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**EVENTS**  
**SASEC ENERGY**  
**WORKING GROUP**  
**MEETING**



**NEWS**  
**INDIA-SRI LANKA TO**  
**ESTABLISH NEW FERRY**  
**ROUTE BETWEEN**  
**RAMESWARAM AND**  
**TALAIMANNAR**



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**TRANSFORMING**  
**ENERGY SYSTEMS FOR A**  
**LOW CARBON FUTURE**  
**IN ASIA AND THE**  
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# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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## ADB Holds Bridging South and Southeast Asia: BIMSTEC's Path Toward RCI

**6 November 2025: Mandaluyong, Philippines**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) South Asia Regional Cooperation Unit organized the special session of the South Asia Seminar Series on “Bridging South and Southeast Asia: BIMSTEC’s Path Toward RCI (Regional Cooperation and Integration)” on 6 November 2025 at the ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong, Philippines.

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# SASEC CALENDAR

## November - December

### **SASEC Tourism Knowledge Workshop**

**24-25 November 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **SASEC Energy Working Group (EWG) Meeting**

**26-28 November 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **SASEC Transport Working Group (TWG) Meeting**

**1-3 December 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **SASEC Trade Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) Meeting**

**2-3 December 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **SASEC Knowledge Workshop on Ecosystem and Value Chain Approach for Food Security, Food Safety and Food Trade in SASEC Partner Countries**

**2-3 December 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

### **Meeting of the SASEC Senior Officials Meeting**

**8-9 December 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

## SASEC NEWS



- **India-Sri Lanka to Establish New Ferry Route**
- **Bangladesh and Maldives Pledge to Deepen Cooperation in Key Sectors**
- **Nepal, Sri Lanka Private Sector to Boost Business Cooperation**

## **First Meeting on India-Bhutan Rail Link Project Held**

**20 November 2025: New Delhi, India**

The Project Steering Committee on India-Bhutan Rail Links project met for the first time in New Delhi on 20 November 2025. According to Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, the meeting discussed the implementation of standards for the Kokrajhar-Gelephu and the Banarhat-Samtse rail links.

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## **India-Sri Lanka to Establish New Ferry Route between Rameswaram and Talaimannar**

**28 October 2025: Colombo, Sri Lanka**

India and Sri Lanka are in talks to establish a ferry route between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Mr. Anura Karunathilaka, Sri Lanka Minister of Ports and Civil Aviation, discussed the creation of the new route and the expansion of current ferry services at a meeting held in Mumbai.

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## Bangladesh and Maldives Pledge to Deepen Cooperation in Key Sectors

**5 October 2025: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Governments of Bangladesh and Maldives have committed to further strengthen their longstanding friendship and deepen cooperation across key sectors, such as trade and healthcare. They reaffirmed their commitment during the presentation of the Letter of Credence of Dr. Md Nazmul Islam, Bangladesh's newly appointed High Commissioner to Maldives, to Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.

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## Planned Railway Lines Connecting Bhutan and India to Strengthen Regional Connectivity

**30 September 2025: Hyderabad, India**

India will construct two new railway lines to link India and Bhutan. One railway link will connect Banarhat in West Bengal, India, to Samtse, Bhutan, and another will connect Kokrajhar in Assam, India, to Gelephu, Bhutan. The projects will strengthen transport connectivity and economic integration in the region.

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## Nepal, Sri Lanka Private Sector Representatives Agree to Boost Business Cooperation

**25 September 2025: Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Sri Lanka National Chamber of Exporters have signed an agreement to strengthen direct cooperation between entrepreneurs of both countries through regular exchange of business delegations. The memorandum seeks to expand bilateral trade and investment, identify new industrial opportunities, and promote joint ventures, while facilitating easier business interactions through meetings, trade fairs, and forums.

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## RELATED PUBLICATIONS



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