



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Press Release

BIMSTEC Reaffirms Regional Disaster Preparedness at 4th Disaster Management Exercise (DMEx)

16 July 2025: BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) conducted the 4th BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DMEx) in virtual mode on 14-15 July 2025. Hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of India, the exercise focused on building regional cooperation for managing complex disasters involving cyclones and flooding.

The simulation brought together national disaster response agencies, emergency services, and key stakeholders from all BIMSTEC member States. It assessed operational readiness and interoperability in the face of cascading hazards that require swift and coordinated response across national borders.

The exercise aimed to assess the region's collective capacity to respond to a simulated scenario involving a powerful cyclone followed by heavy rainfall, leading to widespread flooding. It provided a platform for member States to evaluate their national disaster response frameworks, identify gaps and align strategies with BIMSTEC's vision of integrated disaster risk reduction. Beyond scenario-based planning, DMEx offered valuable space for member States to share lessons learned, review existing protocols and build trust through structured collaboration.

Participants also emphasised the importance of early action and pre-disaster planning, including timely warnings, evacuation protocols, activation of emergency operations centres, public awareness campaigns and pre-positioning of relief materials. Post-disaster actions such as coordinated rescue operations, medical aid, infrastructure restoration, and environmental protection were also discussed in detail.

Disaster Management is one of the sectors of BIMSTEC cooperation. The Expert Group on Disaster Management is currently engaged in finalizing Plan of Action to improve Preparedness and coordination for responding to natural disaster in the member States. A BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate has been set-up in Noida, India; it makes tailored weather and climate forecasts for the member States. Four rounds of BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise have been held. A BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre is being proposed to be set up in India to anchor cooperation among the member States in disaster management.

The 4th BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DMEx) reinforced BIMSTEC's commitment to building a resilient and cooperative Bay of Bengal region, where countries are equipped not only to manage disasters, but also to support one another through rapid, coordinated, and strategic action.

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 and Food Security; Connectivity; Environment and Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology and Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment and Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries and Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.

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