



# परराष्ट्र मामिला अध्ययन प्रतिष्ठान Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)



The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue on the theme "BIMSTEC at 30: Promoting People-to-People Contact to Advance Regional Cooperation, Integration and Shared Prosperity" at the Sagarmatha Hall, IFA, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, the Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Rojina Tamrakar, emphasized the growing importance of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in promoting regional cooperation through stronger people-to-people connectivity and collaboration. She noted that deepening regional partnerships is essential for advancing shared prosperity and well being of people of the region.

Delivering the keynote address, Secretary General of BIMSTEC, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, reflected on the organization's achievements over the past three decades, ongoing institutional reforms, and future priorities. He highlighted the importance of enhancing people-to-people engagement, connectivity, trade, and economic cooperation to realize BIMSTEC's vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and resilient Bay of Bengal region. He also underscored Nepal's growing contribution to advancing regional cooperation and addressing shared opportunities and challenges within the BIMSTEC framework.

In his special remarks, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kiran Shakya, reviewed BIMSTEC's evolution, achievements, and challenges in regional integration. He stressed the importance of strengthening people-to-people contact, connectivity, and mutual understanding among member states while appreciating IFA for organizing the timely dialogue. He reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to supporting BIMSTEC's transformation into a people-centred regional community.

Ambassador of Thailand to Nepal, H.E. Donnawit Poolsawat and Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal, H.E. Ruwanthi Delpitiya also graced the event. Diplomats from other BIMSTEC member states based in Kathmandu, officials from the relevant ministries, academics, policy experts, representatives of think tanks and development partners, researchers, and university students were also present at the event.

The programme concluded with a shared commitment to further strengthening regional partnerships and advancing a more connected, inclusive, and people-centred BIMSTEC.

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