

India and Other Countries Discuss Security: First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting

India hosted the **first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi**, bringing together representatives from all seven member countries. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the **Delhi Declaration**, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation against terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime and other transnational threats. <Cite refs={["turn587788news18"]} />

What Is BIMSTEC?

The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organisation that connects South and Southeast Asian countries around the Bay of Bengal.

Its seven members are:

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand

BIMSTEC promotes cooperation in areas such as security, connectivity, trade, technology, public health and disaster management.

Key Outcomes of the Meeting

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation among member states to address security challenges that cross national borders.

- **Counter-terrorism:** Improving cooperation to prevent terrorism and deny safe havens to terrorist networks.

- **Drug trafficking:** Strengthening joint efforts to combat illicit drug networks.
- **Human trafficking:** Improving coordination to prevent trafficking and protect vulnerable people.
- **Cybercrime:** Enhancing cooperation against digital crimes and emerging cyber threats.
- **Intelligence sharing:** Encouraging timely exchange of information among security agencies.
- **Legal cooperation:** Strengthening mutual legal assistance, extradition and the repatriation of fugitives.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of institutional capacity-building and cooperation in disaster management. <Cite refs={["turn587788news18"]} />

Significance for India

1. Regional Security

Security cooperation can help India and its neighbours address terrorism, organised crime and trafficking networks more effectively.

2. Neighbourhood First Policy

BIMSTEC provides India with a platform to strengthen relations with neighbouring countries and promote regional stability.

3. Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Greater coordination among Bay of Bengal countries can support maritime security, safe sea routes and regional connectivity.

4. Economic Development

A safer regional environment can improve trade, tourism, investment and cross-border transport connectivity.

Challenges Ahead

BIMSTEC members have different political systems, security priorities and institutional capacities. Differences in legal procedures, limited intelligence-sharing mechanisms and

political instability in parts of the region may affect implementation.

The success of the Delhi Declaration will depend on translating commitments into practical action through regular meetings, joint operations, information sharing and effective legal cooperation.

UPSC Exam Relevance

Prelims: BIMSTEC, its member countries, regional organisations and the Bay of Bengal.

GS Paper II: India's neighbourhood relations, regional groupings and international cooperation.

GS Paper III: Internal security, terrorism, cybercrime, drug trafficking and organised crime.

Possible UPSC Mains Question: *Discuss the importance of BIMSTEC in strengthening regional security and cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region. What challenges affect its effectiveness?*

Conclusion

The first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting highlights the importance of collective action against transnational security threats. Effective implementation of the Delhi Declaration can strengthen regional trust, improve law-enforcement cooperation and contribute to a more secure Bay of Bengal region.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)