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எச். எம். விஜித ஹேரத், பா. உ.
H. M. Vijitha Herath, M. P.

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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள், வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் சுற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சர்
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

BIMSTEC Day Message from Hon. Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm congratulations to the Member States of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on the occasion of its 29th Anniversary.

Sri Lanka underscores BIMSTEC's increasingly significant role in advancing regional cooperation across a wide spectrum of sectors, providing a pragmatic and action-oriented platform that connects South and Southeast Asia. Its growing relevance is evident in the tangible progress achieved under the seven priority areas.

During the past year, Sri Lanka has remained actively engaged in BIMSTEC's work, particularly in its capacity as Lead Country for Science, Technology and Innovation, as well as in the subsectors of Technology, Health, and Human Resource Development. In this regard, Sri Lanka has taken concrete steps to advance regional collaboration by hosting several Expert Group Meetings and technical workshops across multiple sectors. We attach particular importance to the establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo by the end of this year, which we believe will significantly enhance regional cooperation in innovation, research, and capacity building. Sri Lanka remains dedicated to supporting its operationalization and ensuring that it delivers meaningful benefits to all Member States.

As we look ahead, it is essential that BIMSTEC continues to strengthen its institutional mechanisms, promote effective implementation of agreed initiatives, and further deepen collaboration among Member States. Sri Lanka stands ready to work in close partnership with all Member States and the Secretariat to advance our shared vision of a prosperous, resilient, and interconnected Bay of Bengal region.

I wish BIMSTEC continued success in the years ahead.

H.M. Vijitha Herath, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
06 April 2026