

Editorial



Welcome to 1st Edition July 2025 of our Quarterly (Apr-Jun 2025) BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) E-Newsletter.

I am pleased to present the 1st Edition of our Quarterly e-Newsletter, featuring key developments and engagements after operationalisation of BIMSTEC Energy Centre, Bengaluru, India w.e.f 01st April 2025. BEC is established to be a regional centre of excellence on core energy related matters, especially those relating to regional energy cooperation and sustainability in energy sector in BIMSTEC region by promoting experience sharing and capacity building.

The most significant event was the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, held on 04th April in Bangkok, which brought together all BIMSTEC Leaders for valuable opportunities for bilateral engagements among the Member States. In the 6th Summit, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Republic of India, formally announced the start of operation of BEC w.e.f. 01 April 2025. As part of strengthening operational and technical capacity, five officials from leading Indian government institutions have been deputed to the BEC, Bengaluru.

The BEC is set to emerge as Centre of Excellence in the Energy Sector and will reflect our collective commitment to sustainable development, energy security and greater integration across the BIMSTEC Member States. The BIMSTEC Energy Centre web site <https://bimstecenergycentre.org/> and BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database website <https://bimstecenergydatabase.org/homepage> can be accessed for the information.

The BEC, Bengaluru witnessed the visit of Shri. C.S.R. Ram, Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC), Govt. Of India, on 09th May 2025 underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in the energy sector. During the visit, the Joint Secretary reviewed ongoing initiatives, interacted with the officials, and discussed strategies to strengthen the Centre's role as a hub of excellence and collaboration among BIMSTEC Member States. The visit reaffirmed the commitment to advancing energy integration, sustainability, and innovation in the region.

A workshop on "Cross-border Transmission Lines: Techno-economic Analysis" was held in Bangkok on 13-15 May 2025, served as a key platform for finalization of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Masterplan.

Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), Government of India, paid an official visit to the BEC on 22nd May 2025. During the visit, he reviewed the facilities at BEC and commended the CPRI management for their efforts in providing the necessary infrastructure, services, and support that enabled the successful commencement of BEC operations. He also assured full support from the Government of India towards further strengthening the activities and operations of the Centre.

Shri. Ashok Pal, COO, Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. also visited the BEC on 23rd May 2025. During the visit, he interacted with the BEC staff and enquired about the various features and data available in the BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database (BRED) website.

Moving forward, the BEC remains committed to working closely with Member States to enhance regional cooperation, with the aim of fostering inclusive and sustainable development and ensuring energy security across the Member States. We deeply value your readership and warmly welcome your feedback and suggestions—both to strengthen regional energy cooperation through the BEC and to help us improve this E-Newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Secretary (POWER) Govt. Of India visit to BEC;
- JS (BIMSTEC) Govt. Of India visit to BEC;
- Others.



(Ghanshyam Prasad)
Executive Director

6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok



The 6th Summit of the Heads of State/Government of the BIMSTEC Member States was held on 04th April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Summit was preceded by the 25th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on 02nd April 2025, and the 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on 03rd April 2025. In the summit, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Republic of India, in their statement announced the

start of operation of BIMSTEC Energy Centre w.e.f 01st Apr 2025.

BIMSTEC Energy Centre: A Regional Hub for Sustainable Energy Collaboration

- The 1st BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi, India on 04th October 2005 agreed to setting up of a BIMSTEC Centre of Energy.
- Memorandum of Association (MoA) among the BIMSTEC Member States for the Establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Centre was signed on 22nd January 2011 during the Thirteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- As per the Article 1 of the MoA, the Governments of BIMSTEC Member Countries agree to and request India to take measures which may be required for the setting up of BIMSTEC Energy Centre in India.
- In the First BEC Governing Board Meeting held in Bengaluru, India on 27th February 2023, it was presented that BEC will be housed in the premises of the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bengaluru, India.
- In pursuance of the Article 5 of MoA, a Host Country Agreement was executed and signed by BIMSTEC Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of India at New Delhi, India on 8th November 2024.
- The objectives of BEC include
 - Research & Analysis of energy related statistics.
 - Grid inter-connections.
 - Transnational natural gas pipelines.
 - Overall development of hydro potential and supply of energy
 - New and other renewable sources of energy.
 - Promotion of energy efficiency
 - Promotion of energy trade in the region for enhancing energy security.
 - Cross country Investment promotion, in the energy sector.
 - Promoting and developing infrastructure for training
- As part of strengthening operational and technical capacity, five officials from leading Indian government institutions such as Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Grid Controller of India Ltd. (Grid-India), Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. (CTUIL), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID), have been deputed to the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC), Bengaluru. These officials bring expertise from diverse fields to enhance inter-agency collaboration, support the Centre's ongoing initiatives, and contribute to the development of a robust regional energy framework under the BIMSTEC platform.

BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database Websites

Website of BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database i.e. <https://bimstecenergydatabase.org/homepage> has been developed by BEC with the objective to provide a single source of information about the facts and statistics related to the Energy/Power sector of the seven (7) BIMSTEC Countries comprising of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It consists of a user-friendly web-based application available in public domain.



Visit of Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC) Govt. Of India



The BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC), Bengaluru, had the honour of hosting Shri. C.S.R. Ram, Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC), Government of India, accompanied by Shri. Shri Bhagwan Sahay Bairwa, Chief Engineer, CEA on 09th May 2025. The visit underscored the growing importance of regional cooperation in the energy sector.

During his visit, Shri. Ram reviewed the ongoing initiatives at the Centre, engaged in discussions with officials, and explored strategies to enhance BEC's role as a Centre of Excellence and a collaborative platform for BIMSTEC Member States. The deliberations emphasized the need for greater synergy in advancing energy integration, sustainability, and technological innovation across the region. This high-level engagement reaffirms the commitment to a resilient and interconnected energy future for the Bay of Bengal region.

Workshop on “Cross-border Transmission Lines: Techno-economic Analysis”



The BIMSTEC Secretariat, in collaboration with Asian Development Bank, organised a workshop on “Cross-border Transmission Lines: Techno-economic Analysis” from May 13-15, 2025 in Bangkok. It reviewed BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Masterplan, facilitated exchange of information on national power systems and enabled discussion on transmission of power for regional grid interconnection.

Visit of Secretary (Power) Govt. Of India



Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), Government of India, paid an official visit to the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in Bengaluru on 22 May 2025. During the visit, Secretary (Power) reviewed the facilities at BEC and commended the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) for its efforts in providing the necessary infrastructure, services, and support that enabled the successful commencement of BEC's operations.

Secretary (Power) also reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to supporting BEC in their mission to enhance regional energy cooperation and strengthen the operational framework of the Centre.

Visit of COO, Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd.



On 23rd May 2025, Mr. Ashok Pal, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. (CTUIL), visited the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC) in Bengaluru.

During the visit, the officials reviewed the data and content hosted on the BEC website and the BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database. They appreciated the efforts undertaken by

BEC in compiling and maintaining a comprehensive energy database covering BIMSTEC Member States.

Powering Integration: Energy Synergies in the BIMSTEC Region


The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) unites Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, representing over 1.7 billion people—a youthful, rapidly growing population driving diverse energy needs. As developing nations bound by shared cultural heritage and economic aspirations, these countries face rising demands for electricity, natural gas, and renewables to fuel industrialization and enhance energy access. Strategic energy cooperation is critical to harness their collective resources for sustainable development, energy security, and regional prosperity.


The BIMSTEC region presents a diverse and resource-rich energy landscape. Bangladesh continues to lead with natural gas in its generation mix and is actively scaling up rooftop solar and mini-grid solutions, while also enhancing regional connectivity through power imports. Bhutan and Nepal stand out as hydropower-centric nations, contributing significantly to clean energy exports within the region. Both countries are further diversifying with solar and wind, and are strengthening their roles as key green energy exporters in South Asia. India, as the region's anchor, combines coal, renewables, hydro, and nuclear in a balanced energy portfolio. It ranks among the global leaders in renewable energy capacity and has set ambitious non-fossil generation targets and becoming net zero by 2070. Myanmar possesses a healthy mix of hydropower and natural gas, with emerging potential in solar and wind. Sri Lanka, presently depends predominantly on oil-based generation, is progressively moving toward a renewable-focused energy mix, backed by its strong wind and solar resource base and policy vision for 70% renewables by 2030. Thailand demonstrates a balanced approach, integrating natural gas, imports, coal, and renewables, with strong policy support for solar, bioenergy and smart grid technologies. Together, these countries present a complementary energy ecosystem that is well-positioned to benefit from deeper integration and cross-border electricity trade within the BIMSTEC framework.


The diverse energy profiles of BIMSTEC nations with seasonal and diurnal variations create synergies for a regional collaborative grid. Nepal and Bhutan's hydropower can meet peak demands in India and Bangladesh, while Myanmar's gas and India's renewable expertise ensure supply stability. Such a grid optimizes resource use, reduces costs through shared infrastructure, and promotes sustainable growth by prioritizing renewables, fostering energy security and economic resilience across the Bay of Bengal region.



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