

BIMSTEC

July 18, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



BIMSTEC Latest News

Recently, BIMSTEC security chiefs vowed joint action against terrorism and endorsed maritime law enforcement principles.

About BIMSTEC

- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** (BIMSTEC) is a grouping of seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The organization came into existence **on 6 June 1997 through the 'Bangkok Declaration'**.
- **Members:** It is a unique link connecting South Asia with South-East Asia – five Members from South Asia (**Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka**) and two from South-East Asia (**Myanmar and Thailand**).
- **Historical Background**
 - It was formed as **BIST-EC** (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation) in 1997.
 - It was renamed to **BIMST-EC** with the addition of **Myanmar in 1998**.

- It was fully **transformed into BIMSTEC** (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) in **2004**.
- The BIMSTEC objectives are to **strengthen technical and economic cooperation** among its seven member nations situated around the Bay of Bengal.
- **BIMSTEC Working Mechanism:** It organizes **intergovernmental interactions** through **Summits (held once in 2 years), Ministerial Meetings (Convened annually), Senior Officials Meetings (held twice a year)**.
- BIMSTEC has **identified 14 priority** areas of cooperation where a member country takes the lead.
- India is the lead country for **Transport & Communication, Tourism, Environment & Disaster Management**, and Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime.
- **Secretariat:** Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Source: News On Air

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/about-bimstec/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.