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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி  
**President of Sri Lanka**

### BIMSTEC Charter Day Message

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Charter that established the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Since its establishment in 1997, our collective will and concerted efforts have manifested regional economic integration, connecting South Asia and South East Asia through BIMSTEC. Sri Lanka is proud to have been a founding member of the BIMSTEC and to be the lead country in Technology.

BIMSTEC has made significant progress during the last 22 years and there is a greater need to work collectively to ensure tangible results to our people.

Sri Lanka remains fully committed to the principles and objectives of the BIMSTEC Charter and will continue to play a constructive role as in the past. I reiterate our fullest support to BIMSTEC in its efforts of promoting and fostering regional cooperation in the region. As the present Chair, Sri Lanka hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee in January 2019 under its chairmanship and reiterates its commitment to host the core BIMSTEC Meetings.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate Sri Lanka's strong commitment to working towards greater regional cooperation through BIMSTEC.

May 25, 2019

**Maithripala Sirisena**



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு  
**Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**