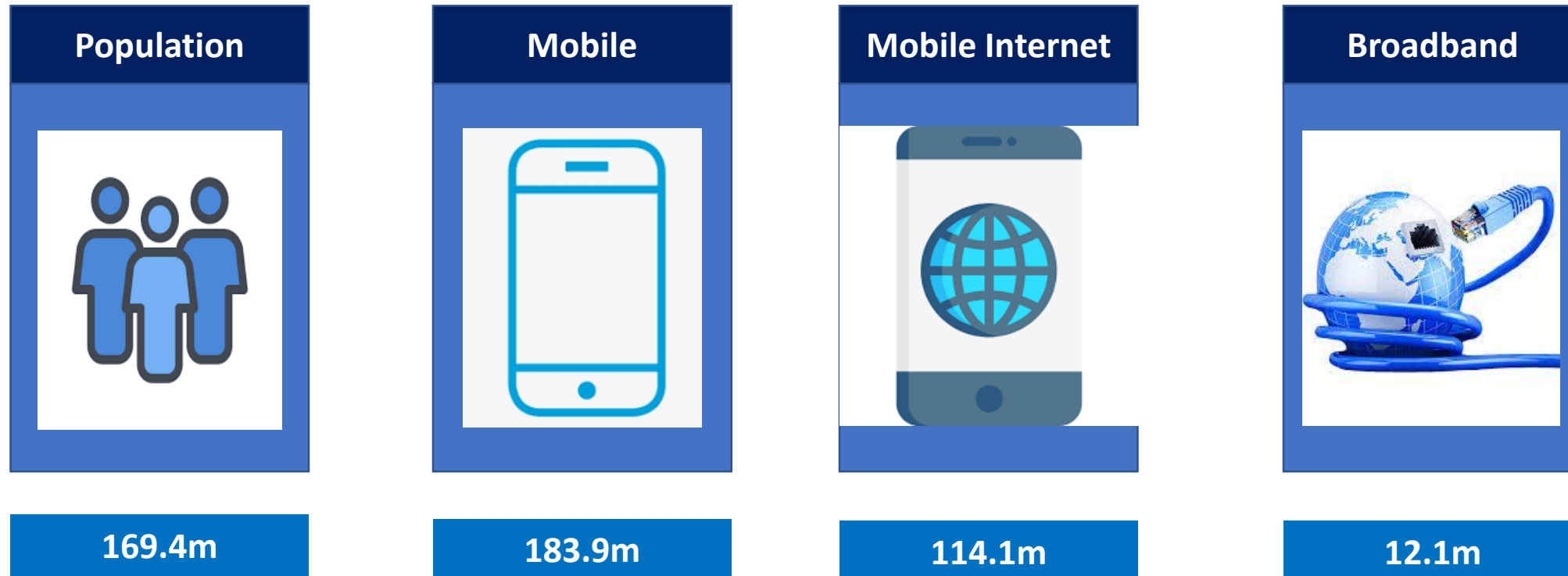


- Came up with an outcome document comprising of:
 - Set of governance principles
 - Roadmap to the future governance of Internet through a **multistakeholder**, **open** and **transparent** process

Internet Ecosystem



Bangladesh – Present Status

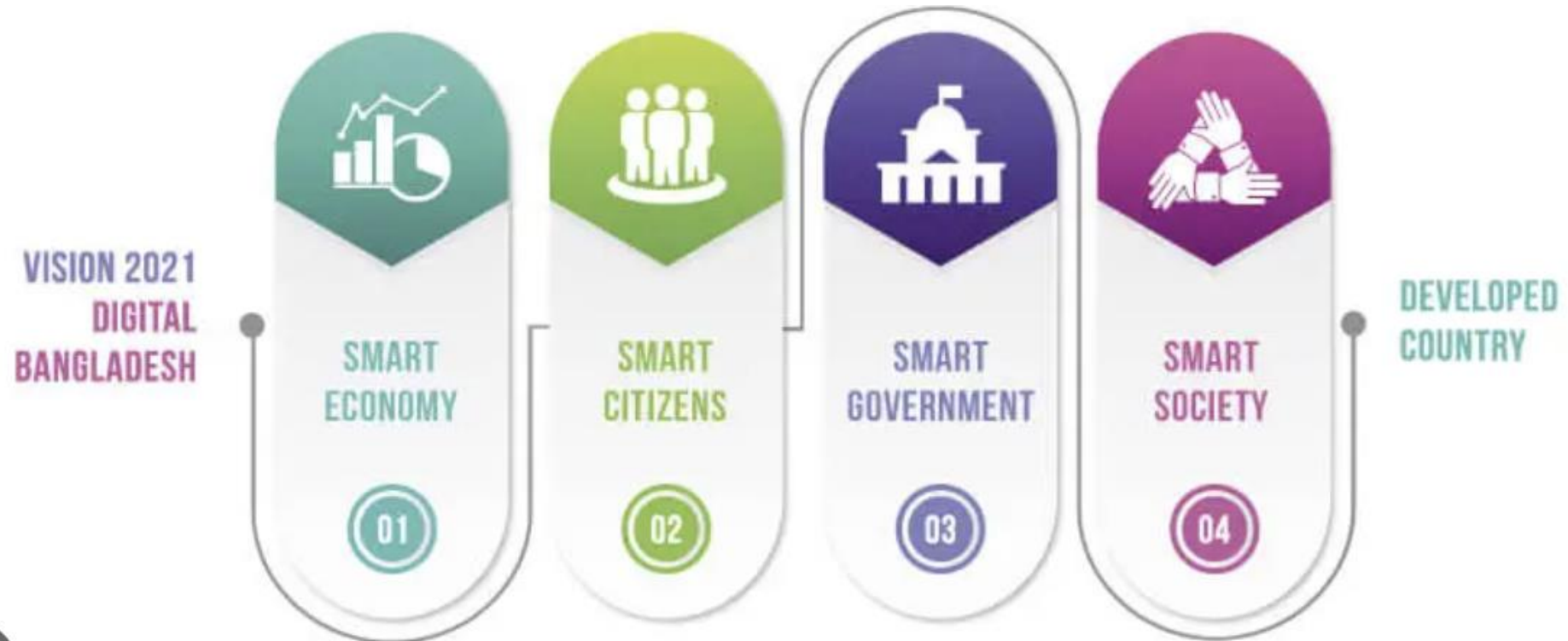


Digital Bangladesh 2021 => Achievements



Vision 2041 => Smart Bangladesh

- Four Pillars of Smart Bangladesh



To turn Bangladesh into a developed country with a per-capita income of USD 12,500

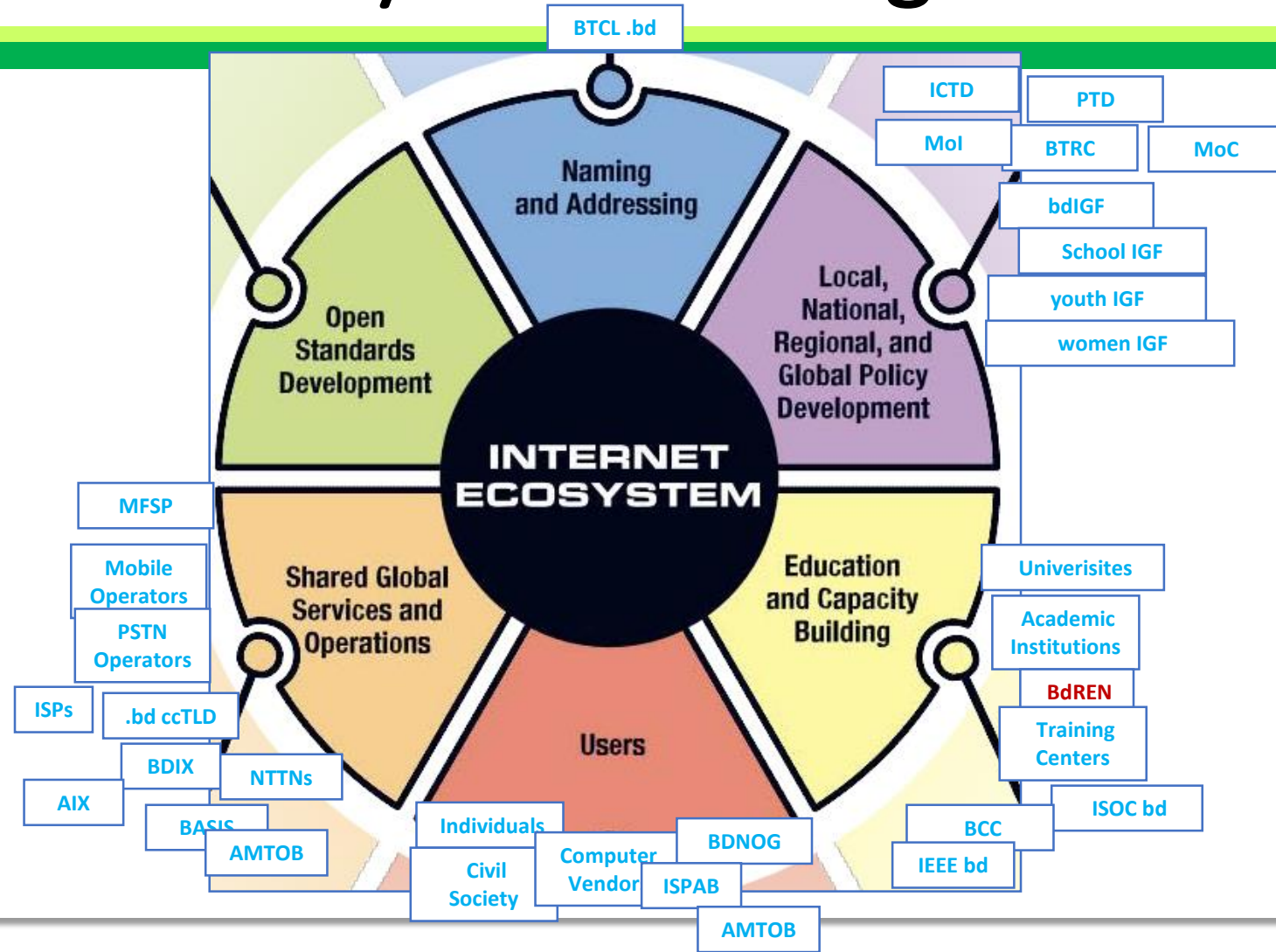
Internet Governance



ECOSYSTEM

The word "ECOSYSTEM" is rendered in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is filled with a dense, vibrant green texture that resembles the needles of a pine tree, giving the text a natural, organic appearance. The letters are set against a plain white background.

Internet ecosystem in Bangladesh



IGF institutions

bdSIG is working for implementing a school of IG in Bangladesh through the collaboration with Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG) and Dynamic Coalition (DC) Schools on Internet Governance (SIG).

The vision of BKIGF is to encourage Bangladeshi kids to keep up engagement in regional, national, and international Internet governance and increase kids' participation in the Internet system.



Acts and Policies



Telecommunications Act 2001

Objectives

1. Defines the fundamental rules of Telecommunications.
2. Liberalising the Telecom Sector.
3. Creation of an Independent Commission.

Benefits

1. **Monopoly of Government Service provider was abolished.**
2. **A level playing field was created which attracted the private operators leading to exponential growth of users.**

Source: <https://tahmidurrahman.com/cyber-law-of-bangladesh-internet-law-web-ict-act-rules-regulations-punishment-and-rights-in-bangladesh/#:~:text=In%20Bangladesh%2C%20the%20ICT%20Act,computer%20technology%20or%20cyber%20crime.>

ICT Act 2006

Objectives

1. Legal definition to concept of secure digital signatures
2. Legislative framework to electronic commerce

Benefits

1. Fake Electronic Publication
2. Hacking an electronic device
3. Unauthorized access to protected systems
4. Disclosure of confidentiality and privacy

The Act, amended in 2013, included provisions for imprisonment and/or fines for cyber-crimes

Source: <https://tahmidurrahman.com/cyber-law-of-bangladesh-internet-law-web-ict-act-rules-regulations-punishment-and-rights-in-bangladesh/#:~:text=In%20Bangladesh%2C%20the%20ICT%20Act,computer%20technology%20or%20cyber%20crime.>

Digital Security Act 2018

Objectives

1. Prevention of spread of racism; extremism; terrorist propaganda; and hatred against religious or ethnic minorities
2. Prevention of pornographic or inappropriate content

Features

1. **Section 8:** block or remove information in digital media
2. **Section 21:** propaganda or campaign against liberation war, spirit of liberation, national anthem or national flag
3. **Section 25:** Transmission and publication of any offensive, false or threatening information affecting the image or reputation of the country
4. **Section 28:** Hurt religious sentiments.
5. **Section 31:** Publishing digital format harmful to 'communal harmony'.

Allegations raised

Violates freedom of thought, conscience, and opinion, right to life, freedom of religion and belief, and freedom of movement.

Source:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_19
2. <https://cgs-bd.com/article/13441/The-Digital-Security-Act%2C-2018-and-Its-Implication-for-Human-Rights#:~:text=Even%20though%20the%20DSA%20was,a%20violation%20of%20human%20rights.>

Draft Data Protection Act 2022

Objectives

1. Establishes restrictions to the processing, storage, and transfer of data
2. Mandates Local Data Storage

Contents

1. **Section 42:** mandates that all consumer data be stored in Bangladesh.
2. **Section 43:** prohibits the transfer of consumer data outside of Bangladesh without authorization
3. **Section 35:** establishes the Data Protection Office, the enforcement body of the DPA.

Allegations raised

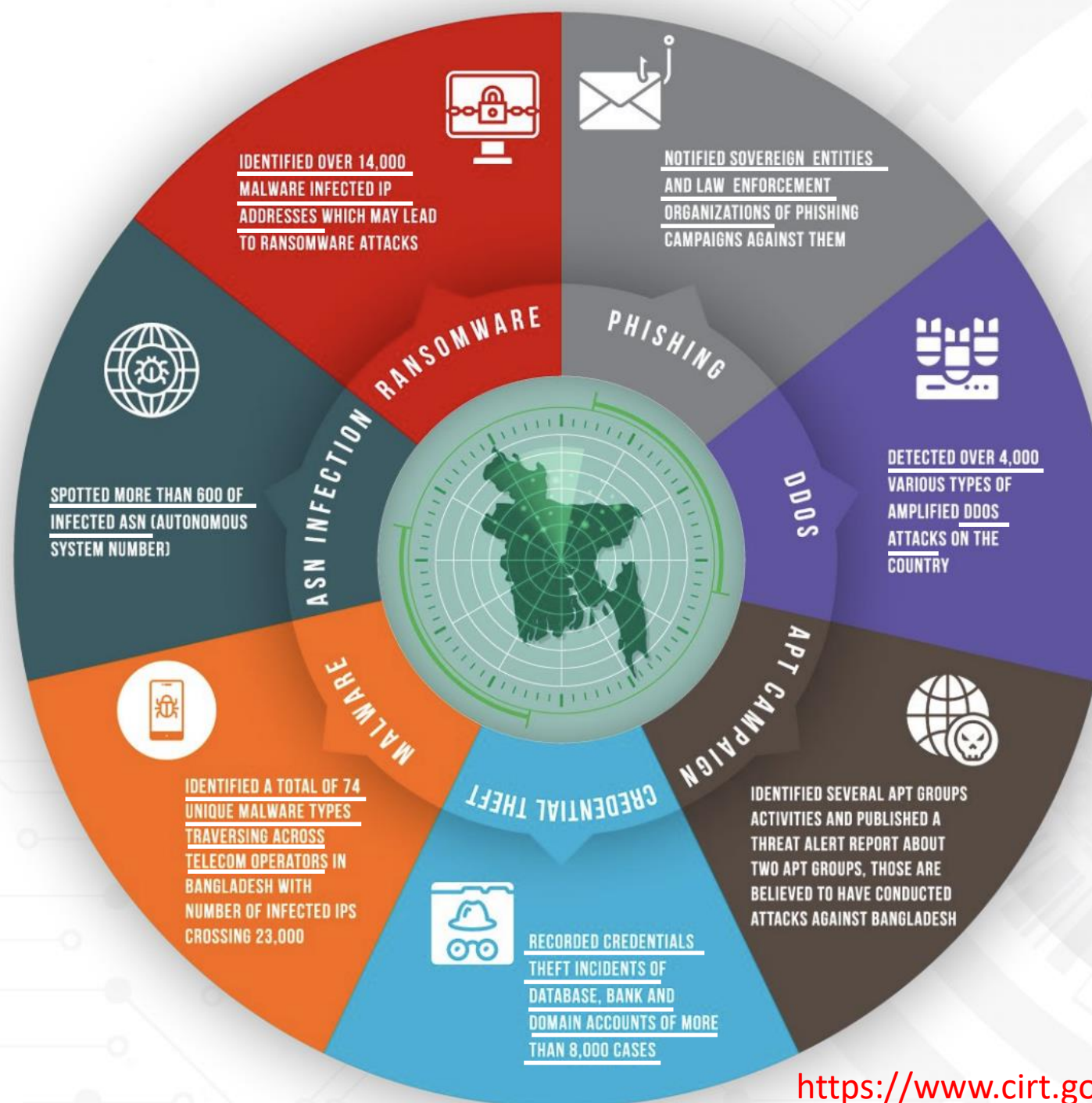
Digital Security Agency given the right to access data on the pretext of national security

Source:

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/inside-bangladeshs-new-data-protection-laws/#:~:text=The%202022%20Draft%20Data%20Protection,governance%20in%20a%20different%20direction.>

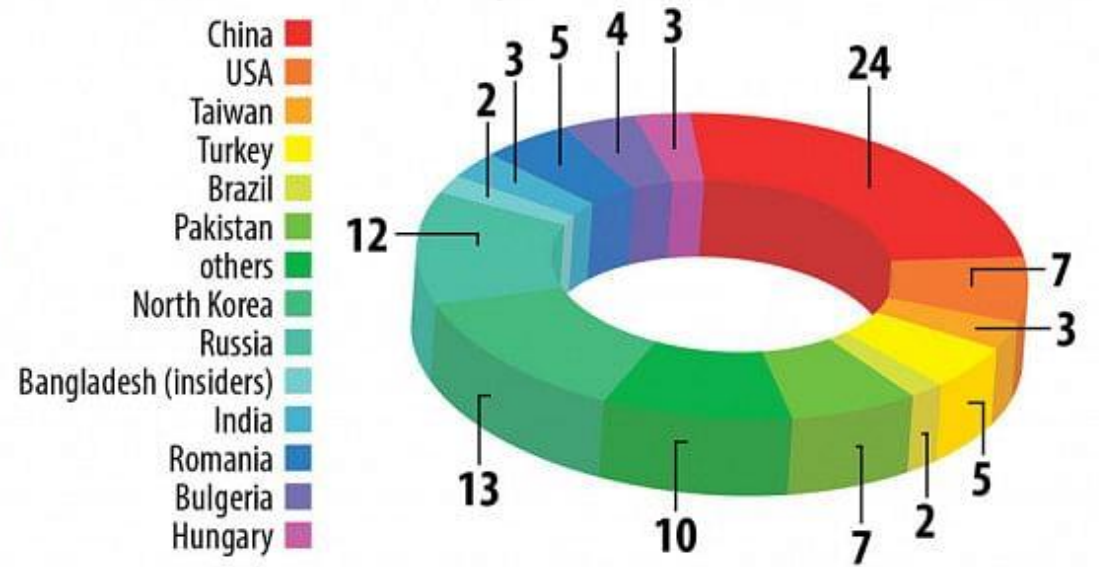
CYBERSECURITY

Cyberattack statistics in Bangladesh – Year 2022

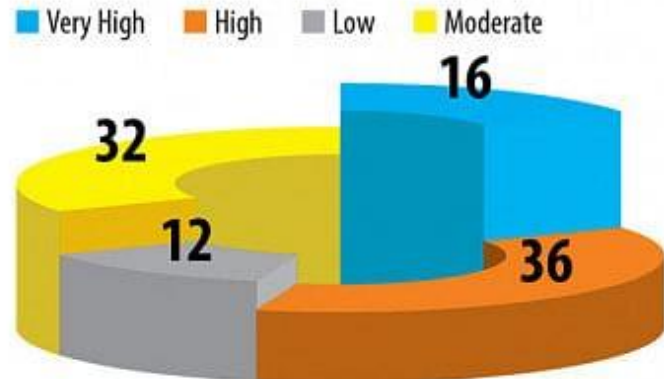




Origins of Cyber Attacks (in %)



Cyber Security Risk of Banks (in %)



Who is behind Cybercrime/ Security Breach?

(in %)
SOURCE: BIBM

CYBERATTACKS IN BANGLADESH'S FINANCIAL SECTOR



JANUARY 6, 2013:

A Shariah-based bank by Human Mind Cracker

DECEMBER 2, 2015:

A state-owned bank's network by Muslim Group

FEBRUARY 2016:

ATM booths of 3 private banks by a foreign gang with skimming devices

FEBRUARY 4-5, 2016:

Bangladesh Bank by a hacker group, **\$101 million** stolen

JUNE 13, 2019:

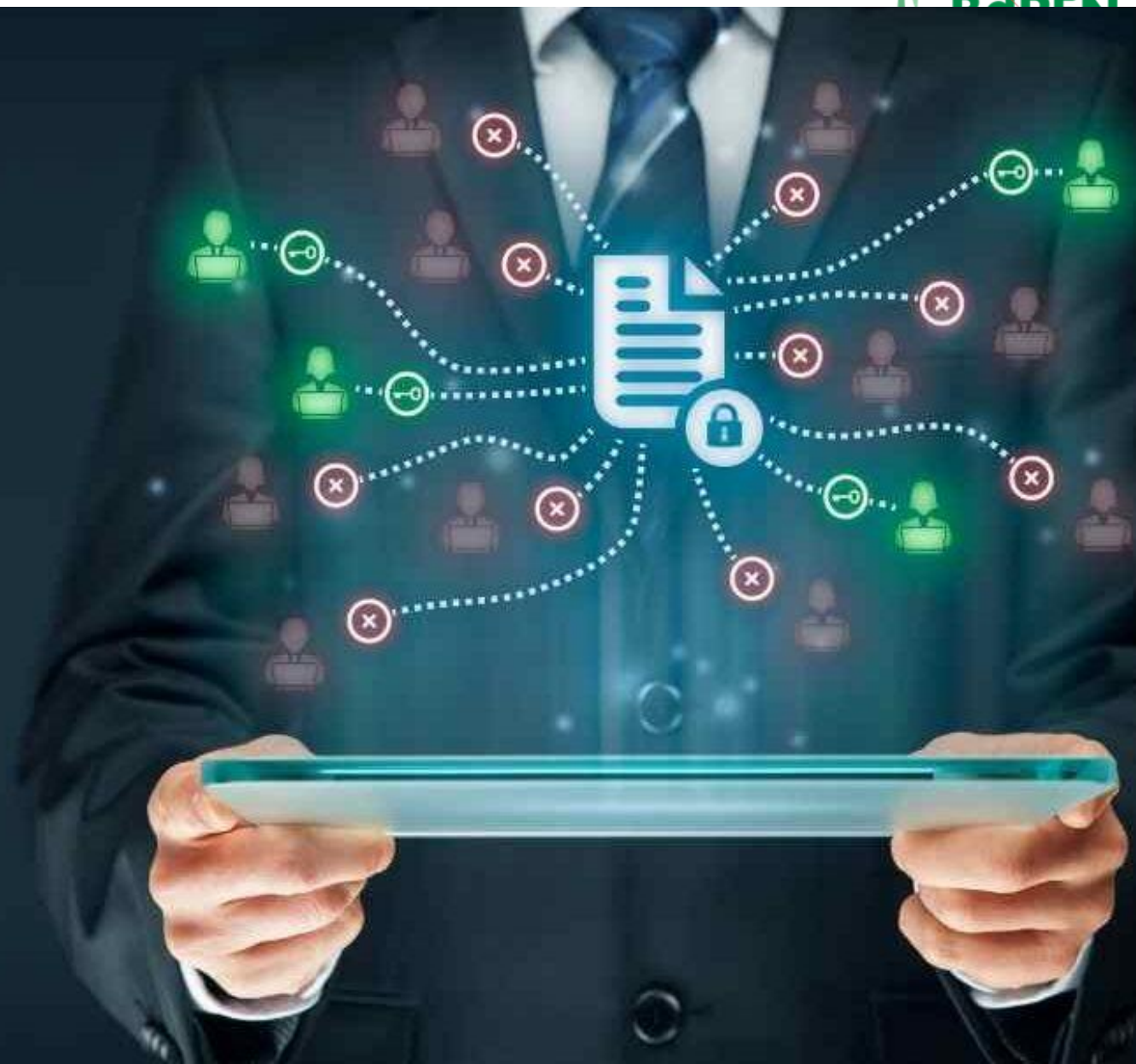
Attempt on ATM booths in two places in Dhaka by 6 foreigners

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2019:

A private bank's ATM booth in Cumilla hacked, around **Tk10 lakh** withdrawn



DATA PRIVACY



Data Protection Act 2022



Section 63

DPA gives the government the power to access data in the interest of

- the sovereignty and integrity of Bangladesh
- the security of the State
- friendly relations with foreign States or public order

Impairment of Privacy

Source:

1. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/inside-bangladeshs-new-data-protection-laws/#:~:text=The%202022%20Draft%20Data%20Protection,governance%20in%20a%20different%20direction.>



Fintech in Bangladesh



Over **110**
Fintech startups
as of 2021



Fintech firms process
\$4 billion in
monthly transactions



Fintech ecosystem
valued **\$1.45**
billion, has
potential to reach
\$10 billion

Bangladesh ranks **61st**
in Fintech World
Rankings in 2020



e-Commerce in Bangladesh

Acts

- **ICT Act 2006 [Amended in 2013]**
- **Digital Security Act 2018**

Policies

- **National Digital Commerce Policy 2018**

Guidelines

- **e-Commerce Guideline 2021**

Source:

1. <https://businesspostbd.com/opinion/legal-framework-of-e-commerce-in-bangladesh#:~:text=The%20ICT%20Act%20of%202006,that%20supports%20e%2Dcommerce%20development.>

E-Commerce Guideline 2021

- **Sec 3.1.2:** Detailed information of sellers or merchants, product and services information, and general rules
- **Sec 3.1.16:** Return policies, potential price change policies, delivery method and time, or product change policies should also be displayed by marketplaces.
- **Sec 3.4.1:** Marketplace authorities will have to take appropriate action for complaints about products and services.
- **Sec 3.1.7:** If any personal information needs to be collected the consumer's prior consent must be obtained.

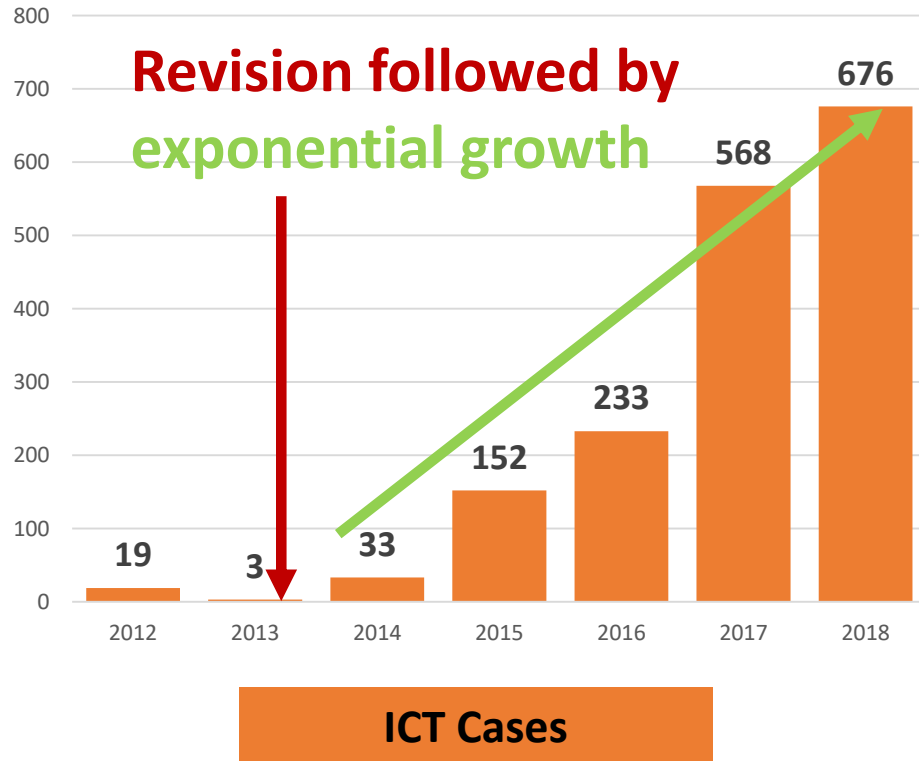
Issues: e-Commerce Guideline



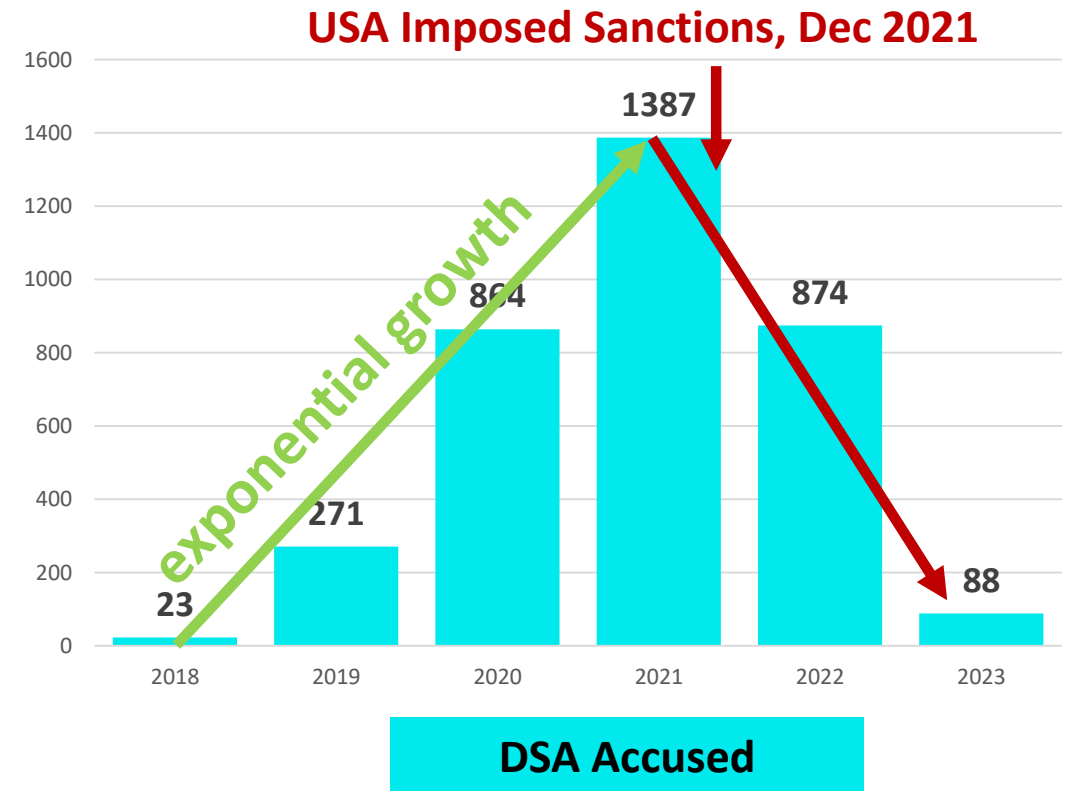
A pair of hands holds a white sign with the words "FREEDOM OF SPEECH" printed in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is held against a clear blue sky with some light, wispy clouds. The hands are positioned on the left and right sides of the sign, with fingers gripping the edges. The sign itself is slightly curved at the top.

**FREEDOM
OF
SPEECH**

ICT and DSA: Cases



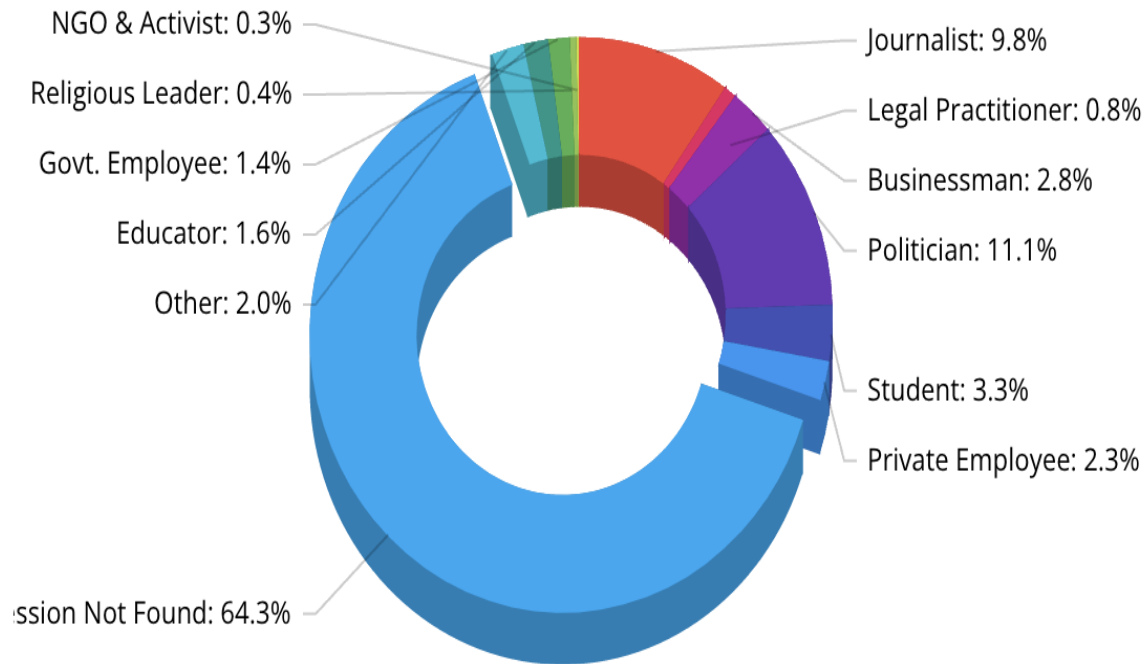
Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/editorial/2023/04/19/working-together-for-solutions>



Source: <https://freedominfo.net/>

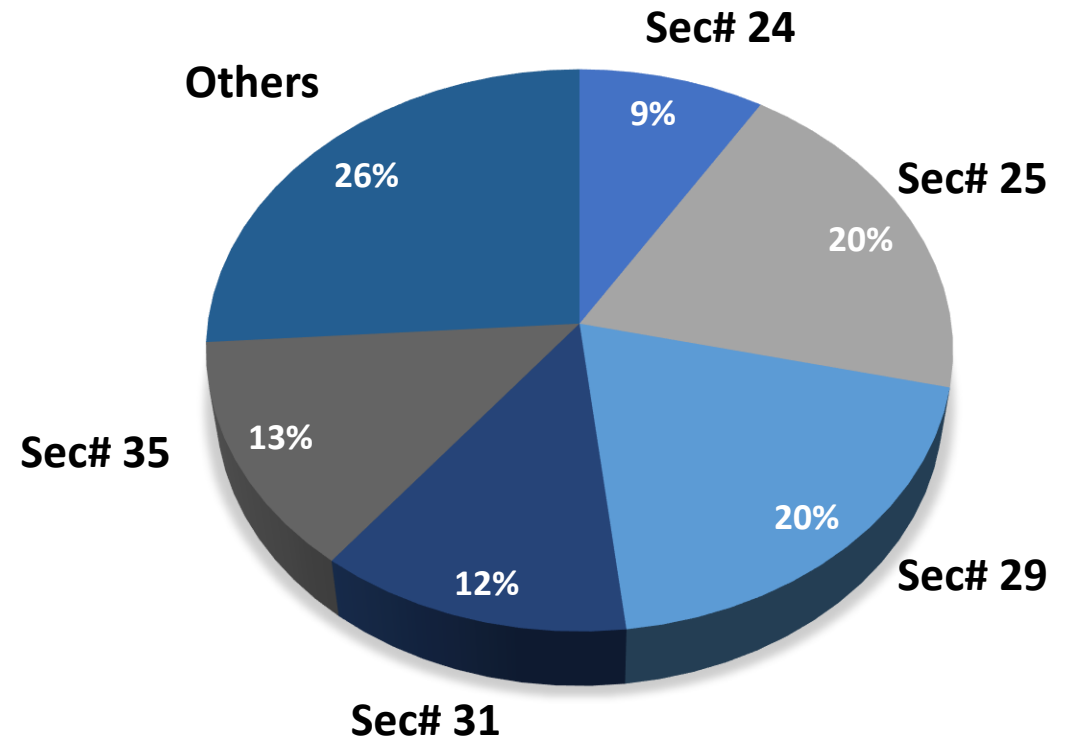
Digging down DSA 2018

Profession of the Accused Person



Sued Journalists + Politicians: **58.54%**

Distribution of Cases



Sec# 25, #29 and #31 [Defamatory, fake news, law and order]: **52%**

FUTURE INTERNET



Key Challenges in coming days

- **Multistakeholder vs Multilateral**

- Other Stakeholders beseeching “Freedom of Expression” and “Freedom of Speech” against government’s intention to muzzle their voices showing national security or defamation and hatred.

- **Free and Open vs Fragmented**

- The western countries are still promoting for internet to be fully free and open whereas the eastern blocs are trying to impose additional control which a few apprehends might turn Internet into a fragmented network

Towards a paradigm shift

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Speech from 2018 IGF:

"Discussions on Internet governance cannot just remain discussions. Policy, and where relevant normative frameworks, must be developed to ensure impact. [...] But classical forms of regulation do not apply to many of this new generation of challenges. Non-traditional, multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation will be crucial, including governments, private sector, research centres and civil society."

French President Emmanuel Macron's Speech from 2018 IGF:

"We need, through regulation, to build a new path where governments, along with Internet players, civil society, and other actors, are able to regulate properly [...] We need to invent – innovate – new forms of multilateral cooperation that involve not only states, but also all of the stakeholders you represent."

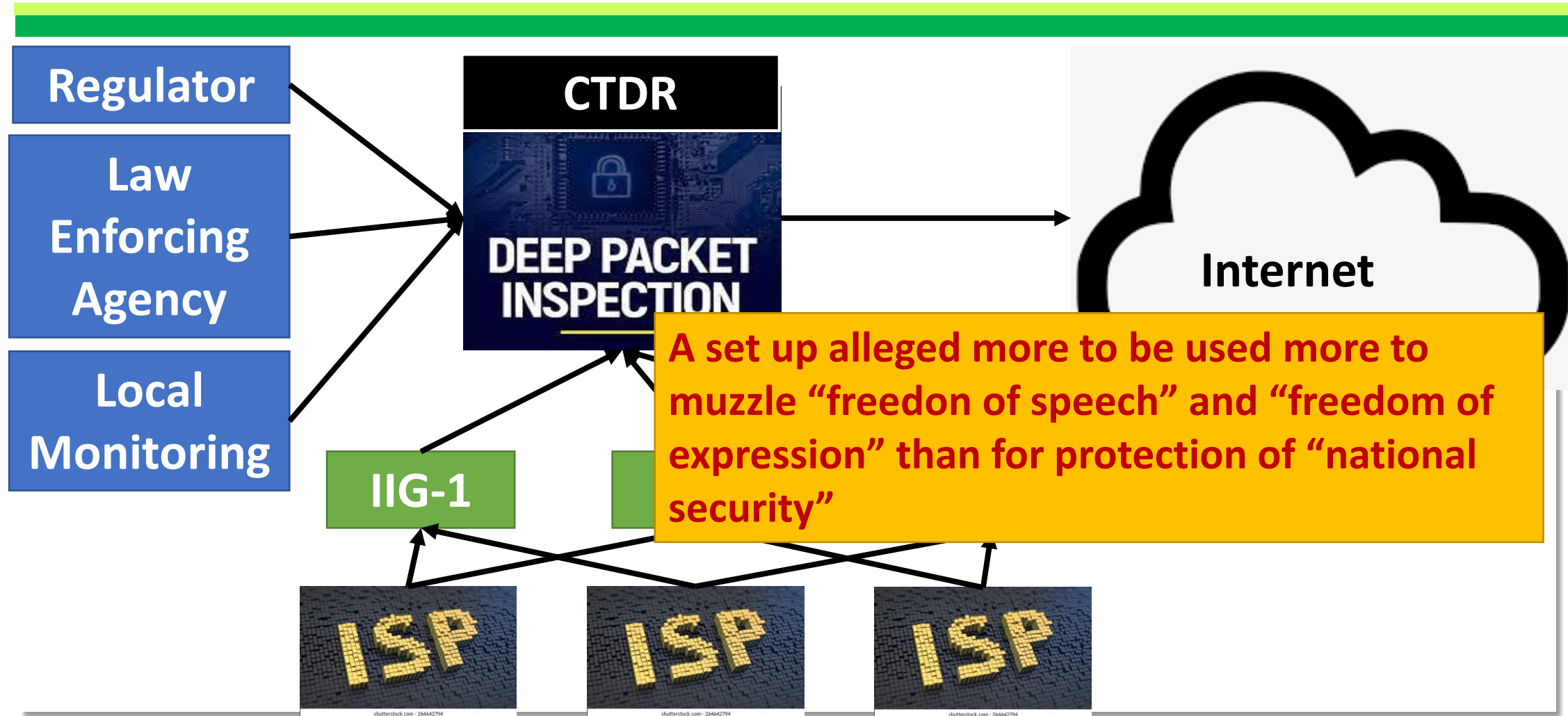
UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation

"Multi-stakeholder and multilateral approaches can and do co-exist'. [...] 'Effective digital cooperation requires that multi-lateralism, despite current strains, be strengthened. It also requires that multi-lateralism be complemented by multi-stakeholderism – cooperation that involves not only governments, but a far more diverse spectrum of other stakeholders such as civil society, academics, technologists and the private sector."

Cyber Crime Prevention- Digital Security Act

- **Section 8:** empowers Digital Security Agency and Law Enforcement Agencies to block or remove information in digital media if it threatens 'digital security'.
- Cyber Threat Detection and Response Platform was built to:
 - Prevent users from browsing prohibited websites
 - Block harmful and malicious contents
 - LEA to monitor the criminal activities

Cyber Threat Detection and Response [CTDR]



Conclusion

Implementation of



NETmundial

Initiative

Human Rights and Shared Values

- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom of Association
- Protection of Privacy

Internet Governance and Process Principles

- Multistakeholder
- Open and participative
- Inclusive
- Open Standards

!!!!!!!!!! Strengthening Security !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Recommendations

- **A comparative report** can be drafted from the presentations of the participating countries and an overall recommendations can be framed highlighting the **benefits and weaknesses**.
- **A working group** on **IGF** may be framed under the stewardship of **APAN** to feed inputs to APRIGF.

THANK YOU

