



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE


On behalf of the people of India, I convey my warm greetings to fellow citizens of BIMSTEC on the occasion of 22nd BIMSTEC Day.

We, the people of BIMSTEC countries are bound together by our intertwined cultures and histories, and have come even closer in recent years through our common purpose of building a peaceful and prosperous Bay of Bengal region. We are committed to the goals of delivering better opportunities and economic prosperity to our people, especially the youth. We have drawn strength from our vibrant and ever deepening regional cooperation in this endeavor.

In the recent years, BIMSTEC member states have intensified their efforts to enhance regional connectivity, deepen economic ties and achieve regional security. The resounding success of the fourth BIMSTEC summit, held last year in Kathmandu, is a testament to the region's enduring commitment to result-oriented, multifaceted regional cooperation. For India, BIMSTEC remains a natural platform to fulfil our key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

I thank the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka, and congratulate the Government of Sri Lanka as the new Chair of BIMSTEC.

I am certain that BIMSTEC would continue to pave way for a brighter future for its people, built on strong and enduring partnerships among its member states.



(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi
May 24, 2019