BIMSTEC Secretariat,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

PRESS RELEASE

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BIMSTEC AND UNODC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the occasion of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held on 04 April, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, BIMSTEC Secretary General and Ms. Anubha Sood, Regional Representative of UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. The signing of the MoU was welcomed by the BIMSTEC Leaders, marking a significant step in deepening inter-regional cooperation.

The MoU formalizes the future partnership between UNODC and BIMSTEC in areas of shared interest, providing a framework of cooperation in facilitating collaboration to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, illicit drugs and terrorism in the Bay of Bengal region. This partnership will also be instrumental in jointly addressing the pressing non-traditional security concerns in the region and beyond.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It pursues regional cooperation in 7 broad sectors: Agriculture & Food Security; Connectivity; Environment & Climate Change; People-to-People Contact; Science, Technology & Innovation; Security; and Trade, Investment & Development. The cooperation also covers 8 sub-sectors: Blue Economy, Mountain Economy, Energy, Disaster Management, Fisheries & Livestock, Poverty Alleviation, Health, and Human Resource Development.

UNODC is the United Nations entity mandated with addressing the challenges of drugs, organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. We help Governments implement international treaties, monitor global developments, and design effective laws, policies, and interventions. UNODC is present in around 150 countries, where we train practitioners in justice, health, law enforcement, and other fields.

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