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

Press Release

BIMSTEC Secretary General visits Thailand

Dhaka, 4 November 2026

BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, undertook an official visit to Thailand from 27 to 30 October 2026. During the visit, he addressed the 5th Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and held meetings with senior representatives of the United Nations and International Organisations.

Secretary General addressed the Opening Session of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific on 28 October 2026 in Bangkok. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of regional multilateralism and regional cooperation in addressing shared developmental and security challenges and underscored the role of space-based technologies in strengthening disaster preparedness enhancing early warning systems and promoting sustainable development. He also highlighted BIMSTEC's decision to establish a Working Group on Space Cooperation to develop an Action Plan for cooperation in space applications and technologies.

On the sidelines of the Conference, Secretary General met with the Foreign Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel. They exchanged views on strengthening regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and advancing shared priorities for regional integration and sustainable development.

Secretary General met with H.E. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP). They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between BIMSTEC and UN ESCAP and to advance regional cooperation for sustainable development across the Bay of Bengal region.

Secretary General also met with Ms. Christine Arab, Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. They exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and promoting inclusive and sustainable development across the BIMSTEC region.

Secretary General met with Ms. Atsuko Okuda, PhD, Regional Director of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for Asia and the Pacific. They exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in digital transformation and technological development in the BIMSTEC member

States, with focus on digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), digital skills development, technology transfer and bridging the digital divide.

The Secretary General also met with Prof. Pai-Chi Li, President of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). They discussed strengthening regional cooperation in capacity building, academic collaboration and sustainable development and exploring opportunities to establish a framework for cooperation between BIMSTEC and AIT.

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; Fiscal & Monetary Policy; Health; Human Resource Development; Fisheries & Livestock; Mountain Economy; People-to-People Relations; Poverty Alleviation; Security; Science, Technology & Innovation; Tourism; Trade & Investment; and Women Development.

For media inquiries, please contact:

BIMSTEC Secretariat
Email: media@bimstec.org, communications@bimstec.org
Phone: +880-222290096-98
Fax: +880-2222287565
Website: www.bimstec.org

For more information:

X (Twitter): https://x.com/BimstecInDhaka
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