



विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI

No. BIM- 244/05/2026

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Dhaka and has the honour to refer to BIMSTEC Secretariat's Note Number **BIMSTEC/SEC/50/01-2026/816 dated 27 May 2026 regarding Road Safety Hackathon for BIMSTEC Member States** scheduled to be held virtually on 16th July 2026.

The Ministry has the honour to convey that the timelines for participation are approaching, in order to facilitate greater participation from BIMSTEC member countries, **registration and submission dates have been extended. Accordingly, the revised timelines are as follows:**

Registration deadline: Extended to 15th June 2026

Submission deadline: Extended to 30th June 2026

The Secretariat is requested to seek concurrence and nominations of remaining Member States for the hackathon scheduled to be held **virtually on 16 July 2026**.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation in Dhaka the assurances of its highest consideration.



New Delhi, 03 June, 2026

**The Secretariat
Bay of Bengal Initiative for
Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
Dhaka**



Concept Note on AI Road Safety Hackathon

Background & Context

BIMSTEC region reported 184,000 road traffic deaths in 2021, accounting for 15.5% of the global share. Beyond the numbers, each fatality represents a profound human tragedy with far-reaching socio-economic consequences, from loss of livelihoods and family devastation to reduced workforce productivity and increased burden on public health systems across member nations.

The 6th BIMSTEC Summit (Bangkok, April 2025) adopted the Bangkok Vision 2030, committing member states to enhanced connectivity, human security, and technology-driven regional cooperation and explicitly endorsed Hackathons as instruments of youth-led innovation.

Road safety systems across the BIMSTEC region share three structural weaknesses that AI-driven citizen tools can directly address:

- Fragmented emergency response — citizens struggle to identify correct authorities during accidents, delaying critical assistance.
- Opacity in infrastructure ownership — accountability for road maintenance is unclear, making grievance redressal difficult.
- Low public awareness of traffic laws — rules, penalties, and enforcement vary by jurisdiction and are poorly accessible to road users.

With growing smartphone penetration and digital governance platforms across all seven BIMSTEC nations, AI-based conversational tools offer a scalable, low-cost, and multilingual solution to these challenges.

About the Hackathon

The BIMSTEC AI Road Safety Hackathon 2026 invites participants from all seven member nations to design and build citizen-facing AI chatbots that address real-world road safety challenges. The initiative is organized by CoERS, IIT Madras, and is open to individuals and teams aged 15 years and above, including students, researchers, and professionals with an interest in technology for social good.

The hackathon is structured around three problem modules, each targeting a distinct gap in the road safety ecosystem:

Problem Statements (Participant can pick anyone):

1. **Rapid access to emergency services (RoadSoS)** – Build an AI chatbot that enables location-based access to hospitals, police stations, and vehicle support services nearby during road incidents to improve response during critical situations.

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- 2. Transparency and accountability in road infrastructure management (RoadWatch)** – An AI chatbot that provides information on road ownership, maintenance history, and enables complaint routing to responsible authorities.
- 3. Public awareness of traffic rules and penalties (RoadLegal)** – An AI chatbot that provides location-specific traffic laws, penalties, and enforcement information.

Evaluation Criteria:

Criterion	Description
Technical Accuracy	Correctness of information across test scenarios
Functionality	End-to-end working of the chatbot across all intended use cases
Usability	Ease of interaction, language clarity, and accessibility for diverse users
Innovation	Novelty of approach, integration of AI, and creative problem-solving
Low-Connectivity Performance	Ability to operate effectively in limited bandwidth or offline environments
Regional Adaptability	Applicability across BIMSTEC nations with different regulatory and linguistic contexts

Competition Structure:

The hackathon will be conducted as a two-stage evaluation process:

Stage 1 Online Submission (Preliminary)	Stage 2 Live Presentation (Finale)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Submit working chatbot prototype ➤ Include documentation and demo video ➤ All registered teams participate ➤ Shortlisted teams advance to Stage 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Live demonstration of the chatbot ➤ Q&A with jury panel ➤ Virtual participation

Eligibility:

- Open to individuals and teams from all BIMSTEC member nations
- Participants must be aged 15 years or above
- Students, researchers, and working professionals are all welcome
- Teams may comprise members from multiple BIMSTEC countries

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Centre of Excellence for Road Safety

RBG Labs, Dept of Engineering Design
Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Chennai – 600036



Key Timelines:

Important Dates	Details
15 th June 2026	Last date for registration (Extendable up to June 30)
30 th June 2026	Last date for submission of solutions
16 th July 2026	Hackathon Finale - Live Presentations
16 th July 2026	Result Declaration

Prizes & Recognition:

Category	Recognition
Top 3 Teams	Cash prizes + certificates of excellence
Stage 1 Qualifiers	Participation certificate from CoERS, IIT Madras

Organizing Institution:

Centre of Excellence for Road Safety (CoERS)
RBG Labs, Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras, Chennai — 600036

Under the aegis of:
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India

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This initiative aligns with UN SDG 3.6 (reduce road traffic deaths by 50% by 2030) and the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030.

Registration Details

Registration Link	Registration Link (QR Code)
Website Link	

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