



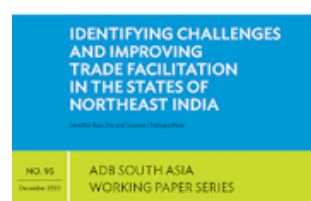
SASEC PROJECTS
ADB SUBMITS
FEASIBILITY STUDY ON
THE NORTH EAST
ECONOMIC CORRIDOR



SASEC PROJECTS
ROADS ENHANCE
CONNECTIVITY AND
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES
IN NEPAL



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PUBLICATIONS
IDENTIFYING
CHALLENGES AND
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STATES OF NORTHEAST
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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project

6 March 2023: Manila, Philippines

Watch the video about how the Joydevpur-Elenga-Hatkumrul-Rangpur-Burimari-Banglabandha road benefits local communities and helps facilitate trade with Bhutan, India, and Nepal. The project, committed in 2013, is being undertaken with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and is part of SASEC Corridor 4. The Joydevpur-Elenga section was completed in 2022, while improvement work to the Elenga–Rangpur Road is ongoing. [Read more](#)

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
ROADS ENHANCE
CONNECTIVITY AND CREATE
OPPORTUNITIES IN NEPAL

- **Case Study: Roads Enhance Connectivity and Create Opportunities in Isolated Hills in Nepal**
- **ADB Submits Feasibility Study on the North East Economic Corridor**

Case Study: Roads Enhance Connectivity and Create Opportunities in Isolated Hills in Nepal

17 March 2023: Manila, Philippines

Road development is fundamental to boosting economic activity in Nepal and is a key element for strengthening growth and social inclusion. This case study undertaken by ADB looks at the Subregional Transport Enhancement Project and how it is improving access to goods and services, facilitating trade and cooperation, creating opportunities for small business owners, and empowering women in rural communities.

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ADB Submits Feasibility Study on the North East Economic Corridor

16 March 2023: New Delhi, India

ADB submitted a feasibility study on the North East Economic Corridor to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) was informed. Features of the report include emphasis on development of transport, urban, and energy infrastructures, as enablers for equitable economic development for India's northeastern region; and envisages multimodal transport network at three levels: (i) within India's northeastern region; (ii) between the northeastern region and the rest of India with an additional route through Bangladesh; and (iii) with neighboring countries to enhance South Asia-Southeast Asia connectivity.

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NEWS
BANGLADESH AND BHUTAN
SIGN TRANSIT AGREEMENT

- **Agartala–Akhaury International Railway Connectivity Project Reaches 88% Completion**
- **Bangladesh and Bhutan Sign Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol**
- **India, Nepal to Form Modality Allowing Nepal to Export Electricity through Bihar**

Agartala–Akhaura International Railway Connectivity Project Reaches 88% Completion

29 March 2023: Tripura, India

The ongoing construction of the Agartala (India)-Akhaura (Bangladesh) international railway connectivity project has reached over 88% completion. The work is expected to be finished in the next 5-6 months, according to Mr. Sushanta Chowdhury, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport and Tourism of Tripura.

[**Read More**](#)

India and Sri Lanka to Start Ferry Service

26 March 2023: Colombo, Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka are set to begin a passenger ferry service in April 2023. The ferry service between Karaikal, Puducherry, India, and Kankesanthurai, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, would commence on 29 April under the new passenger ferry program. The ferry will have a capacity of 150 passengers, and each passenger would be given 100-kg baggage allowance. The cost of one-way travel is around \$50.

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Bangladesh and Bhutan Sign Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol

22 March 2023: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan signed the "Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit and Protocol." This will open multimodal transit facilities to landlocked Bhutan, providing them access to Mongla, Payra, and Chattogram ports of Bangladesh for the movement of their imported and export-oriented goods.

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FDI Powers Economic Growth in Developing Countries

21 March 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Foreign direct investment is effective in promoting economic development according to International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, speaking at the webinar "Into the Centenary Year: ICC Court visits ICC Bangladesh." Bangladesh is South Asia's second-largest economy and is slated to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) category in November 2026.

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Bangladesh Offers India Use of Chattogram and Sylhet Ports

19 March 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remarked that India can utilize Bangladesh's Chattogram and Sylhet ports. She stressed the need to boost connectivity to further grow the region's trade and commerce and enhance people to people linkages. Access to the two ports would mutually benefit both countries, stressed the Prime Minister.

[**Read More**](#)

India, Nepal to Form Modality Allowing Nepal to Export Electricity through Bihar

17 March 2023: New Delhi, India

The Governments of India and Nepal held the 14th meeting of the bilateral Power Exchange Committee. The meeting agreed to enable Nepal to export power to multiple Indian states through the transmission infrastructure in Bihar (India). A modality will be formulated in this regard.

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Seminar Discusses Potential of Bangladesh-Nepal Free Trade Agreement

15 March 2023: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, proposed exploring the possibilities of a free trade agreement between Bangladesh and Nepal to increase bilateral trade. He noted that there is a huge potential for mutual cooperation between the two countries in areas including energy, tourism, education, migration, and connectivity.

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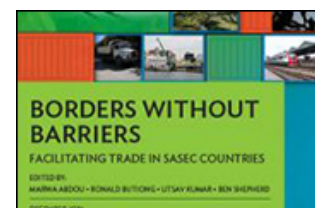
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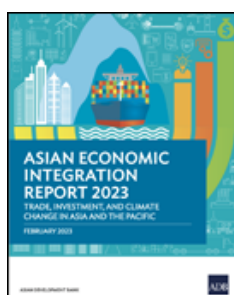
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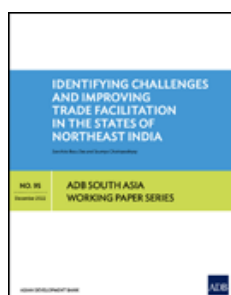
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ADB report envisages multimodal transport network in India: within India's northeastern region, between the northeastern region & the rest of India with additional connectivity via Bangladesh, and with neighboring countries in the subregion [Read more](#)

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