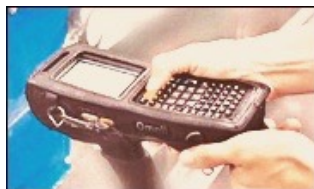




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India's Road Transport Ministry and ADB Hold Meeting to Implement BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

10-11 January 2018: Bengaluru, India

India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a meeting on the implementation of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA) to finalize the protocol for passenger vehicle movement and discuss the holding of trial runs for the BBIN MVA.

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SASEC EVENTS



EVENT

BENGALURU

Meeting to Implement the
BBIN Motor Vehicles
Agreement



EVENT

PHUENTSHOLING

Training on Intelligence,
Information Gathering, and
Investigation



EVENT

KOLKATA

Stakeholder Workshop for
ECTS in Kolkata, India

CALENDAR

February-March

Bhutan: Training on Intelligence, Information Gathering, and Investigation

5-9 February 2018: Phuentsholing, Bhutan

Stakeholder Workshop for ECTS in Kolkata, India

6 February 2018: Kolkata, India

Stakeholder Workshop for ECTS in Kathmandu, Nepal

27 February 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

Meeting of the SASEC Nodal Officials and Working Groups

5-6 March 2018: Singapore, Singapore

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Bangladesh, India, and Nepal agree on passenger protocol & procedures for cross-border movement of buses and private vehicles [Read](#)

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, & Nepal to boost sharing of documentation between Land Customs Stations [Read](#)

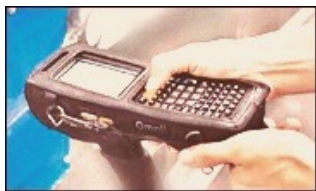
Inland waterways to spur BBIN development [Read](#)

Expanding power trading in South Asia can help Nepal and Sri Lanka lower their investment costs, while Bangladesh and India would have access to cleaner hydropower from Bhutan and Nepal [Read](#)



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PROJECT
ELECTRONIC TRACKING
TO EASE TRANSIT OF
NEPAL-BOUND CARGO



PROJECT
COMMERCE MINISTRY
PREPARES FOR ECTS
IMPLEMENTATION



PROJECT
NEPAL ECTS TO
MINIMIZE TIME AND
COST OF TRADE



PROJECT
ECTS WORKSHOP TO BE
HELD IN KOLKATA AND
NEPAL

Electronic Cargo Tracking System to Help Ease Transit of Nepal-bound Cargo

14 January 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Cabinet of Nepal has approved the modality of the Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS). Following this, Nepal's Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has begun preparations for ECTS implementation with the assistance of ADB. Mr. Ravi Shanker Sainju, Joint Secretary, MoC, is hopeful that the ECTS will help control the turnaround time of shipping line containers, and significantly reduce the delay and cost of trade. He stressed that if Nepal can minimize time consumed in trade, cost of goods can go down, and create prospects for industrialization.

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THAILAND TRILATERAL
HIGHWAY BY 2019



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SECURE BUSINESS
ENVIRONMENTS TO
PROMOTE TRADE -WCO



NEWS
SAFE AND AEO TO
SECURE SUPPLY CHAINS
IN SRI LANKA

WCO Encourages Customs Administrations to Promote Secure Business Environments

26 January 2018: Brussels, Belgium

In a message to commemorate International Customs Day 2018, Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization (WCO), examines what it means to truly promote a secure business environment through Customs to foster participation in cross-border trade. He urges WCO and its members to contribute to building business environments that are enabling, safe, and fair and sustainable.

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Commentary: Energy Cooperation Stabilizing Region

26 January 2018: New Delhi, India

Rapid economic growth and increasing populations pose challenges to the South Asian region's energy security. Increasing energy cooperation among South Asian countries will help ensure access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for the entire region.

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Delhi Declaration Reflects India and the ASEAN Region's Commitment to Step Up Economic Cooperation

25 January 2018: New Delhi, India

The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Republic of India gathered in New Delhi, India, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. They issued the Delhi Declaration, which highlights key areas for cooperation between India and the ASEAN. It emphasized the need to boost trade between India and the ASEAN member countries by fully implementing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.

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Prime Ministers of Singapore and India Laud ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, Call for Greater Trade and Connectivity

25 January 2018: New Delhi, India

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called on member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India to move the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership forward by increasing trade, economic cooperation, and connectivity. He remarked on the huge growth potential found in India and the ASEAN, and highlighted the importance of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement that is currently being negotiated.

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India Prioritizing the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway

23 January 2018: New Delhi, India

Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport, and Highways, India, noted that the project to build a 1,400 kilometer-long India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway is being given the highest priority by the Government. He added that the highway connecting India to Southeast Asia may be ready by December 2019.

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Bhutan Moves Pipeline Hydro Projects Forward

21 January 2018: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Government of Bhutan is moving forward with Detailed Project Reports for pipeline hydropower projects in the country, including hydropower joint ventures with the Government of India. Bhutan aims to generate another 5,178 megawatts by 2025 from these pipeline projects, including the 1,125 MW Dorjilung project, 2,560 MW Sunkosh project, and 2,640 MW Kuri Gongri Project.

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Women Entrepreneurs Look to SAARC Markets

19 January 2018: Visakhapatnam, India

South Asian Women Development Forum is looking to promote products by women entrepreneurs in markets in SAARC countries. A Women Entrepreneur International Trade and Technology Hub will be developed in Visakhapatnam, India, with ADB assistance to provide women with lessons on international trade and business.

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SAFE Framework and AEO Program to Secure Supply Chains in Sri Lanka

16 January 2018: Colombo, Sri Lanka

World Customs Organization, in cooperation with the China Customs Cooperation Fund, conducted a workshop to lay down a broad framework for Sri Lankan Customs to effectively implement the SAFE Framework and launch an AEO program.

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Ludhiana, India, Organizes Authorized Economic Operator Workshop

13 January 2018: Ludhiana, India

Customs Commissionerate, Ludhiana, India, organized an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Workshop in Sanhewal on 12 January 2018. Around 100 importers, exporters, and logistics officers from Punjab attended the workshop conducted by Delhi Customs.

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Land Border Crossing Agreement between India and Myanmar Approved

3 January 2018: New Delhi, India

India has approved the Land Border Crossing Agreement between India and Myanmar. The Agreement will facilitate harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people in the border areas, as well as movement of people on the basis of valid passports and visas, encouraging economic and social interaction between the two countries.

[**Read More**](#)

India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Highlights Activities from 2017

1 January 2018: New Delhi, India

This news release from India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways highlights the Ministry's achievements in 2017. Milestones achieved in the past year include launch of phase I of a wide-scale highway sector program to bridge critical infrastructure gaps through multimodal connectivity, the first Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit, and a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Nepal to construct a new bridge over Mechi river.

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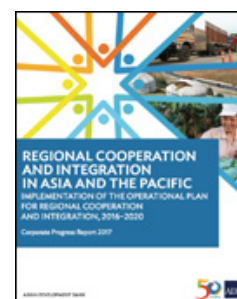
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