



मत्स्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 23rd BIMSTEC Day, I convey warm felicitations to the leaders and people of BIMSTEC countries.

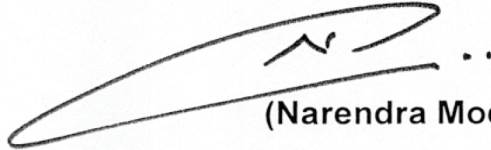
Over the years, BIMSTEC has proved to be an effective bridge between South and South East Asia, reinforcing the traditional bonds of mutual goodwill and shared cultural heritage. The continued strengthening of BIMSTEC in recent times has brought our countries even closer together with the common objective of building a more secure and prosperous Bay of Bengal region. For India, BIMSTEC is also a natural choice for its key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

I warmly recall the presence of leaders from all BIMSTEC countries at the swearing-in ceremony of our Government in May last year. It was a gesture of friendship that I will forever cherish.

The world is currently fighting the common challenge of Covid-19 pandemic. No individual country can, by itself, overcome its huge consequences. In our common endeavour to deal with this unprecedented threat, India stands ready to share its expertise, resources, capacities and knowledge with all countries in the region.

I take this opportunity to thank Sri Lanka, the current Chair of BIMSTEC, for steering various meetings in an extremely productive manner since the BIMSTEC Summit held in 2018. We also appreciate the role of the BIMSTEC Secretariat in coordinating diverse collaborative activities.

BIMSTEC holds great promise for the development and growth of the region. I am confident that our cooperation in diverse areas would grow in the years to come in the spirit of solidarity and mutual friendship.



(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

May 23, 2020

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