



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री

Prime Minister



**MESSAGE**

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, I convey my warm greetings and felicitations to fellow citizens of BIMSTEC on its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

BIMSTEC represents one-fifth of humanity in a common space, connected by land and sea, it connects the ecologies of the Great Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal which enrich our land and shores and connect our shared way of life, histories and culture. For India, BIMSTEC is a natural platform to fulfill our key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

BIMSTEC countries are among the youngest and the fastest growing economies of any region in the world. Given our region's strategic location in terms of trade routes, it is essential that our deep and vibrant regional cooperation serves as the foundation for regional prosperity and development.

I am happy to note the steady implementation of the robust Agenda of Action agreed during the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat in Goa in 2016. It will help build a better connected and more integrated, prosperous and peaceful region.

I thank the Government of Nepal, the current chair of BIMSTEC, for its leadership, as also the Government of Bangladesh, for hosting the Secretariat in Dhaka.

I am confident that through our joint efforts, BIMSTEC will scale new heights for achieving peace and prosperity for the peoples of our region.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi  
June 5, 2018