



## Message from BIMSTEC Secretary General



As we welcome 2026, we are pleased to present this **Special Annual Edition** of BIMSTEC E-Newsletter, capturing a year of meaningful progress and notable achievements in advancing regional cooperation.

This issue covers BIMSTEC's significant milestones, developments in sectoral cooperation and external relations, my diverse engagements and the secretariat's public diplomacy and outreach in 2025, reaffirming our commitment to realise the goal of a secure, prosperous and resilient Bay of Bengal region.

As we look ahead to 2026, we express our sincere appreciation to our member States, partners, stakeholders and readers for their continued support. We extend our warmest wishes to everyone for a happy, prosperous and productive New Year 2026!

**Indra Mani Pandey**  
**BIMSTEC Secretary General**

### Inside this Newsletter:

**In Focus: BIMSTEC Highlights of 2025**

**In Focus: Sectoral Development**

**BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements**

**Capacity-building Programmes**

**Fostering Collaboration and Partnerships**

**BIMSTEC in Media**

**Centre Snapshot: BIMSTEC Energy Center**

## Milestones

### Thailand Hosts 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok



The 6<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State/Government of the member States of BIMSTEC was held on 04 April 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. It was preceded by the 25<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on April 02 and 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on April 03. The 6<sup>th</sup> Summit, themed "Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC", focused on fostering collaboration among the member States to address their shared security and developmental challenges. It provided a new impetus to regional cooperation to realise the goal of a "Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC".

BIMSTEC Secretary General, in his Report to the Leaders, outlined progress made since the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, which was held in Colombo in March 2022. He sought their guidance to further advance the BIMSTEC agenda for the greater benefit of the region and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to working closely with the member States to strengthen regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

At the conclusion of the Summit, Bangladesh, a founding member of BIMSTEC, assumed the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC. H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser, Interim Government of Bangladesh, reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to working collaboratively with other member States to take BIMSTEC cooperation forward.

#### Key Outcomes of 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit:

- Adoption of Declaration of 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, which reflects the vision of the Leaders as well as their decisions and directives for future cooperation;
- Adoption of BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030, the first-ever Vision Document of BIMSTEC, which provides a comprehensive and practical roadmap for future cooperation amongst the member States to achieve the vision of Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC;
- Signing of Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, a significant step towards strengthening regional partnerships to enhance maritime connectivity, enabling more trade and travel amongst the member States;
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), institutionalizing future partnership between IORA and BIMSTEC in key areas of shared interest;
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), formalizing partnership between UNODC and BIMSTEC in areas of shared priorities;
- Adoption of Rules of Procedure for the BIMSTEC Mechanisms laying a strong foundation of institutional framework for regional cooperation under BIMSTEC, ensuring greater efficiency and consistency;
- Adoption of the Report of Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC, which contains a number of recommendations to reform and revitalize BIMSTEC; and
- Endorsement of BIMSTEC Leaders' Joint Statement on the Impact of Earthquake which struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28th March; expressing Leaders' condolences, solidarity, and commitment to supporting the affected countries, and reaffirming their commitment to collaborate in regional disaster management and to strengthen response mechanisms for natural disasters.

### 20<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting



The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held on 03 April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Chaired by Thailand, the Meeting brought together Foreign or External Affairs Ministers of the member States to review progress, finalize key agreements and outline the future course of regional cooperation. They also witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between BIMSTEC and IORA, as well as BIMSTEC and UNODC, formalizing partnership in areas of mutual interest.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Session of BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting



The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held on 02 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The BIMSTEC SOM is the key consultative and decision-making mechanism and it comprises Foreign Secretaries/Secretaries/appropriate Senior Officials of the member States. The Leaders of the Delegations of the member States expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for successfully hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> SOM.

### Signing of BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation



BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC) was signed on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit, held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC member States signed the Agreement, marking a transformative step towards enhancing maritime connectivity in the region. With AMTC in place, BIMSTEC now has a comprehensive framework for seamless maritime transport, aimed at reducing logistical bottlenecks and deepening economic exchanges. The Agreement will enhance port efficiency, harmonize maritime policies and streamline customs procedures, ensuring smoother movement of goods and services.

## Milestones

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between BIMSTEC and IORA



BIMSTEC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. BIMSTEC Secretary General and H.E. Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA Secretary General, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The signing of the MoU was welcomed by BIMSTEC Leaders, marking a significant step in deepening inter-regional cooperation.

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between BIMSTEC and UNODC



BIMSTEC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. BIMSTEC Secretary General and Ms. Anubha Sood, Regional Representative of UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The signing of the MoU was welcomed by BIMSTEC Leaders, marking a significant step in deepening inter-regional cooperation.

### BIMSTEC Granted Observer Status at Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering



BIMSTEC has been granted Observer Status at the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). This recognition marks an important milestone in BIMSTEC's efforts to strengthen regional cooperation against money laundering and financing of terrorism. The APG, established in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand, is the largest Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional Body (FSTB). With its Secretariat based in Sydney, Australia, the APG plays a crucial role in advancing Anti-money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Standards in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APG's decision to grant BIMSTEC Observer Status reflects recognition of BIMSTEC's sustained commitment to regional cooperation in anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism. Since establishment of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWGCTTC) in 2005, and its Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism, BIMSTEC has consistently advanced initiatives for information exchange, capacity building and development of joint strategies to address illicit financial flows among the member States.

### BIMSTEC Celebrates its 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The BIMSTEC Secretariat hosted a Reception on 16 June 2025 to commemorate its 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC, which was established on 06 June 1997 through signing of Bangkok Declaration.

As part of Celebration, BIMSTEC member States showcased the cultural 'unity in diversity' of the Bay of Bengal region through presenting their dance performances, exhibition of their artifacts, and other unique items.

### BIMSTEC Secretariat Marks its 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The BIMSTEC Secretariat celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 15 September 2025 in Dhaka in presence of Chief Guest H.E. Asad Alam Siam, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, and Ambassadors, High Commissioners, developmental partners, and representatives from business, media, academia, and think tanks.

## Sectoral Development

### Agriculture and Food Security

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation



The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Agricultural Cooperation was held in hybrid format in Phuket, Thailand from 28-30 March, 2025. It updated the Implementation Plan for Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027) and discussed key initiatives, including the feasibility of establishing a BIMSTEC Food Reserve, a BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Agriculture proposed by India and BIMSTEC Scholarships in Agriculture, among other areas of cooperation.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting



The 3<sup>rd</sup> BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture was held on 09 April in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was preceded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture on 08 April, 2025. During the Meeting, the Ministers also adopted the Plan of Action on BIMSTEC Fisheries and Livestock Cooperation, which outlines a comprehensive framework to revitalize the fisheries and livestock sector in the region. They also adopted a Joint Statement, calling upon the BIMSTEC member States to strengthen regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors under BIMSTEC. As the key decision-making mechanism, the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (BAMM) guides regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, setting direction and promoting collective action to enhance food security and increase resilience to climate change. Under the BIMSTEC Plan of Action (2023-2027), 17 targeted initiatives are being implemented, including scholarship programmes, capacity building workshops, promotion of good agricultural practices, and sustainable fisheries development.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group of Fisheries and Livestock



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group of Fisheries and Livestock was held virtually on 08-09 December 2025. Hosted by Nepal, the Meeting discussed implementation of the Plan of Action and other key initiatives for development of fisheries and livestock, including establishment of BIMSTEC Center of Excellence in Livestock; creation of a network of fisheries and livestock research and development institutions; exchange programmes among fisheries and livestock departments and research institutes; and forging partnership with relevant International Organisations.

#### BIMSTEC Regional Workshop on Sharing National Export Strategies



The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar organized a virtual workshop titled "Sharing National Export Strategies to Enhance Agricultural Trade and Investment" on 18 June 2025. It discussed ways to strengthen cooperation among the BIMSTEC member States to promote intra-regional agricultural trade.

#### Workshop on "Mountain Agriculture Technology in Context of Climate Change and Food System Transformation"



The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Food & Agriculture Organization and United Nations Development Programme organized a workshop titled "Mountain Agriculture Technology in the Context of Climate Change and Food System Transformation" on 25-26 June 2025 in Kathmandu with participation of the BIMSTEC member States. It assessed the current status and challenges of mountain agriculture in BIMSTEC member States and facilitated exchange of policies and technologies adopted by them on mountain agriculture in context of climate change and food transformation system.

## Sectoral Development

### Agriculture and Food Security

#### Workshop on Legume Seed Production and Farmer Seed Networks



BIMSTEC member States joined a virtual Workshop on "Enhancement of Legume Crop Seeds Production and Sustainable Farmer Seed Networks" on 8–9 July 2025, hosted by Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Workshop facilitated sharing of best practices in legume seed technology and modern farming innovations to promote sustainable agriculture and regional cooperation.

### Connectivity

#### Midterm Review of BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity



A two-day Workshop on the Midterm Review of the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5–6 March 2025. It was organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank. It assessed the implementation status of projects under the Master Plan, identified challenges hindering progress and proposed measures to address them. It also provided recommendations to expedite project completion and preparation for the Midterm Review Report.

#### Workshop on Challenges and Way Forward on Trade and Transport Connectivity in Eastern South Asia



The BIMSTEC Secretariat attended a workshop on "Challenges and Way Forward on Trade and Transport Connectivity in Eastern South Asia," jointly organized by UNESCAP and the Government of Nepal from 16–17 June 2025 in Bitrampur, Nepal. The workshop discussed progress in infrastructure at major land ports, digitalizing trade documentation, addressing challenges faced by small-scale agricultural exporters, and strengthening private sector involvement, and explored regional cooperation and inclusive connectivity. The event brought together key stakeholders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop for Midterm Review of BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop for Midterm Review of the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity took place in Bangkok from 13–14 August 2025, organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in collaboration with Asian Development Bank. The Workshop reviewed the Draft Midterm Review Report, discussed key achievements and challenges and identified future priorities for transport connectivity amongst the member States. It agreed on actionable strategies and a roadmap to accelerate implementation, reaffirming the collective commitment to stronger, more sustainable regional connectivity. The outcomes of the Workshop will guide preparation of the Midterm Review Report, paving the way for expeditious implementation of the Master Plan.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of BIMSTEC Port Conclave



BIMSTEC member States in their deliberations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Ports Conclave, held from 14–15 July 2025, reaffirmed their collective commitment to strengthening maritime connectivity through cooperation amongst their ports. The discussions covered a broad range of issues, with key focus areas including: accelerating private sector investment and publicprivate partnerships (PPPs) in BIMSTEC maritime projects, recalibrating global supply chains: strategic opportunities for South and Southeast Asia, catalyzing Bay of Bengal port connectivity and regional trade flows, unlocking opportunities with the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, enhancing intra-regional trade through harmonizing customs and logistics for regional port efficiency, promoting cruise tourism in coastal states in the Bay of Bengal, future roadmaps for BIMSTEC port collaboration and upskilling BIMSTEC maritime workforce.

## Sectoral Development

### Culture

#### 1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival Held in India



BIMSTEC marked a new milestone in Cultural cooperation with organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Traditional Music Festival -'Sapt-Sur' in New Delhi on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Hosted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Festival brought together mesmerizing performances from all 7 member States, showcasing their rich musical traditions that reflected the cultural unity in diversity in Bay of Bengal Region.

### Environment and Climate Change

#### Capacity Development Programme on Carbon Market, Trading, and Accounting



A three-day Capacity Development Programme on "Carbon Market, Trading, and Accounting" was organized by BIMSTEC, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the Royal Government of Bhutan, from 23-25 April 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

It brought together over 43 participants from BIMSTEC Member States, aimed at enhancing understanding of carbon markets, trading mechanisms and accounting frameworks. It also sought to strengthen institutional capacity for implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and promote regional cooperation through exchange of knowledge and best practices on climate action.

#### Capacity Building and Consultation Workshop for Inclusive Climate Policy and Planning



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with UN Women, UN Environment Programme and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), successfully held a two-day Regional Capacity Building and Consultation Workshop for Inclusive Climate Policy and Planning in Kathmandu on 14-15 July 2025.

The Workshop brought together officials from the BIMSTEC member States and technical experts to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in regional climate policies and actions. Participants also explored critical linkages between climate change and gender, engaged in hands-on exercises, and developed forward-looking recommendations to guide regional collaboration.

#### BIMSTEC Co-Hosts High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Plastic Management



BIMSTEC, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Office for Project Services, convened a high-level Roundtable on "Accelerating Solutions for Plastic Pollution in Bangladesh and Beyond" in Dhaka on 10 July 2025. BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, addressed the Opening Session, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in tackling shared challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, including plastic pollution. The Roundtable brought together policymakers, private sector and youth with focus on accelerating solutions for sustainable plastic management, promoting circular economy approaches, and strengthening regional collaboration.

#### BIMSTEC Youth-Led Action on Climate Change Conference



The BIMSTEC Youth-Led Action on Climate Change Conference 2025 was organised by the Bharat Scouts and Guides, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and held in New Delhi from 20-24 February 2025. The conference sought to empower young leaders to address climate challenges through advocacy, sustainable solutions, and innovative initiatives, bringing together 122 representatives from BIMSTEC member States.

## Sectoral Development

### People to People Contact

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators was held on 06-07 February 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. It discussed the operational modalities for BIMSTEC Buddhist Circuits and BIMSTEC Cruise circuits. It also discussed visa facilitation measures, to promote intra-regional tourism, as well as convening of annual BIMSTEC Travel and Tourism Mart/Road Shows.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Working Group on Tourism



3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Tourism was held on 18 March 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It discussed drafting BIMSTEC Tourism Policy Guidelines, operationalizing BIMSTEC Tourism Circuits, organizing annual tourism events, facilitating visas for tourists, enhancing banking facilities for tourists and operationalising BIMSTEC Tourism Development Fund. It also emphasized the importance of collaboration in developing BIMSTEC tourism packages & digital platforms and strengthening regional connectivity to unlock the full potential of BIMSTEC's diverse and vibrant tourism sector.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation was held virtually on 24 April 2025. Hosted by Sri Lanka, it discussed promotion of BIMSTEC Buddhist Circuits; creation of digital inventory of BIMSTEC cultural heritages; establishment of BIMSTEC Network of Cultural Institutions; organization of regular BIMSTEC cultural events and activities; and forging partnerships with the relevant international organizations.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission



The 2<sup>nd</sup> of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission was held on 10 March 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan. It finalized the draft Organogram for the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO) and the Terms of References for the appointment of Director, Professional and General Service Staff as well as their emoluments and other administrative and financial matters. It also deliberated on the potential areas of cooperation under BCIO.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation



The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation was held from 9-10 October 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It discussed implementation of the BIMSTEC Poverty Plan of Action with a view to enhance regional cooperation towards reducing poverty and achieving prosperity in the BIMSTEC member States.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks



The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks was held on May 30-31, 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meeting discussed potential avenues of cooperation in tourism, culture and other related areas to strengthen people-to-people ties amongst the member States.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Visa Matters



The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Visa Matters was held on 18-19 November 2025 in Colombo. The Meeting reviewed progress since the 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting and discussed measures to enhance regional mobility and visa facilitation amongst the BIMSTEC member States."

## Sectoral Development

### People to People Contact

#### 1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025



The first-ever BIMSTEC Youth Summit themed "Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange," was held on February 7-11, 2025 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. It was organized by Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India and it saw participation of 70 youth delegates from the BIMSTEC member States, fostering dialogue and collaboration among young leaders.

#### BIMSTEC Youth Leaders Summit 2025 Held in Guwahati



A BIMSTEC Youth leaders Summit 2025 was held in Guwahati, India from 9-12 September 2025. Hosted by Bharat Scouts and Guides, under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Bringing together 70 emerging changemakers from BIMSTEC member States, the Summit served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and youth leadership across the Bay of Bengal region.

### Security

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 21 January 2025, hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat of the Government of India. The meeting finalized the Five-Year Action Plan for BIMSTEC Cyber Security Cooperation within the BIMSTEC framework. It also discussed the draft proposal on BIMSTEC CERT-to-CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) Cooperation Framework and the draft Concept Note on the BIMSTEC Cybercrime Cooperation Framework.

#### Workshop on Emerging Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Financing of Terrorism Trends and Typologies of BIMSTEC Member States



The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) organized a Workshop, titled "Emerging Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Trends and Typologies of BIMSTEC Member States", on 28 February 2025 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and strengthen financial intelligence-sharing mechanisms among the BIMSTEC member States. Delegates from BIMSTEC member States engaged in in-depth discussions on evolving threats and regulatory challenges, while emphasizing the critical need for regional collaboration to effectively combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

## Sectoral Development

### Security

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism



The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism was held on 01 March 2025 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Special BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee Meeting. It finalized a Paper on Illicit Flow of Funds (IFF) and an Action Plan to prevent illicit flow of funds among the BIMSTEC member States. It considered conclusion of a draft MoU on capacity building to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism among BIMSTEC member States. It also emphasised the importance of BIMSTEC becoming an observer at Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking was held on 06-07 April, 2025 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting discussed implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking; establishment of a secure and interactive digital platform on trafficking-related matters; and Standard Operating Procedures for rescue and repatriation of the victims of human trafficking.

#### India Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Track 1.5 BIMSTEC Security Dialogue



The National Security Council Secretariat and Vivekananda International Foundation of India organized the "4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Track 1.5 Security Dialogue" on May 06-07, 2025 in New Delhi. It brought together security experts from BIMSTEC member States and think tanks to explore new avenues for collaboration to deal with the evolving security challenges. In his address at the Dialogue, BIMSTEC Secretary General underscored the salience of Security Dialogue in advancing regional security cooperation and outlined the initiatives and achievements of regional cooperation under BIMSTEC in security Sector, led by India.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise



The 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DME) was held virtually on 14-15 July 2025, hosted by India's National Disaster Management Authority. Organized as a Tabletop Exercise (TTE), it brought together disaster management professionals from the BIMSTEC member States to assess and enhance regional preparedness for cyclones and floods. The Participants engaged in simulated scenarios, evaluated response frameworks and shared best practices to strengthen coordination for disaster response across the region.

#### Workshop on Cross -border Transmission Lines: Techno-economic Analysis



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, organised a workshop on "Cross-border Transmission Lines: Techno-economic Analysis" from May 13-15, 2025 in Bangkok. It reviewed BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Masterplan, facilitated exchange of information on national power systems and enabled discussion on transmission of power for regional grid interconnection.

## Sectoral Development

### Security

#### BIMSTEC Energy Centre Hosts Capacity Building Webinar on Transmission Line Maintenance



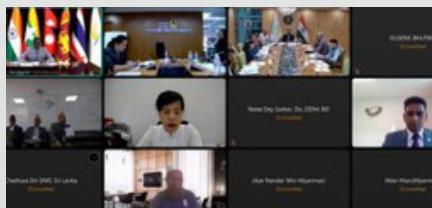
BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, India, organised an online capacity-building programme on HotLine Maintenance in Transmission Lines on 14 October 2025. Over 100 experts and participants from BIMSTEC member States joined the session to deepen their knowledge about live-line maintenance and safety in high-voltage power systems. The discussions highlighted the need for capacity building, technology sharing, and regional cooperation to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power transmission across the Bay of Bengal region.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical



The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC SubGroup on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals on 22-23 October 2025, in Colombo. It finalised the BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Drug Control and discussed the establishment of BIMSTEC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk to facilitate cooperation, information sharing and coordination among the member States to combat drug trafficking and related illicit activities in the Bay of Bengal Region.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Disaster Management Cooperation



The National Disaster Management Authority of India hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Disaster Management Cooperation on 07 November 2025 in virtual mode, which finalised the BIMSTEC Plan of Action to improve Preparedness and Coordination for responding to natural disasters in Bay of Bengal Region and discussed establishment of BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Disaster Management in India.

#### BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Cooperation on Countering Radicalisation and Terrorism Meets Virtually



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Cooperation on Countering Radicalisation and Terrorism was held virtually on 19 November 2025, in New Delhi, in virtual mode. Hosted by India, it agreed on draft BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Counter Radicalisation and Terrorism and discussed establishing an effective Information and Intelligence Sharing Mechanism and developing a structured Capacity Building Programme for Law Enforcement, Intelligence and Judicial officials of the BIMSTEC member States to strengthen regional efforts in countering radicalisation and terrorism.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation



The National Security Council Secretariat of India (NSCS) hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Maritime Security Cooperation, in New Delhi, on 25 November 2025. The Expert Group finalised the "Draft BIMSTEC Guiding Principles on the Conduct of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs) during Interaction at Sea" and the "Draft BIMSTEC Guidelines for Coordinated Marine Oil Spill Response in the Bay of Bengal". It also agreed on convening the 1<sup>st</sup> BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise in 2nd half of 2026.

## Sectoral Development

### Security

#### BIMSTEC Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction



A Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in disaster preparedness and resilience among BIMSTEC member States, was held from 11-13 November 2025 in New Delhi. The Workshop brought together participants from BIMSTEC member States to exchange experiences, share good practices and explore coordinated approaches to disaster preparedness and response. It was jointly organised by the BIMSTEC Secretariat, the National Disaster Management Authority of India, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

#### BIMSTEC Participates at 3<sup>rd</sup> Maritime Information Sharing Workshop



BIMSTEC participated at 3<sup>rd</sup> Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW-25), hosted by the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram, India, from 3-5 November 2025, which brought together over 50 participants from 30 countries, including representatives from Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), to enhance real-time coordination, interoperability and maritime information sharing across the Indian Ocean Region.

Discussions focused on evolving maritime challenges, the role of information networks and the growing importance of technology-driven cooperation. The Workshop also featured a Table-Top Exercise using indigenously developed Maritime Analytical Tool for Regional Awareness (MANTRA) platform, where participants practiced coordinated responses to simulated maritime incidents such as piracy, illicit trafficking, irregular migration and distress-at-sea incidents.

### Science Technology and Innovation

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Expert Group on Human Resource Development



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development was held on 16 July 2025 in Colombo. It finalized the BIMSTEC Plan of Implementation of the Plan of Action for Human Resource Development (2025-2029) and deliberated on the way forward to strengthen regional cooperation in Human Resource Development (HRD). Sri Lanka is the lead member State for forging cooperation in HRD sector.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group on Science, Technology & Innovation Cooperation



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation was held in Colombo on 11-12 September 2025. It reviewed the progress in implementation of BIMSTEC Plan of Action on cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (2023-2027), shared national experiences on advancing evidence-based governance and discussed regional assessment report, BIMSTEC Start-Up Conclave and operationalisation of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility.

## Sectoral Development

### Science Technology and Innovation

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC task Force on Traditional medicine



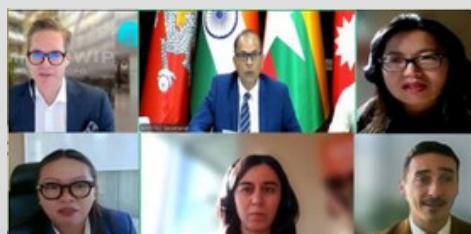
The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BTFTM) was held from 26-27 November 2025 in Colombo, with a view to advance regional cooperation in traditional medicine sector. Hosted by Sri Lanka, the Meeting reviewed implementation of Plan of Action and other key initiatives for development of traditional medicine, including BIMSTEC Traditional Medicine Portal, BIMSTEC Pharmacopoeia, harmonisation of traditional medicine curricula, research collaboration on COVID-19 and diabetes and operationalisation of two proposed Centres of Excellence on Tropical Medicine and Traditional Medicine respectively.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge (TMK), Genetic Resources (GR), and Intellectual Property Rights



The 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge (TMK), Genetic Resources (GR), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), was held virtually on 27 August 2025. Organized by the Government of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the BIMSTEC Secretariat, the Conference highlighted the importance of safeguarding traditional knowledge, promoting research and innovation and advancing collective strategies to protect and utilize genetic resources for sustainable development. It provided a platform for the member States to share national experiences and exchange ideas on strengthening regional cooperation and On the same day, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Nodal Group on TMK, GR, and IPR was also convened virtually. The Meeting discussed the Group's role and explored possible areas for collaboration among the member States to protect traditional medicine knowledge, genetic resources and intellectual property rights.

#### BIMSTEC and WIPO Jointly Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Webinar on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledgend



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), successfully hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the BIMSTEC-WIPO Webinar Series on "WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property (IP), Genetic Resources (GR), and Associated Traditional Knowledge (ATK)" on 28 October 2025. The Session brought together over 37 participants from BIMSTEC member States and enabled exchange of insights on protecting traditional knowledge and shared cultural heritage through effective intellectual property frameworks, in alignment with the WIPO Treaty on IP, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.

#### Workshop on Shaping the Future Responsibly: Regional Workshop on AI Standards in Telecom and ICT



A regional workshop on "AI Standard for Efficiency in Telecommunications & ICTs: Shaping the Future Responsibility" was held on May 05-08, 2025 in New Delhi. In his video message at the Opening Session, Secretary General highlighted both the opportunities and challenges of AI and outlined BIMSTEC's initiatives in Science, Technology and Innovation Sector. The Workshop was co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and the National Communications Academy-Finance, and brought together participants from BIMSTEC member States and Maldives to promote development of inclusive and ethical AI standards for the Region

## Sectoral Development

### Science Technology and Innovation

#### Session on Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge & Cultural Expressions



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), organized a virtual session on "Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge, and Cultural Expressions" on 30 June – 1 July 2025. Over 30 participants from the member States discussed ways to protect traditional knowledge and shared cultural heritage through effective IP frameworks.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> STI Forum and Boot Camp for Enabling STI Interventions



The 1<sup>st</sup> STI Forum and Boot Camp for BIMSTEC member States was held virtually on 29th January 2025. The inaugural camp organised by Sri Lanka, was aimed at harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) interventions to address challenges related to Sustainable Development Goals including food security, poverty eradication, climate change, and women empowerment. The camp provided an overview of the boot camp series' work plan, followed by an interactive session that laid the foundation for future learning and collaboration. It also outlined the structure, goals, and expectations for the upcoming boot camp series.

### Trade investment and development

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Working Group on Trade Facilitation



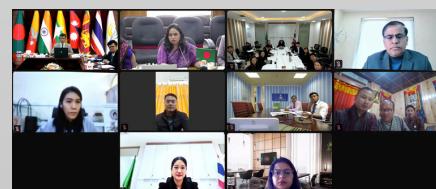
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Trade Facilitation was held virtually on 19 March 2025, organised by Bangladesh. It discussed the draft Agreement on Trade Facilitation for the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Working Group on Rules of Origin



The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Rules of Origin (WG-ROO) was held virtually on 25 March 2025, organised by Bangladesh. It discussed and updated the Draft text of the Rules for Determination of Origin of Goods for Agreement on Trade in Goods for BIMSTEC Free Trade Area and its Annexes.

#### BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of BIMSTEC Working Group on Customs Cooperation was held virtually on 02 December 2025. The member States negotiated and updated the draft text of the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters for the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, with a view to finalize it soon.

## External Relations

### BIMSTEC at 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



BIMSTEC Secretary General attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee(RCC-18) of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, held on 23-24 January 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Secretary General addressed at the RCC-18, a High Level Panel, emphasizing the critical role of regional collaboration in building disaster resilience for sustainable development. The Meeting was organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Management of Thailand.

### BIMSTEC Digital Conclave 2025: Advancing Digital Public Infrastructure in BIMSTEC Member States



The BIMSTEC Digital Conclave 2025, themed "Building Digital Public Infrastructure for Shared Prosperity", was held on 7-8 February, 2025, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was organized by The Asia Group, in partnership with the BIMSTEC Secretariat and with the support of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Conclave brought together leaders and experts from across the region to explore the potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in driving digital transformation for regional development. It featured discussions on digital identity, payments, health, SME Transformation, logistics and governance. It provided a valuable platform for sharing experiences and forging partnerships to amplify the impact of DPI initiatives in the BIMSTEC member States.

### BIMSTEC at 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Conference 2025, Muscat, Oman



BIMSTEC Secretary General spoke at the Plenary Session on "Navigating New Frontiers: Evolving Maritime Landscape in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at the 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Conference 2025 in Muscat, Oman. Secretary General highlighted BIMSTEC's commitment and key initiatives to strengthen maritime cooperation in Bay of Bengal, focusing on security challenges, enhanced connectivity, and sustainable development.

### BIMSTEC Explore Opportunities for Collaboration with United Nation and International Organizations Based in Geneva



The BIMSTEC Secretary-General (SG) paid a fruitful visit to Geneva, Switzerland, from 15-17 April 2025 as part of his efforts to engage with various United Nations and international organizations based in Geneva, with a view to fostering institutional partnerships. During the visit, the SG called on H.E. Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), at ITU Headquarters, and on H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). He also called on H.E. Mr. Daren Tang, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In addition, the SG met with H.E. Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), as well as with Mr. Daniel Kull, Director (Development Partnerships), World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

### BIMSTEC at 81<sup>st</sup> Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



The BIMSTEC Secretary-General participated in the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of UNESCAP held in Bangkok from 21-25 April 2025, where he highlighted key challenges to sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and emphasized the role of South-South Cooperation and regional organizations like BIMSTEC. He also attended a side event on digital technologies for sustainable development, underscoring the need for enhanced regional digital connectivity and collaboration with UNESCAP. On the sidelines, the Secretary-General held several bilateral meetings with UNESCAP, WMO, ACD, and CICA to strengthen institutional cooperation in areas including sustainable development, climate change, disaster management, peace, and regional connectivity.

## External Relations

### BIMSTEC at Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration Phase-II Policy Roundtable, Jakarta 2025



In a first-of-its-kind initiative, five BIMSTEC member States—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand—along with two ASEAN Member States—the Philippines and Viet Nam—have been included in the project titled “Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration Phase II (ATMI-II)”, jointly implemented by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

ATMI-II seeks to strengthen the institutional capacities of selected ASEAN (the Philippines and Viet Nam) and BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand) countries to design and implement policies that promote inclusive, climate-resilient, and market-integrated food systems. The Policy Roundtable and Inception Workshop convened representatives from ASEAN, BIMSTEC, IFAD, IFPRI, relevant Member States, and other key stakeholders.

### BIMSTEC Participates at 78<sup>th</sup> Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia



The BIMSTEC Secretariat participated in the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of WHO's Regional Committee for South-East Asia, held during 13–15 October 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. While BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, attended the inaugural Session, Mr. K. K. Yoganaadan, BIMSTEC Director for Science, Technology and Innovation, Health and Human Resource Development, addressed the Session and highlighted BIMSTEC's ongoing efforts to realise regional health security through One Health approach, with focus on surveillance, preparedness, rapid response, and collaboration among Centres of Excellence. He outlined BIMSTEC's key initiatives, including establishment of the Centres of Excellence in Tropical Medicine and Public Health in Thailand and Traditional Medicine in India, as well as a forthcoming World Bank-supported project on pandemic preparedness and response. BIMSTEC reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with WHO to build resilient, inclusive and climate responsive health systems across the Bay of Bengal region.

## External Relations

### BIMSTEC Co-hosts Regional Workshop on Infrastructure Resilience



BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey addressed the inaugural session of the Regional Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Building Infrastructure Resilience, held in New Delhi on 11-12 September 2025. The workshop was organised by BIMSTEC in partnership with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). In his remarks, the Secretary General underscored that the Bay of Bengal is among the world's most disaster-prone regions and stressed the urgent need for strengthened regional cooperation in disaster management through enhanced information sharing, early-warning systems, and joint preparedness. He also highlighted BIMSTEC's ongoing initiatives, including progress in implementing its Plan of Action on Disaster Management and the establishment of the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Centre in India, aimed at improving collective preparedness and response. Noting that five BIMSTEC Member States are also members of CDRI, he reaffirmed the two organisations' commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation in the future.

### BIMSTEC Participates at IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi



BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey participated in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, held from 9-15 October 2025 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Congress convened governments, scientists, development partners, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders to advance dialogue and commitments on biodiversity conservation, climate action, nature-based solutions, and sustainable development.

During the Congress, the Secretary General addressed the high-level session on "Harnessing Rivers for Peace and Prosperity: Cooperative Approaches to Resource Governance." He also delivered the opening remarks at "Glaciers for the Future: Global Partnership for Glacier and Post-Glacier Ecosystem Resilience," and the closing remarks at "The Freshwater Challenge: Accelerating Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration."

In his interventions, the Secretary General highlighted the challenges faced by BIMSTEC Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals amid climate change, biodiversity loss, and recurrent natural disasters. He outlined BIMSTEC's progress in regional cooperation across the environment and climate change, mountain economy, disaster management, and energy sectors, and underscored the importance of partnerships with BIMSTEC to protect the ecosystems of the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Calls on BIMSTEC Leaders at the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Called on H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Hon'ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh on the Sidelines of 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. They discussed Bangladesh's vision for an inclusive and action-oriented BIMSTEC during its Chairmanship; advancing cooperation in trade, investment, and development sector; and reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Bay of Bengal region. SG called on H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan. They discussed Bhutan's critical role in advancing BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers at the Summit SG also met with H.E. Mr. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. Their discussion focused on deepening regional cooperation and Sri Lanka's contribution to BIMSTEC, including its vital role in the science, technology and innovation sector. SG met with H.E. Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa, Foreign Minister of Thailand and discussed Thailand's significant contribution during its chairmanship of BIMSTEC and its role in strengthening BIMSTEC-ASEAN collaboration. cooperation in the Environment and Climate Change sector and regional cooperation for shared prosperity and reiterated their steadfast commitment to BIMSTEC's agenda for the greater benefit of the region. SG also Called on H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council. They discussed the critical role played by Myanmar in advancing BIMSTEC cooperation, including hosting the 4th Meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs and strengthening cooperation in the agriculture and food security sector. SG Called on H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal. They exchanged views on building a resilient Bay of Bengal region and advancing people-to-people contacts, including establishment of BIMSTEC Tourism and Culture Centre in Nepal.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Calls on BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers at the 6<sup>th</sup> Summit



BIMSTEC Secretary General met with H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs, on the Sidelines of 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. They discussed the critical role of Bangladesh, as the incoming BIMSTEC chair and the lead member State for trade, investment and development sector. SG met with H.E. D.N. Dhungyel, Foreign Minister of Bhutan and discussed deepening regional cooperation under BIMSTEC and vital contribution of Bhutan in its success. SG met with H.E. Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Foreign Minister of Nepal, to discuss progress in BIMSTEC-led regional cooperation including in culture, tourism and people-to-people contact fields. SG also met with H.E. Mr. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. Their discussion focused on deepening regional cooperation and Sri Lanka's contribution to BIMSTEC, including its vital role in the science, technology and innovation sector. SG met with H.E. Mr. Maris Sangiampongsa, Foreign Minister of Thailand and discussed Thailand's significant contribution during its chairmanship of BIMSTEC and its role in strengthening BIMSTEC-ASEAN collaboration.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General calls-on Agriculture Ministers of Bhutan, India and Nepal



BIMSTEC Secretary General paid courtesy calls on H.E. Younten Phuntsho, Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Bhutan, during which they discussed new initiatives proposed by BIMSTEC Member States to strengthen regional cooperation in agriculture and Bhutan's role in ensuring their successful implementation. He also met with H.E. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Honourable Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development of India, and discussed India's proposals aimed at enhancing regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors under the BIMSTEC framework. In addition, the Secretary General called on H.E. Ram Nath Adhikari, Honourable Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Development of Nepal. They took note of the successful outcomes of the 3rd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting and discussed initiatives to further expand regional cooperation in agriculture and food security.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Visits Bhutan



At the invitation of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the BIMSTEC Secretary General undertook an official visit to Bhutan from 5-9 June 2025. The visit aimed to gain deeper insights into the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) project and to explore potential areas of collaboration between GMC and BIMSTEC. During the visit, the Secretary General toured GMC project sites and held bilateral meetings with Ministers and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Secretary General paid a courtesy call on Dasho Dr. Lotey Tshering, Honourable Governor of GMC, to discuss possible areas where BIMSTEC could contribute to the development of GMC. In his meeting with H.E. Lyonpo Tshering, Honourable Home Minister of Bhutan, discussions focused on Bhutan's important role in strengthening BIMSTEC cooperation in the security, culture, and disaster management sectors.

He also called on H.E. Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Honourable Foreign Minister of Bhutan, in Thimphu. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Bhutan's strong commitment to the BIMSTEC process and highlighted its key role in advancing regional cooperation under BIMSTEC. The Foreign Minister also hosted a dinner in honour of the Secretary General.

Additionally, the Secretary General held an informal discussion with H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan, and H.E. Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Honourable Foreign Minister, on Bhutan's role in expanding BIMSTEC regional cooperation during a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of India to Bhutan at his residence.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Visits Nepal



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) visited Nepal from 08-10 January 2025. During his visit, SG called on Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, who reiterated Nepal's firm commitment to BIMSTEC and emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation in areas of high priority to Nepal such as tourism, energy, climate change and connectivity, including air connectivity.

SG also called on Hon'ble Minister for Industry, Commerce, and Supplies H.E. Mr. Damodar Bhandari. They discussed the present state of cooperation in trade, investment and development as well as regional connectivity. In a separate call-on Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, H.E. Mr. Badri Pandey, the two sides discussed the opportunities for regional cooperation in areas such as tourism and culture and the need for enhancing connectivity to realise these goals within the BIMSTEC framework.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Official Visit to Sri Lanka



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from February 5-7, 2025. During the visit, SG called on H.E. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, who reaffirmed Sri Lanka's steadfast commitment to BIMSTEC and emphasized the critical importance of strengthening collaboration in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as well as Health and Human Resource Development Sectors under the BIMSTEC framework. SG commended the Government of Sri Lanka for its leadership in advancing regional cooperation through BIMSTEC.

SG also called on with H.E. Vijitha Herath, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, to discuss Sri Lanka's priorities and its pivotal role in driving regional cooperation through BIMSTEC. SG also called on H.E. Nalinda Jayatissa, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Mass Media, to explore avenues for expanding collaboration in Health Sector as well as H.E. Chrishantha Abey, Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology to discuss opportunities for deepening BIMSTEC cooperation in STI Sector.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General calls on Hon'ble Adviser to Bangladesh's Ministry of Commerce



BIMSTEC Secretary General, called on H.E. Sk. Bashir Uddin, Adviser to Bangladesh's Ministry of Commerce. They discussed Bangladesh' contributions to enhancing regional trade through BIMSTEC.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Participates at 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific



BIMSTEC Secretary General participated virtually at the 6 Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, held from 26-29 August, 2025 in Fiji. The Forum was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of the Government of Fiji and the United Nations Environment Programme, primarily to discuss and prioritize environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In his recorded video message for the Ministerial Segment, SG emphasized the critical role of subregional organizations in accelerating sustainable solutions across the Asia-Pacific region. He underlined the importance of regional organizations in providing the requisite platform for forging collective regional action and highlighted BIMSTEC's progress in strengthening cooperation in areas such as environment & climate change, disaster management, mountain economy and energy. SG reaffirmed BIMSTEC's commitment to promoting inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient development in Bay of Bengal region.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General at Sagarmatha Sambaad in Kathmandu



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) participated at Inaugural Sagarmatha Sambaad on "Climate Change, Mountain and the Future of Humanity" held from May 16-18, 2025 in Kathmandu. The Dialogue brought together global leaders, policymakers and experts to deliberate on climate change, environment, mountains and other related issues. In his address during the Plenary Session, SG underscored the importance of the Dialogue in fostering meaningful discourse on the impact of climate change and in identifying pathways towards a climate-resilient and sustainable future. SG reaffirmed BIMSTEC's role as an inclusive and effective platform for advancing regional cooperation in environment, climate change and related areas. On the sidelines of the Dialogue, SG engaged in bilateral Meetings with the Ministers and Senior Officials of the Government of Nepal and Bhutan, and Representative of Organizations such as World Bank, UN Women and ICIMOD to deepen institutional partnerships and advance BIMSTEC's engagement with them.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Participates at 5<sup>th</sup> Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) addressed the Inaugural Session of the "5<sup>th</sup> Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue", held on May 20-21, 2025 in Colombo. In his remarks, SG underscored the importance of strengthening maritime cooperation to advance peace, security, and prosperity in Bay of Bengal region. SG highlighted key BIMSTEC initiatives, including signing of the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, aimed at enhancing maritime connectivity and facilitating seamless trade in the Region. The Dialogue was jointly organized by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Pathfinder Foundation with support of the Government of Sri Lanka.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Met with SAARC Secretary General



BIMSTEC Secretary General met with H.E. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal. During their meeting, they exchanged insights on the agenda and priorities of their respective organizations.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General participates at 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



BIMSTEC Secretary General attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee(RCC-18) of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, held on 23-24 January 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Secretary General addressed at the RCC-18, a High Level Panel, emphasizing the critical role of regional collaboration in building disaster resilience for sustainable development. The Meeting was organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Management of Thailand.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General interacts with IFPRI/ADB /WB



BIMSTEC Secretary General interacted with officials of the South Asia Regional Office of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in New Delhi, on 24 February 2025. Their discussions focussed on deepening collaboration in areas of mutual interest, including promotion of sustainable agriculture practices in the Bay of Bengal region. Secretary General met with Ms. Mio Oka, Country Director-India, Asian Development Bank on 24 February 2025. They discussed deepening collaboration between the two Organisations. Secretary General also met with Mr. Andrew Goodland, Program Leader for Sustainable Development for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, The World Bank, India on 24 February 2025. Their discussion centred on exploring collaborative opportunities for the World Bank to support BIMSTEC for sustainable development in Bay of Bengal.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General participates at 3<sup>rd</sup> BIMSTEC Dialogue 2025



BIMSTEC Secretary General attended the Valedictory Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> BIMSTEC Dialogue 2025 "The Imperatives and Impediments of BIMSTEC", organized by India Foundation and Chulalongkorn University on the margins of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. The Dialogue was an opportunity to underline BIMSTEC' role in regional cooperation and the expected outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General participates at BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum



BIMSTEC Secretary General attended the Opening Ceremony of the BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum on the margins of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit. It was inaugurated by Professor Muhammad Yunus, Hon'ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh. It brought together young entrepreneurs and experts from seven BIMSTEC member States to exchange ideas, share experiences and explore opportunities for regional cooperation. The forum aimed to foster innovation-driven growth, strengthen regional cooperation and empower youth to contribute to a more prosperous, resilient and open BIMSTEC community.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Speaks at 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Kalinga and Southeast Asia: The Civilizational Connect



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) delivered a recorded video message at Inaugural Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on "Kalinga and Southeast Asia: The Civilization Connect" in Odisha, India. SG highlighted the historical maritime and cultural linkages between Kalinga and Southeast Asia, underscoring their relevance in advancing regional cooperation within the Bay of Bengal.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Participates in High-Level Policy Dialogue



BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) participated at the High-Level Policy Dialogue titled "Beyond Waste: Optimizing Food, Water, and Energy for Better Nutrition in South Asia" held from 17-19 June, 2025 in Colombo. He spoke at the Inaugural Session of High-Level Regional Policy Dialogue, underscoring its importance in spurring regional cooperation in advancing food and nutritional security. He highlighted the progress BIMSTEC has made in forging regional cooperation in sectors such as Agriculture & Food Security, Fisheries and Livestock, Blue Economy, Energy and Environment & Climate Change, which has been contributing to food, nutrition and energy security in Bay of Bengal region.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Participates at Meghna Knowledge Forum II



BIMSTEC Secretary General virtually addressed the 2 Meghna Knowledge Forum held on 23-25 July 2025 at AIT, Bangkok, organized by IUCN together with AIT and South Asian University. He highlighted the Meghna River Basin's ecological and socio-economic importance, emphasizing regional cooperation for climate resilience and sustainable management. The Forum gathered experts to discuss climate risks, nature-based solutions, and inclusive basin governance.

### BIMSTEC Participates at 3<sup>rd</sup> Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave



BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey addressed the 3rd Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, held on 18-19 September 2025 in Kolkata, India, and participated in a Fireside Chat with eminent scholar Shri Prabir De. Organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Conclave brought together policymakers, business leaders, and experts to discuss economic opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. In his address, the Secretary General noted that BIMSTEC's initiatives to expand intra-regional trade, investment, and connectivity, along with cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, contribute to strengthening security and development in the Indo-Pacific.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General holds dialogue with RIS and Dakshin- Global South Centre of Excellence



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, met with Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, as well as scholars of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based policy research institute under India's Ministry of External Affairs, and representatives of DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, hosted at RIS. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation with BIMSTEC through policy research and institutional support aimed at enhancing regional cooperation under BIMSTEC.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General at Regional Policy Dialogue on Food Emergency Response



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, opened the Ambassadorial Roundtable on "Cooperation for Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Bay of Bengal Region," which was jointly organised by BIMSTEC and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as part of the Regional Policy Dialogue on Flood Emergency Response, in Bangkok on 14-16 October 2025. The Dialogue brought together representatives from all seven BIMSTEC member States to exchange experiences and best practices in flood response, with the aim of co-developing a Regional Flood Response Framework for them. Discussions underscored the importance of regional solidarity, knowledge sharing and coordinated action to enhance preparedness, reduce disaster risks and build resilience.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General at Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2025



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, participated at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2025, organised by Indian Navy, in collaboration with National Maritime Foundation (NMF), from 28- 30 October 2025 in New Delhi, India. In his address, Secretary General stated that the Bay of Bengal lies at the heart of Indo-Pacific. He highlighted BIMSTEC's vision, goals and priorities and its achievements in maritime cooperation, in areas such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief at Sea, Maritime Domain Awareness, Blue Economy, Maritime Connectivity and Preservation of Maritime Ecosystem. Reaffirming BIMSTEC's agenda and vision of the Bay of Bengal as a common security and prosperity space, SG called for enhanced regional cooperation to tackle shared maritime challenges.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Visits Manila to Meet with ADB's Senior Management



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, visited Manila from 06-07 November 2025 to meet with the President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as other members of ADB's senior Leadership. During his meeting with ADB President, Mr. Masato Kanda, SG highlighted the long-standing cooperation between BIMSTEC and ADB, and appreciated the support it has provided in developing BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity, BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan, BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study and various sectoral capacity building programmes. The ADB President expressed his commitment to deepen ongoing cooperation and work together to identify additional avenues for expanding collaboration in future. He underlined the importance that ADB attaches to cooperation with regional organisations like BIMSTEC. SG also met with Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice President (South, Central and West Asia), and Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Vice President for Sectors and Themes.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General at Indian Ocean Maritime Dialogue



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, participated at the Indian Ocean Maritime Dialogue on the theme "India and the Indian Ocean – Shaping Pathways for Peace and Security" held in New Delhi on 27 November 2025. Speaking during the session on regional maritime structures and identifying gaps and solutions for information-sharing, crisis response, fisheries governance, and subsea infrastructure protection, the Secretary General underscored BIMSTEC's growing role in advancing maritime cooperation, including maritime security in the region and highlighted key initiatives undertaken by BIMSTEC in maritime security, connectivity, disaster management, environment and climate change and blue economy.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General addresses "Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia (D4N) Conference 2025" through a video message



The BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey delivered a video message at the Closing Plenary of the "Delivering for Nutrition in South Asia (D4N) Conference 2025" held from December 2-4, 2025, in Kathmandu. He underscored the critical role of regional cooperation in advancing nutrition and food systems, and highlighted BIMSTEC's priority areas in Agriculture and Food Security, including the proposal for establishment of a BIMSTEC Food Reserve.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Visits BIMSTEC Energy Centre



BIMSTEC Secretary General(SG) H.E. Indra Mani Pandey visited the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in Bengaluru, India, on 11 December 2025. The BEC team briefed SG on its ongoing activities and future plans. SG reaffirmed the BIMSTEC Secretariat's support to BEC and highlighted its crucial role in promoting regional cooperation in the energy sector including technical assistance, capacity building and undertaking projects aimed at interconnection of power grids, energy efficiency, renewable energy, etc. enabling transition to green energy by the member States.

## BIMSTEC Secretary General's Engagements

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Addresses Workshop on Governing AI for People, Planet and Progress



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, delivered a video message at the workshop titled 'Governing Artificial Intelligence for People, Planet and Progress: AI Sovereignty and International Law', hosted by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, on 12 December 2025. The message underscored the need for a regional regulatory framework aligned with the Global Digital Compact and reaffirmed BIMSTEC's commitment to strengthening digital public infrastructure and leveraging the transformative potential of AI across all areas of BIMSTEC cooperation.

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Addresses Webinar on "Securing Beyond Borders: Strengthening BIMSTEC's Role in Countering Non-Traditional Threats"



BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey delivered the keynote address at the webinar titled "Security Beyond Borders: Strengthening BIMSTEC's Role in Countering Non-Traditional Threats", hosted by Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) and the South Asia Sustainability and Security Research Institute (SASSRI) of Sri Lanka. In his address, he emphasised complex, transnational and non-traditional threats that necessitate collective action and coordinated regional responses. Highlighting Security as a priority sector, he mentioned BIMSTEC's progress, including the Convention on Combating Terrorism, the proposed Home Ministers' Meeting, and new guidelines for maritime and cyber security.



## Public Diplomacy and External Publicity

### BIMSTEC Outreach Programme at Independent University



The BIMSTEC Public Diplomacy and External Publicity Team, in collaboration with Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), organized an outreach program titled "Regional Cooperation through BIMSTEC" on February 23, 2025, in Dhaka. It was aimed at raising awareness about BIMSTEC's initiatives.

Over 40 participants from the Department of Global Studies & Governance attended the program. Emphasizing the importance of youth in fostering regional cooperation, BIMSTEC plans to take similar initiatives with other universities and institutions.

### BIMSTEC Outreach Programme at Jahangirnagar University



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with Jahangirnagar University (JU), organized an outreach program titled "Promoting Regional Cooperation through BIMSTEC" on April 15, 2025 at JU, Dhaka, which was aimed at raising awareness about BIMSTEC's initiatives and enhance its visibility among faculty and students.

It was attended by over 90 participants from Department of International Relations. Underscoring the role of youth in advancing regional cooperation, the BIMSTEC Secretariat plans to conduct similar outreach to other universities and academic institutions across the region.

### BIMSTEC Outreach Programme at Geneva University



BIMSTEC Secretary General delivered a lecture titled "Promoting Regional Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal" at Geneva University on 17 April 2025 and addressing students of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG) Programme, he highlighted BIMSTEC's growing role and salience in fostering regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal Region.

### Public Talk at Royal Thimphu College



BIMSTEC Secretary General delivered a talk on "Promoting Regional Cooperation through BIMSTEC" at Royal Thimphu College in Bhutan on 09 June 2025. Addressing over 90 students and faculty members, Secretary General highlighted BIMSTEC's mandate vision and achievements in forging regional cooperation in security and development.

### BIMSTEC Outreach Programme at Bangladesh University of Professionals



The BIMSTEC Secretariat organized an outreach to Bangladesh University of Professionals in Dhaka on 26 June 2025 with a view to raise awareness about BIMSTEC's vision and agenda for advancing regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal region with participation of over 95 students and faculty members.

### Interactive Session with Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh



BIMSTEC Secretary General hosted an interactive briefing session with members of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka on 22 July 2025, with a view to highlight BIMSTEC's vital role in fostering regional cooperation and integration across the Bay of Bengal. The BIMSTEC Secretariat has been enhancing its public outreach and awareness about BIMSTEC's vision, goals and agenda for regional cooperation. It has focused on building close link with media as a vital tool for public diplomacy, besides its reach out to think tanks and academia.

## Public Diplomacy and External Publicity

### BIMSTEC conducts Outreach Programme at the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute, Colombo



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, made a presentation on "BIMSTEC: Fostering Regional Cooperation for Realising Security and Sustainable Development in the Bay of Bengal Region" at the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) on 14 October 2025 in Colombo. The Session was attended by young diplomats, scholars and faculty members and trainees of the Institute. The interactive discussion enhanced participants' understanding of BIMSTEC's role in advancing regional cooperation and integration in the Bay of Bengal region.

### BIMSTEC at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in New Delhi

political continuity, historical linkages and shared cultural heritage of the states in Bay of Bengal region provide a solid foundation for forging regional cooperation.

BIMSTEC member States enjoy close bilateral relations with one another and are ready to engage in bilateral cooperation in areas which are on the agenda of BIMSTEC regional cooperation under BIMSTEC thus complementing and reinforcing regional cooperation.



The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries was held from 17-22 November 2025 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) in New Delhi, bringing together young diplomats from BIMSTEC member States for an intensive programme on regional cooperation, diplomacy and global affairs. BIMSTEC Secretary General,

BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, delivered remarks at the Valedictory Session, highlighting BIMSTEC's growing role in fostering regional integration, strengthening partnerships and advancing collective progress across its priority areas of cooperation. He emphasised the importance of equipping the young diplomats with the knowledge and perspectives needed to drive future collaboration in the region.

14 young diplomats from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the week-long course, which aimed to build a deeper understanding of regional dynamics and strengthen the foundations for future diplomacy within the BIMSTEC framework.

### BIMSTEC and Asian Confluence Jointly Launch Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies



The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Asian Confluence, one of the leading Think Tanks of Northeast India, jointly launched the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies at the Asian Confluence in Shillong, Meghalaya, on 30 October 2025. The Centre aims to strengthen research, policy dialogue and regional cooperation among countries connected by Bay of Bengal. It will also serve as a platform to promote academic and policy exchanges and facilitate "thirdspace cooperation" among regional stakeholders.

BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, graced the ceremony for inauguration of the Centre, which was attended by representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs and State Government of Meghalaya, senior diplomats, policy experts and representatives from academia, think tanks and youth organisations. In his keynote speech, Secretary General commended Asian Confluence for its timely and visionary initiative to advance research, dialogue, and collaboration on regional cooperation. He underlined the leading role that the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies can play in presenting the interests and priorities of India's North Eastern region, which is considered as a key players as well as a major beneficiary of regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region.

## BIMSTEC in Media

### BIMSTEC Talks Progress and Possibilities on Jamuna TV



BIMSTEC Secretary General was invited to a special talk show on Jamuna Television, one of Bangladesh's most prominent and reputed media outlets. In this insightful conversation, he discussed BIMSTEC's progress, the challenges ahead and its future direction in fostering regional cooperation across Bay of Bengal.

Watch the full interview here : [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaEXnjrXyUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaEXnjrXyUw)

### BIMSTEC Secretary General in Conversation with Sri Lanka's Advocata Institute



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, gave an exclusive interview to the Advocata Institute, a leading Sri Lankan Think Tank, where he shared insights on BIMSTEC's growing role in fostering regional cooperation across the Bay of Bengal. Secretary General highlighted BIMSTEC's unique position as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia, its achievements in advancing cooperation in key sectors and the opportunities ahead for deepening partnerships with the governments, academia, think tanks and private sector.

Watch the podcast: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB8nPa79cgY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB8nPa79cgY)

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Shares Insights on Regional Integration with TV1 Sri Lanka's Face to Face Programme



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, joined TV1, one of Sri Lanka's leading television channels, for an exclusive interview where he shared insights on BIMSTEC's growing role as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia. He highlighted the Organisation's unique non-political framework for cooperation and spoke about BIMSTEC's progress in priority areas of cooperation.

Watch the full interview:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF4RLmS7LmgI>

### BIMSTEC Secretary General Shares Views on Regional Cooperation with Sri Lanka's Hiru TV



BIMSTEC Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, appeared at Hiru TV, Sri Lanka's leading media platform, where he shared insights on BIMSTEC's growing role as a regional platform for forging cooperation between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Secretary General stressed that Sri Lanka and other BIMSTEC member States should seize the opportunities presented for development during the present era, called Asian Century. He reflected on regional connectivity, technology-driven growth and BIMSTEC's role in fostering shared prosperity and sustainable development across the Bay of Bengal region.

Watch the full interview:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-bY4kk1FOE>

## BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC)- Strengthening Regional Energy Cooperation



The BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) is a key regional institution established in Bengaluru, India, to enhance cooperation in the energy sector among the seven BIMSTEC member States. The Centre was established pursuant to a Memorandum of Association signed by the Member States and a Host Country Agreement concluded with the Government of India. BEC functions as a Centre of Excellence in the energy sector, reflecting the collective commitment of BIMSTEC member States to sustainable development, energy security, and deeper regional integration.

The primary objective of BEC is to coordinate, facilitate, and strengthen regional cooperation in the energy sector. The Centre promotes the sharing of experiences and best practices and supports capacity-building initiatives across Member States, including in areas of energy reforms, regulation, and energy efficiency. BEC develops, manages, and evaluates a regional energy database, taking into account ongoing initiatives, and prepares roadmaps to foster effective regional cooperation. It also establishes and operationalises a framework for networking among national-level energy institutions and undertakes preparatory work for regional energy projects through feasibility studies, data collection, and related analytical activities. In addition, the Centre studies, compiles, and disseminates information on the energy policies of BIMSTEC Member States.

BEC performs several critical functions to support regional energy development. These include research and analysis of energy data and statistics, promotion of grid interconnections, facilitation of transnational natural gas pipelines, and support for hydropower development and regional energy supply. The Centre also promotes renewable energy deployment, regional energy trade to enhance energy security, and cross-border public and private investment in the energy sector. Furthermore, it supports the development of training infrastructure and human resource capacity to build a skilled workforce in the energy domain.

The Centre has already organized several capacity-building programmes, bringing together experts from across the region and receiving enthusiastic participation from member States. These initiatives have facilitated knowledge exchange, strengthened professional skills, and fostered cooperation on sustainable energy pathways. While the Centre will continue such efforts, regular feedback and clearly articulated requirements from member States are essential to ensure that future programmes remain well-aligned, responsive, and impactful.

As BIMSTEC member States work toward a resilient and interconnected energy future, the BIMSTEC Energy Centre continues to play a pivotal role in shaping collective strategies and supporting regional progress. Member States are encouraged to actively engage with BEC's initiatives to strengthen regional cooperation and derive maximum collective benefits.

**Visit BEC at:** <https://bimstecenergycentre.org/> <https://bimstecenergydatabase.org/>

**E-Mail BEC at:** [comm@bimstecenergycentre.org](mailto:comm@bimstecenergycentre.org)



## BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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