



Suggested Programme Outline

6 August 2024

1730 – 1900 hrs	<u><i>Inaugural Session</i></u>
1900 hrs onwards	Welcome Dinner

7 August 2024

SESSION I - Promoting Trade Facilitation in the BIMSTEC through Improved Cross Border Linkages and Trade Infrastructure

1030-1130 hrs	<p><i>Promoting Trade Facilitation in the BIMSTEC through Improved Cross Border Linkages and Trade Infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Reducing trade costs is essential for economies to join regional and global value chains; it allows trade to continue as a major engine of growth and sustainable development. Trade facilitation has a direct impact on trade costs and an indirect impact on the price of traded goods; it increases trade flows and ultimately leads to higher growth. This session will examine the measures currently being undertaken in the region to promote trade facilitation as well as suggest measures to facilitate the process.</i></p>
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SESSION II - Why early operationalization of BIMSTEC FTA is going to add fresh momentum to economic integration

1145 – 1300 hrs	<p><i>Why early operationalization of BIMSTEC FTA is going to add fresh momentum to economic integration</i></p> <p><i>To foster greater economic cooperation, the member countries are currently negotiating for establishing the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area to propel trade and investment among member countries. The session would dwell on why BIMSTEC member countries should sign the FTA? And how it can transform the region into a dynamic economic growth trajectory.</i></p>
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1300 – 1400 hrs	<i>Networking Lunch</i>
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SESSION III - Women's Economic Empowerment: Inclusive Prosperity

1400-1500 hrs	<p><i>Women's Economic Empowerment: Inclusive Prosperity</i></p> <p><i>A prosperous BIMSTEC can only be "free and open" when women's rights and gender equality are realized through inclusive economic empowerment. Hear from leaders of the women's empowerment movement whose work is helping to improve women's access to education, finance, technology, mentoring as well as leadership positions and equitable pay, which are needed to enhance economic outcomes for the entire BIMSTEC Region.</i></p>
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SESSION IV (Parallel Session)- Country Session

1400 – 1500 hrs	<i>Country Session</i>
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SESSION V- Finding Synergies between Blue Economy and Mountain Economy

1515- 1615 hrs	<p><i>Finding Synergies between Blue Economy and Mountain Economy-</i> <i>BIMSTEC has unique opportunities of development by virtue of being connected by mountains, rivers and sea. Several Member States are connected by the Bay of Bengal, which has been the central point of connect for trade, commerce and culture for centuries. It is the gateway to the Indian Ocean for most of the BIMSTEC countries. Nepal, Bhutan and India have large geography covered by mountains. Hence the potential of Blue Economy and Mountain Economy needs to be exploited optimally. The session would try to explore specific sectoral opportunities where private sector can play a key role in harnessing this potential.</i></p>
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SESSION VI (Parallel Session by Invitation only): Session on BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce

1515-1615 hrs	Session on BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce <i>The session would dwell on the need for creation of BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the aegis of BIMSTEC secretariat to foster greater economic linkages within the region. Establishment of BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and Industry shall bring improvement in the business environment, disseminate information about potential tradable goods and identify joint ventures in the BIMSTEC region.</i>
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SESSION VII- Creating A Seamless Ecosystem for MSMEs in the Global Value Chain

1630 – 1730 hrs	Creating A Seamless Ecosystem for MSMEs in the Global Value Chain <i>Liberalization of trade and investment has generated new business opportunities for MSMEs globally. The opportunity to be part of global production, through global value chains, necessitates the need for SMEs to upscale their business models to access global markets. Enhancing MSME competitiveness, creating more jobs, and promoting inclusive growth requires integration of SMEs into global value chains. This session will help to understand the importance of integration and build resilience in the new normal.</i>
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SESSION VIII

1630- 1730 hrs	Country Session
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SESSION IX- Strengthening Cooperation in Services Sector

1745-1845 hrs	Strengthening Cooperation in Services Sector <i>The services sector can play a key role in creating highly skilled and more productive job opportunities in the region. Enhance Private sector cooperation in Tourism, healthcare, education, IT and ITES, etc would have incremental effect on overall economy of the region. The session would try to identify new areas of cooperation and the challenges facing this sector in this region.</i>
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1900 hrs Onwards	Networking and Gala Dinner
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SESSION X- Finding Synergies in Energy Cooperation

1000-1100 hrs	<i>Finding Synergies in Energy Cooperation</i> <i>Energy connectivity is instrumental in accelerating economic growth in the BIMSTEC region. It has been recognised that linkages between energy endowment and economic development have led governments to develop ambitious strategies to escalate electricity access to the remotest parts of the region. The bloc can work to enhance cooperation in the energy sector in developing a power exchange and setting up power grids, cross-country energy infrastructure project, and renewable sources and also Cooperation in Petroleum Exploration & Production.</i>
1130-1230 hrs	Valedictory Session and Summit Declaration
1230 hrs onwards	Networking Lunch and Close of Summit