

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1692
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

BIMSTEC Nations

1692. Shri Manoj Tiwari:

Dr. Nishikant Dubey:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure the successful implementation of the 'Youth Bridge' initiative across Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) nations;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to collaborate with other member countries to enhance skill development in emerging sectors like AI and robotics;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the diversity and shared heritage of BIMSTEC countries are effectively celebrated and incorporated into youth development programmes?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) The Department of Youth Affairs organized BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025 from 7th -11th February at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Delegates from seven member nations convened for the summit, marking the first youth summit in BIMSTEC's history. The primary objective of the BIMSTEC Youth Summit was to facilitate the exchange

of experiences and youth-led initiatives among member countries. Centered around the theme “Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange,” the summit harnessed the collective energy of young leaders to advance the region’s shared goals. It was also proposed during the Summit that BIMSTEC may serve as a “Youth Bridge”, a multi-sectoral initiative to empower young leaders through knowledge-sharing, leadership programs, and regional networking opportunities.

(b) & (c) Yes Sir. Through BIMSTEC Youth Summit, the Government aims to create a transformative platform that integrates entrepreneurship, sports, academia, and technology. During the recently concluded Youth Summit, delegates discussed the role of Digital Literacy in the age of AI and Machine Learning. Delegates explored the importance of equipping individuals with the necessary skills to navigate and succeed in a technology-driven world. They also emphasized how fostering digital inclusivity can create opportunities, empower communities, and ensure equitable access to the benefits of emerging technologies.

(d) BIMSTEC serves as a vehicle for regional engagement. The efforts in this regard such as BIMSTEC Youth Summit has strengthened diversity among member states. Delegates also deliberated upon “Celebrating Diversity across BIMSTEC Countries,” which delved into the importance of cultural inclusivity, mutual cooperation, and shared heritage in strengthening regional ties through increased people to people exchanges as well as institution building and capacity building.
