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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL TRADE
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

MINISTER

On the auspicious occasion of BIMSTEC Day 2026, I join the Member States, partners, and stakeholders in celebrating the enduring spirit of friendship and cooperation that has united the Bay of Bengal community for nearly three decades. As BIMSTEC begins commemorating its historic 30th Anniversary, we take pride in the remarkable growth of our organization into an important bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, guided by our shared commitment to dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding.

For Bhutan, the vision of a prosperous, peaceful, and open region is firmly grounded in the values of trust, solidarity, and collective wellbeing. This landmark anniversary provides an important opportunity to reflect on our shared journey in advancing resilience, connectivity, and practical cooperation. We are encouraged by the growing momentum to deepen collaboration across priority sectors, including trade, energy, technology, connectivity, and environmental stewardship, thereby strengthening BIMSTEC as a dynamic and vital platform for regional cooperation.

At a time of growing global uncertainty and division, our solidarity and mutual trust remain our greatest strengths. Bhutan remains steadfast in its commitment to contributing constructively to a peaceful, resilient, and inclusive BIMSTEC region that reflects the aspirations of our peoples while safeguarding the interests of future generations.

May the bonds of friendship among our Member States continue to flourish as we celebrate thirty years of working together towards a prosperous future.

Tashi Delek and best wishes for the continued success of BIMSTEC.

(D.N. Dhungyel)