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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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Training on Post Clearance Audit for Bhutan Customs

3-7 January 2022: Punakha, Bhutan, and Online

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized the Post Clearance Audit (PCA) training for customs officials of Bhutan on 3–7 January 2022 in Punakha, Bhutan, and online. Topics discussed in the 4-day training included the principles of auditing, audit planning, and audit reporting. Nineteen officers from Bhutan customs participated in the event in person. The technical assistance "[Implementing Trade Facilitation Initiatives](#)" under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program supported the training.

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- **Waterways to Connect Ships from Assam, India, to Haldia via Bangladesh**
- **India, Sri Lanka Underscore Beneficial Close Relations**
- **High Commissioner of India to Maldives Calls On Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Planned Economic Corridor in India's Northeastern Region Gets Government's Full Support

29 January 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. G Kishan Reddy, Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Development of North Eastern Region of the Government of India, lauded ADB for the excellent study carried out on the planned economic corridor in India's northeastern region. He stated that the ministry will support the implementation of the ambitious projects for the economic corridor.

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"Integrating BIMSTEC 2022" Highlights Need for Common Platform for Paperless Trade

29 January 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Indian Chamber of Commerce organized "Integrating BIMSTEC 2022," in collaboration with the Government of India, on the importance of creating a common platform for BIMSTEC countries to participate and carry forward paperless trade.

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Nepal Launches Customs Duty e-Payment System

28 January 2022: New Delhi, India

Nepal's Ministry of Finance launched the e-payment system for customs duty on the 70th International Customs Day. The system enables traders to pay their customs duty online. According to Mr. Janardan Sharma, Ministry of Finance of the Government of Nepal, this will facilitate the collection of revenues.

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India Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Highlights Leveraging Technology for Trade Facilitation

27 January 2022: New Delhi, India

On International Customs Day, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) of the Government of India highlighted how Indian Customs is leveraging technology for trade facilitation. Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India, recognized CBIC's focus on building a digital culture and enacting rapid digital transformation.

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India, Sri Lanka Underscore Beneficial Close Relations

15 January 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of the Government of India, held a virtual meeting with Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Finance Minister of the Government of Sri Lanka, on 15 January 2022. The meeting reiterated India's continued support for Sri Lanka, and emphasized that both countries stand to gain from forming closer economic interlinkages.

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High Commissioner of India to Maldives Calls On Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs

11 January 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Munu Mahawar, High Commissioner of India to Maldives, paid a courtesy call to Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Maldives. They reviewed ongoing developmental projects being implemented with the support of the Government of India and other cooperation program between India and Maldives.

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Waterways to Connect Ships from Assam, India, to Haldia via Bangladesh

8 January 2022: Dhaka, Bangladesh

India has begun dredging waterways along the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. Development of the waterways will allow passenger and cargo ships from Assam and the rest of northeastern India to travel to Haldia in West Bengal, India, via Bangladesh.

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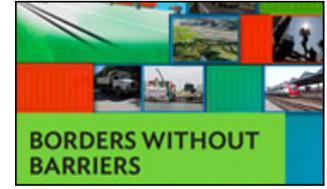
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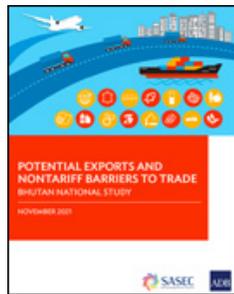
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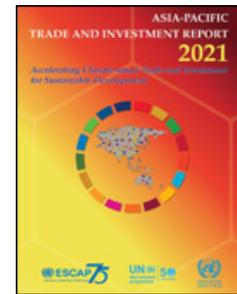
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