



**Secretariat**  
**Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral**  
**Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**

**Secretary General**

06 June 2024

**Message**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to the Governments and people of the member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

The BIMSTEC Day provides us an opportunity to reflect on its journey, celebrate its achievements and reaffirm our commitment to our shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region. Let us also celebrate the entry into force of the Charter of BIMSTEC, a historic milestone, which will provide impetus to expanding and deepening regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal region through BIMSTEC.

Since its establishment on 06 June 1997, BIMSTEC has made significant strides in promoting regional cooperation in various sectors through establishment of necessary institutional mechanisms and BIMSTEC Centres and engaging in training and capacity building etc. Under the BIMSTEC Framework, collective endeavours of the member States have fostered a spirit of collaboration and solidarity in the Bay of Bengal region.

As member States of the BIMSTEC face similar security and developmental challenges, the rationale for regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal, as envisioned by our Leaders, ever since the creation of BIMSTEC 27 years ago, to deal with them, remains incontrovertible and self-evident.

Among the significant developments during past one year is the constitution of an Eminent Persons Group, which has already met thrice and is currently reviewing various areas of cooperation as well as institutional framework of BIMSTEC in order to reform, revitalize and repurpose the BIMSTEC. BIMSTEC is, thus, poised to play a greater role in forging regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal region.

The Secretariat is fully committed to perform the tasks assigned to it by the member States, in a timely, efficient and effective manner, with a view to enable the member States to translate into tangible progress their vision for regional cooperation in Bay of Bengal. It looks forward to the continued guidance and support of the member States.

**Happy BIMSTEC Day!**

**(Indra Mani Pandey)**