



**SASEC EVENTS**  
UPCOMING WORKSHOP  
ON COASTAL SHIPPING  
STUDY TO DISCUSS  
INCEPTION REPORT



**SASEC PROJECTS**  
INDIA INTRODUCES  
ECTS MODALITY ON  
NEPAL-BOUND FREIGHT  
VIA VIZAG PORT



**SASEC NEWS**  
BIMSTEC FOREIGN  
MINISTERS APPROVE  
\$50 BILLION WORTH OF  
CONNECTIVITY  
PROJECTS



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**STRATEGY 2030:**  
ACHIEVING A  
PROSPEROUS,  
INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT,  
AND SUSTAINABLE ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC



# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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## Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Pledges to Deliver Results

**30-31 August 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Fourth BIMSTEC Summit reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of making the Bay of Bengal region peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable by building on the common strengths and through the collective efforts of BIMSTEC member nations. In the Kathmandu Declaration, the seven heads of state and government of BIMSTEC countries vowed to deliver results in various sectors of cooperation, including poverty alleviation, connectivity, trade and investment, people-to-people contact, and tourism.

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# SASEC EVENTS



## EVENT INDIA

SASEC Customs administrations to hold workshop on trade facilitation measures for authorized operators



## EVENT THAILAND

Workshop aims to finalize the BIMSTEC Transport Master Plan



## EVENT INDIA

Workshop on Coastal Shipping Study to discuss key findings of the Inception Report

# CALENDAR

## September-October

### Workshop for SASEC Administrations on Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators

12-14 September 2018: Faridabad, India

### Workshop on BIMSTEC Transport Masterplan

17-18 September 2018: Bangkok, Thailand

### Workshop on Coastal Shipping Study

8 October 2018: Mumbai, India

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Top Tweets

August 2018



Government of India pilots ADB-supported electronic cargo tracking system on Nepal-bound freight transiting through Vizag Port [Read](#)

Report on transport corridors in South Asia highlights economic benefits, but cautions against social, environmental tradeoffs [Read](#)

Nepal, Myanmar Ministries of Foreign Affairs to establish a bilateral consultation mechanism; grant visa requirement exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders in Kathmandu [Read](#)

New flight route from Guwahati to Thimphu to boost Bhutan-India connectivity [Read](#)



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# SASEC PROJECTS



**PROJECT**  
**IMT TRILATERAL**  
**HIGHWAY, SASEC ROAD**  
**CONNECTIVITY PROJECT**  
**PROMISE TO BOOST**  
**INDIA'S TRADE AND**  
**COMMERCE**



**PROJECT**  
**BUILDING MULTIMODAL**  
**LOGISTICS PARKS WILL**  
**HELP CREATE MAJOR**  
**LOGISTICS GATEWAYS**



**PROJECT**  
**ECTS PILOT ROLLED OUT**  
**ON NEPAL-BOUND**  
**FREIGHT TRANSITING**  
**ON THE VIZAG-BIRGUNJ**  
**RAIL ROUTE**



**PROJECT**  
**FREIGHT INFORMATION**  
**ACCESSIBLE TO THE**  
**VIZAG CUSTOMS HOUSE**  
**AND RAXAUL LCS VIA**  
**ECTS**

## Commentary: Uncorking the Logistic Competencies of India's Northeastern Region

**4 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

The author highlights how fast-paced infrastructure development could help unlock competencies of India's northeastern region. With the Government of India's focus on promoting the northeastern region as a key trade gateway, projects such as the 1,400 kilometer India-Myanmar-Thailand highway and the SASEC Road Connectivity project promise to boost the country's trade and commerce, and enhance India's logistics capabilities.

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## Government of India Introduces ECTS Modality on Nepal-bound Freight via Vizag Port

**1 August 2018: Visakhapatnam, India**

The Visakhapatnam (Vizag) Customs House has issued a public notice announcing concurrence of the Government of India to implement the Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) on Nepal-bound cargo via Vizag Port on pilot basis. Transshipment using ECTS was introduced initially on the Vizag-Birgunj (Nepal) rail route via the Raxaul (India) Land Customs Station from 1 August 2018.

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## NEWS

**INDIA AND MYANMAR  
IMPLEMENT LAND  
BORDER CROSSING  
AGREEMENT**



## NEWS

**BANGLADESH AND  
NEPAL TO SIGN MOU ON  
COOPERATION IN THE  
ENERGY SECTOR**



## NEWS

**BIMSTEC FOREIGN  
MINISTERS APPROVE  
\$50 BILLION WORTH OF  
CONNECTIVITY  
PROJECTS**



## NEWS

**INDIA AND NEPAL  
EXCHANGE MOU FOR  
RAXAUL-KATHMANDU  
RAIL LINK SURVEY**

## India, Nepal Exchange MoU on the Raxaul-Kathmandu Railway Survey

**31 August 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Governments of India and Nepal exchanged the memorandum of understanding on preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey on the broad gauge line between Raxaul, India, and Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting between India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli also reviewed India-Nepal relations, discussing ways to further deepen bilateral economic, trade, and cultural ties, and connectivity.

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## Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina and Nepal Prime Minister Oli to Take Energy Cooperation to the Next Level

**31 August 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli agreed to take Bangladesh-Nepal cooperation in the energy sector to the next level. Mr. Ihsanul Karim, Bangladesh Press Secretary, reported that the two Prime Ministers discussed enhancing cooperation in the power sector, and agreed on the need to sign a memorandum of understanding to enable power trade.

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## BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers Approve \$50 Billion Worth of Connectivity Projects

**30 August 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal**

Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC member countries approved in principle around 167 projects to improve connectivity in the region. The projects, detailed in a study by the Asian Development Bank, are worth an estimated \$50 billion. It includes transportation and cross-border facilitation, multimodal transport and logistics, infrastructure development, aviation, maritime transport, human resources development, communication linkages, and networking in the region.

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## Birgunj Inland Container Depot to Get Upgraded Warehouses for Dusty Cargo

**27 August 2018: Birgunj, Nepal**

The Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board (NITDB) is upgrading the inland container depot in Birgunj, Nepal, to give it the capacity to handle dusty cargo, such as cement clinker and fly ash. NITDB is also planning to develop railway tracks to be linked directly to the new warehouses.

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## BIMSTEC Heads of Missions Urge BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement Conclusion

**20 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

A preparation meeting for the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit discussed how BIMSTEC can catalyze regional economic development in the next twenty years. BIMSTEC heads of missions emphasized the need to conclude negotiations for the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement, and finalize trade facilitation measures in the BIMSTEC region.

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## India Activating Regional Connectivity through TIR Implementation

**16 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

India began implementation of the United Nations TIR Convention to transform the country's trade and transport by activating regional connectivity and advancing global trade prospects. The TIR Convention provides global access to markets, connecting India to the wider TIR network that includes Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Central Asia.

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## Editorial: Need for Improving Logistic Performance

**16 August 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

How efficiently a country moves physical goods across and within borders determines how it participates in international markets. This editorial from *The Financial Express* suggests areas that Bangladesh needs to focus on to improve logistics performance, enhance participation in global trade, and stimulate economic growth.

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## Bangladesh-India Trade to Cross \$9 Billion Mark

**15 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

Trade between Bangladesh and India is estimated to cross a landmark \$9 billion. Between July 2017-June 2018, growth of Bangladesh's garment exports to India jumped by 113%, amounting to \$276 million. Exports of other products also increased by 30%, bringing in an additional \$201 million. Total exports of Bangladesh to India is set to close at almost \$900 million.

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## Indian Hydropower Firm to Sign Power Purchase Agreement with Bangladesh

**14 August 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal**

India's GMR Upper Karnali Hydropower Limited is set to sign a power purchase agreement with the Bangladesh government to export electricity to be generated by the Upper Karnali Hydropower Project in Nepal. The agreement will serve as a guiding framework for Nepal for exporting surplus electricity to Bangladesh.

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## India, Myanmar Open International Border Checkpoints

**8 August 2018: Yangon, Myanmar**

The Governments of India and Myanmar implemented the Land Border Crossing Agreement, marking the occasion with the simultaneous opening of the Tamu (Myanmar)-Moreh (India) and Rihkhawdar (Myanmar)-Zowkhawtar (India) international border checkpoints. The opening of the India-Myanmar land border crossings allows people from both countries and third countries holding valid passports and visas to cross the border and travel to any point of Myanmar or India.

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## Sri Lankan Investors Eye Expanding Bangladesh Investment

**8 August 2018: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry business delegation held a meeting with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority to discuss bilateral trade and investment expansion between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan businessmen expressed desire to take advantage of Bangladesh's business-friendly environment. According to Mr. Kazi M. Aminul Islam, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, Sri Lankan entrepreneurs are interested to invest in LPG wholesaling, the financial sector, information technology, and port logistics.

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## Indian Railways Conducts Trial Run from Jainagar to Khajuri Railway Stations

**8 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

The Indian Railways successfully conducted a trial run from Jainagar (India) to Khajuri (Nepal) railway stations, using a cargo train carrying 5,000 tons of ballast. The 8.5-kilometer stretch is part of the Jainagar (India)-Janakpur (Nepal) broad gauge railway link being constructed to improve connectivity between India and Nepal.

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## Workshop Highlights India's Energy Connectivity Initiatives with Neighbors in the Region

**3 August 2018: New Delhi, India**

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, underscored how India is promoting energy connectivity with its neighbors in the region. In Bangladesh, India is working together with the Government to build interconnecting gas grids and pipelines for diesel supply. In Myanmar, the Indian Oil Corporation is working with companies to set up LPG storage facilities, while Petronet is planning an LNG terminal.

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## Assam Aims for Air Cargo Connectivity with the ASEAN

**3 August 2018: Assam, India**

Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary, Industries and Commerce Minister of Assam, India, emphasized the State Government's commitment to reopening air cargo trade routes to increase the state's economic prosperity. The Assam government plans to link its largest city, Guwahati, to the seven capital cities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) under the Regional Connectivity Scheme. He also shared that the Assam Industrial Development Cargo is working on an air cargo terminal project for perishable cargo.

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## Study on Subregional Trade, Transport, and Transit Facilitation Shares Findings in Bhutan

**2 August 2018: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Challenges faced by Bhutanese trading across the region's borders were discussed at a dialogue in Thimphu, held to validate outcomes of a subregional study on trade, transport, and transit facilitation. Recommendations include need to improve coordination and cooperation among different ministries and departments, and between governments, and invest in Bhutan's road infrastructure and facilities at Land Custom Stations and explore multimodal and green transport.

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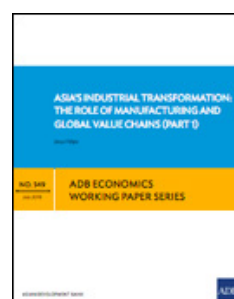
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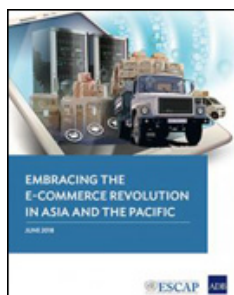
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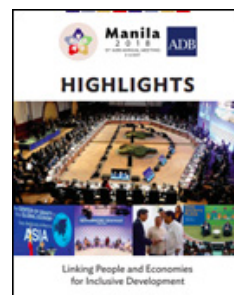
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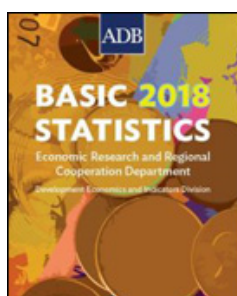
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