

**BIMSTEC Secretariat
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

PRESS RELEASE

**The BIMSTEC Secretary General attended the 81st Session of the United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).**

(27 April 2025)

BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG), H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, participated at the 81st Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), held from 21-25 April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the High-Level Dialogue on “Subregional Perspectives on Current and Emerging Policy Issues for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,” SG highlighted the critical challenges to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, including escalating impacts of climate change, widening digital divides and persistent disruptions in global trade. He emphasized the importance of South-South Cooperation and underscored the vital role of regional organizations like BIMSTEC in promoting South-South cooperation for advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

SG also attended the side Event on Harnessing Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development in the Bay of Bengal, organised by the BIMSTEC Secretariat and UNESCAP, where he underscored the need for deeper regional collaboration to address digital challenges and expressed BIMSTEC’s readiness to work with UNESCAP on the shared goal of enhancing regional digital connectivity.

On the sidelines of the 81st Session of UNESCAP, SG engaged in several bilateral meetings to strengthen institutional cooperation with Regional and International Organisations. He met with Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, to discuss deepening collaboration between BIMSTEC and UNESCAP, particularly in areas aligned with sustainable development and regional connectivity goals.

In his meeting with Mr. Ben Churchill, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, Member Services and Development Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), SG explored potential areas of partnership in weather, climate change, and disaster management in BIMSTEC region. He also held discussions with Dr. Mohammed Taghi Hosseini, Deputy Secretary General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), focusing on avenues for institutional cooperation between the two Organisations. SG also met with Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), to exchange views on enhancing cooperation in areas of peace, security and development across Asia.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in 7 broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries & Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.
