



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

Press Release

BIMSTEC Secretary General visits Nepal

Dhaka, 2 August, 2026

BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, undertook an official visit to Nepal during 28 to 29 July 2026. During the visit, SG called on Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Shisir Khanal. Their discussion focused on the progress achieved in regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, including in sectors led by Nepal, such as culture, tourism, people to people contact forums and poverty alleviation. Their deliberations covered steps towards strengthening regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and the role of Nepal in realising it. Honourable Minister reiterated the high importance that Nepal attaches to BIMSTEC.

SG, BIMSTEC, also called on Honourable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, H.E. Khadak Raj Paudel (Ganess), and apprised him of the progress achieved in regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, including in sectors Nepal leads, such as tourism, culture, people to people contacts forum as well as connectivity. Their discussion focused on the vital role of Nepal in strengthening cooperation under BIMSTEC and celebration of the 30th Anniversary Year of BIMSTEC.

In his meeting with Foreign Secretary of Nepal, H.E. Amrit Bahadur Rai, SG discussed Nepal's important role in advancing regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, including in sectors led by Nepal. Foreign Secretary reiterated Nepal's commitment to BIMSTEC, including various key initiatives that BIMSTEC is pursuing to enhance regional cooperation and integration among the member States.

Secretary General addressed the high-level Policy Dialogue organised by the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, with focus on evolution of BIMSTEC, its vision, agenda, achievements and ongoing initiatives to advance regional cooperation and integration. The Dialogue was attended by diplomats from the BIMSTEC member States, government officials, academia, policy experts, think tanks, researchers etc.

Secretary General also delivered a Guest Lecture at the Department of International Relations, Tribhuvan University, and interacted with faculty members and students on the mission, agenda and regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal region under BIMSTEC.

During the visit, Secretary General also met Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Chief Executive Officer of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development. SG was interviewed by Nepal Television, where he shared his views on the evolving international order, the role of regional organisations such as BIMSTEC, and Nepal's role in advancing regional cooperation and connectivity.

Nepal is one of the seven member States of BIMSTEC and leads regional cooperation in Culture, Tourism, People-to-People Contact Forums and Poverty Alleviation. Nepal joined as a member of BIMSTEC in February 2004.

About BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in the following areas: Agriculture & Food Security; Blue Economy; Connectivity; Culture; Disaster Management; Energy; Environment & Climate Change; Health; Human Resource Development; Fisheries & Livestock; Mountain Economy; People-to-People Relations; Poverty Alleviation; Security; Science, Technology & Innovation; Tourism; Trade & Investment; and Women Development.

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