



# National Budget 2023-24: Summary

## Science, Information and Communication Technology



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### BAMU

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Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

# BUDGET HELPDESK 2023

## 1. Context for the Science, Information and Communication Technology Budget

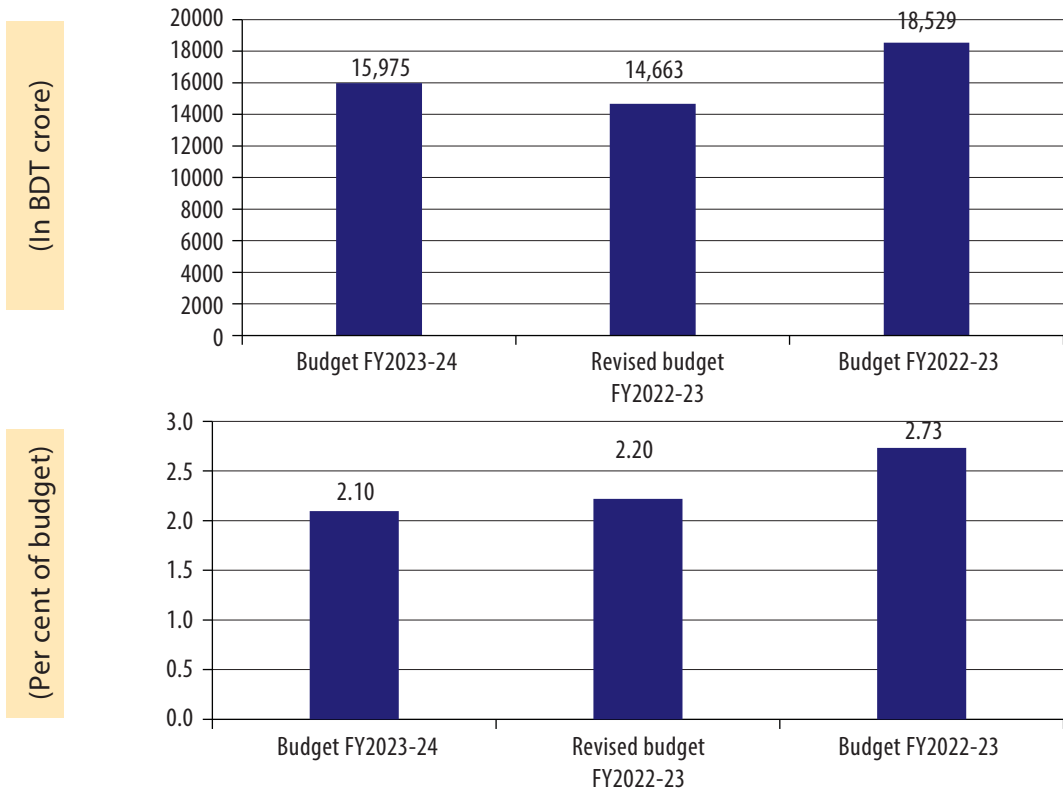
The present government has made a special commitment to developing the science, information, and communication technology sector. As an integral part of the government's 'Vision 2041', the primary goal of this sector is to promote its growth through research, development, expansion, and successful implementation of information and communication technology. A key objective of the government is to cultivate a skilled workforce equipped with technology suitable for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. To accomplish this, the government is focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-based education and training.

The present government is actively working towards building a 'Digital Bangladesh' based on four core pillars: connectivity, skilled human resources, e-government, and the promotion of the ICT industry. As a result of government initiatives, the number of mobile SIM users has reached 180 million, while internet users have reached 130 million. Building upon the foundation of Digital Bangladesh, 'Smart Bangladesh' will play a crucial role in realising the vision of a developed Bangladesh by 2041. Extensive preparations have already begun, including formulating the 'Smart Bangladesh - ICT Master Plan' with detailed activities. Preparations for the establishment of Smart Bangladesh are already underway, and a programme has been initiated to train 20,000 young women in advanced technology by FY2026 to create IT-savvy citizens.

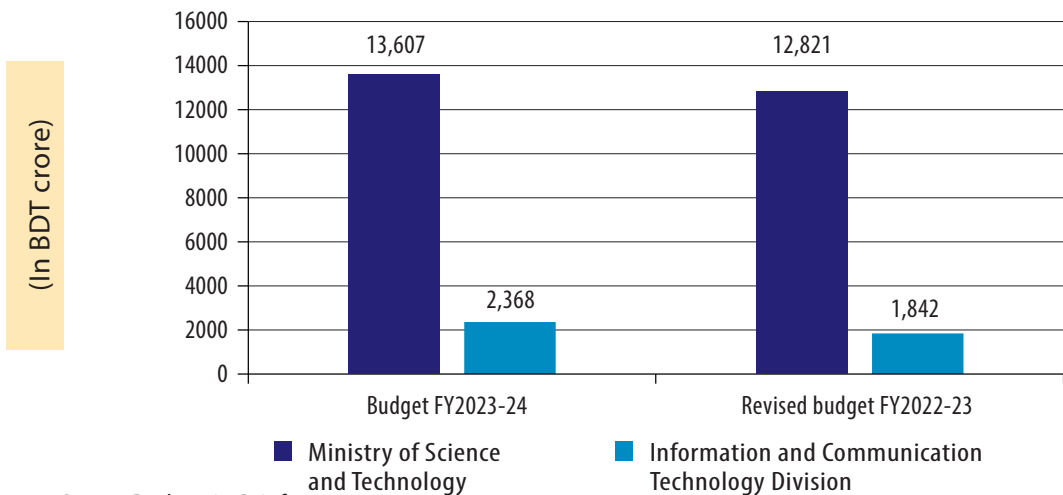
'Smart Government' will provide transparent and easily accessible services to the people, while the 'Smart Economy' component will facilitate fast and secure transactions, promote a cashless society, and support start-ups, among other initiatives. The government has been actively fostering the development of start-ups since 2015, resulting in approximately 2,500 start-ups in the country with an investment of around \$1 billion. This sector employs approximately two million people directly and indirectly. Ultimately, a 'smart society' will uphold the commitment of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that no one is left behind and guaranteeing the inclusion of all.

## 2. Budget for FY2023-24 for the Science, Information and Communication Technology Sector

The national parliament approved the budget for FY2023-24 on 26 June 2023. The size of the revised budget for the science, information and communication technology (ICT) sector was BDT 14,663 crore in FY2022-23, which has increased to BDT 15,975 crore in FY2023-24 budget. The allocation for FY2022-23 is BDT 1,312 crore, more than the revised budget allocation and 2.1 per cent of the total budget allocation of FY2023-24 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Budget Allocation for Science, Information and Communication Technology Sector**

Source: Budget in Brief.

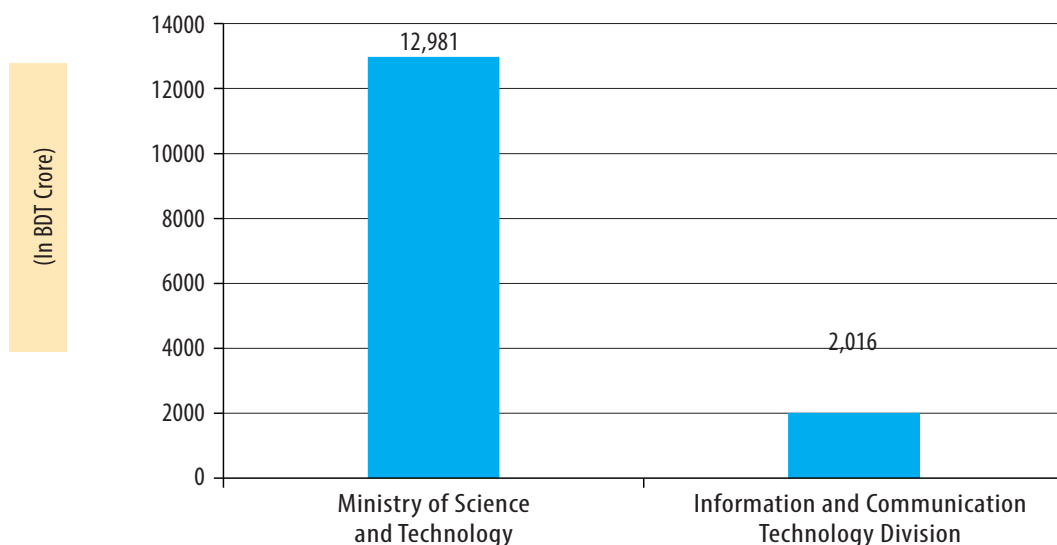
**Figure 2: Ministry/Division wise Allocation for Information and Communication Technology Sector**

Source: Budget in Brief.

### 3. ADP Allocation for the Science, Information and Communication Technology Sector

For the science, information, and technology sector, an allocation of BDT 14,997 crore has been made in the ADP for FY2023-24. Out of this amount, 57 per cent will be utilised under the Ministry of Science and Technology (Figure 3). Several significant projects are being planned within this sector, including the establishment of an Innovation and Entrepreneur Development Academy, securing e-mail and digital literacy centres for the Government of Bangladesh, construction of hi-tech parks and IT training centres in various districts, among others.

**Figure 3: Allocation for ADP in Science, Information and Communication Technology Sector for FY2023-24**



Source: Annual Development Programme, FY2023-24.

### 4. Conclusion

In the 8th Five Year Plan document, the present government has pledged to move forward on the path of 'prosperity with all', in which the role of information and communication technology will be one of them. The strategic guidelines include - (a) usage of priority-based digital innovation strategies; (b) creating new knowledge by technologically advancing human resources; (c) promoting of science information and communication technology in the private sector; (d) accelerating investment and innovation in the field of science information and communication technology and e) harnessing the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Keeping these goals in mind, the budget has been allocated in FY2023-24 for the information and communication technology sector.