



India Hosts 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave

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Why in News?

India hosted the 2nd [BIMSTEC \(Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation\) Ports Conclave](#) in Visakhapatnam, to strengthen maritime connectivity, and sustainable development in the region.

BIMSTEC Ports Conclave

- **Theme 2025:** *"Navigating the Future: Blue Economy, Innovation and Sustainable Partnerships."*
- **Significance for India:** Boosts India's leadership in [Bay of Bengal](#) maritime cooperation, and aligns with [Sagarmala](#) goals of port-led growth and connectivity
 - It enhances [India's Indo-Pacific role](#) through stronger BIMSTEC ties.

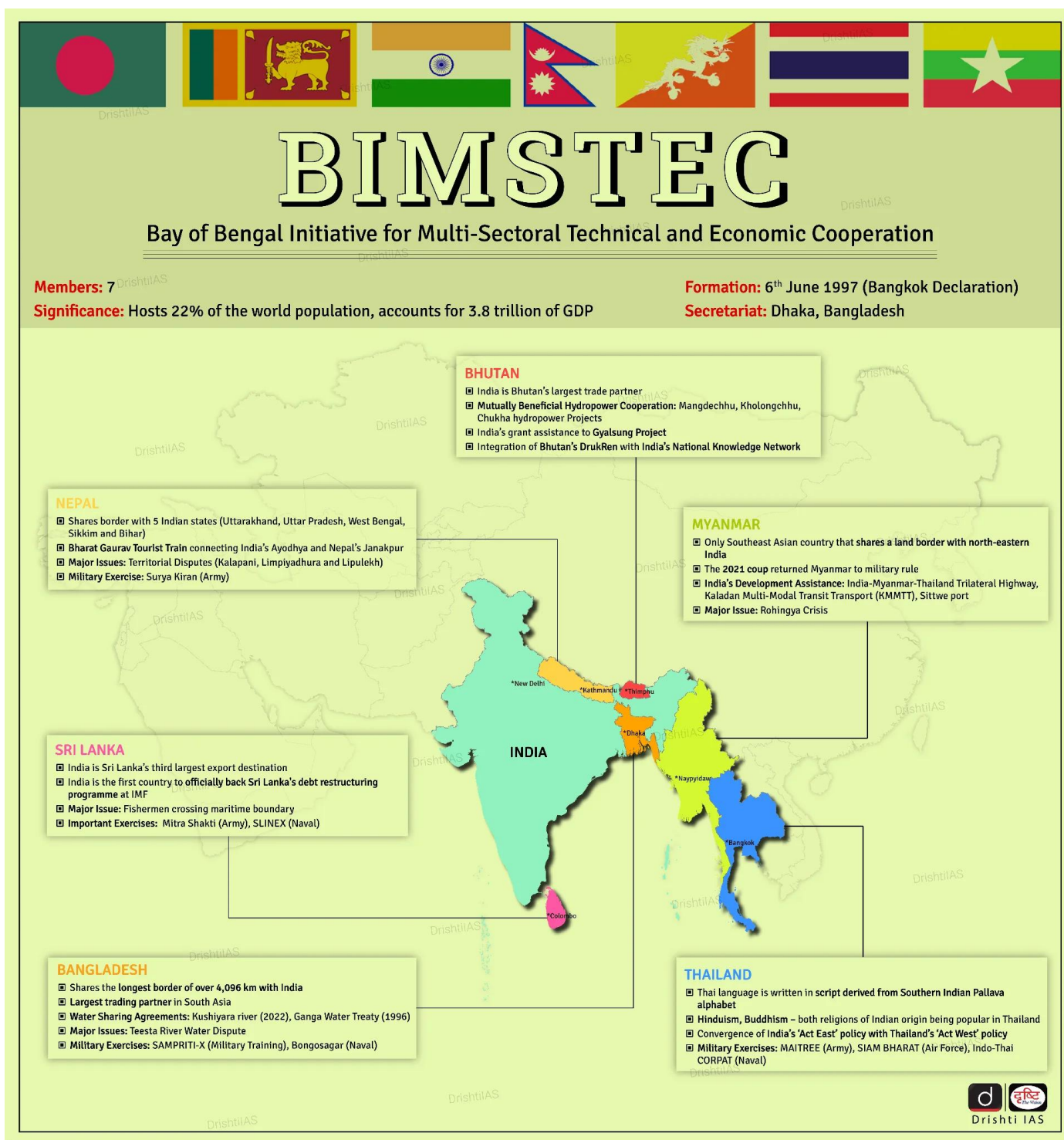
What are the Key Outcomes of 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave?

- **Push to Implement AMTC:** Member countries were urged to **ratify and implement** the **BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC)**, signed during the **6th BIMSTEC Summit (2025, Bangkok)**.
 - The AMTC aims to boost port-led growth, enhance maritime trade and tourism, and promote skill development across BIMSTEC nations.
- **Kaladan Corridor:** The [Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project \(KMTTP\)](#) was recognized as a strategic corridor linking **India's Northeast** with the Bay of Bengal, central to India's Act East and Neighbourhood First policies.
 - The KMTTP, jointly developed by **India and Myanmar**, enables efficient cargo movement from India's eastern ports to the Northeast via Myanmar.
 - It includes a waterway on **Myanmar's Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa**, and a road from **Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram**.
 - KMTTP helps bypass the narrow [Siliguri Corridor \(or "Chicken's Neck"\)](#), reducing transport costs and time.
- **BIMSTEC Sustainable Maritime Transport Centre (Mumbai):** It will be launched under the **Indian Ocean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Maritime Transport (IOCE-SMaRT)**, which will lead efforts in policy harmonisation, green transition, and digital innovation in the maritime sector.
- **Cruise Tourism Potential:** Conclave emphasised **eco-sensitive cruise routes**, and **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) led cruise terminals** to position the Bay of Bengal as a premier **sustainable tourism corridor**.

What is BIMSTEC?

- **About:** BIMSTEC is a regional organization established on 6th June 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Purpose:** Promote economic and technical cooperation among Bay of Bengal countries.
- **Evolution:** Originally started as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation), the grouping became BIMST-EC after Myanmar joined in 1997. It was renamed BIMSTEC in 2004 following the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan.
 - At the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in 2014, the **BIMSTEC Secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- **Sectors of Cooperation:** Initially six (trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries). In 2008, it expanded to include agriculture, public health, counter-terrorism, environment, and climate change.
 - To improve coordination, the sectors were reorganized in 2021, with each member state taking the lead in specific areas.
 - **India leads the Security pillar in BIMSTEC**, covering counter-terrorism, transnational crime, disaster management, and energy.





UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC: (2025)

- I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.
- II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.
- III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.
- IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. I and II
- B. II and III
- C. I and IV
- D. I only

Ans: (D)

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