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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

On the occasion of celebrating the 26th Anniversary of the founding of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), it gives me great pleasure to extend warm felicitations and sincere best wishes, to the Governments and peoples of the BIMSTEC Member States.

BIMSTEC is indeed an important and meaningful organization, bridging the people and economies of the South and South East Asian regions, which are abundantly endowed with significant potential for economic development and enhancing people to people contact. Bound by shared history and traditional cultural linkages, BIMSTEC has secured to be a propitious regional grouping, in accordance with the customary interests of its peoples and Member States.

It is indeed gratifying to note that cooperation under the BIMSTEC banner has expanded in recent years. Sri Lanka remains committed to the founding principles embodied in the BIMSTEC Charter and stands ready to work closely with Member countries, towards meaningfully accomplishing the common goals of the Organization.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Thailand the current Chair of BIMSTEC for providing able leadership, and the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the BIMSTEC Secretariat which has been effectively coordinating the Organization's activities, together with appreciation for the guidance of HE Mr. Tenzin Lekphell as the Secretary General. I am confident that BIMSTEC will grow exponentially based on its vision to secure a prosperous region.

In celebrating our bonds of cooperation and friendship today, let us build and deliver for our peoples of BIMSTEC and humanity.


Ranil Wickremesinghe

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

May 22, 2023

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Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka