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தினேஷ் குணவர்த்தன - (பா.உ.) வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சர்  
Dinesh Gunawardena - (M.P.) Foreign Minister

### **BIMSTEC Day Message**

On the special occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), I wish to extend my greetings for all Member States and the organization.

BIMSTEC has contributed immensely for peace, stability and prosperity of our region during the last 24 years. I am confident that our friendly relationship and good cooperation between Member States and the Secretariat will be further strengthened and enhanced in the years to come for the benefit of our peoples.

As the world is in the brink of a major economic and social crisis due to the unprecedented devastation caused to human lives by the COVID-19 pandemic, BIMSTEC as a regional cooperation should play a vital supportive role in reviving the economies of Member States through cooperation in areas of expertise of Member States.

I would like to recall our renewed commitment at the recently concluded 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting to endeavor to support BIMSTEC initiatives. Sri Lanka looks forward to host the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in the latter part of 2021 in Sri Lanka subject to the restrictions created by the pandemic.

As a founder Member Sri Lanka salutes all Member States for their untiring contributions to keep the wheels of BIMSTEC moving even during the pandemic.

**Dinesh Gunawardena (M.P.)**  
**Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

