



**SASEC EVENTS**  
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# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #90

JULY 2021

WWW.SASEC.ASIA



## ADB, Government of India Sign \$484 Million Loan to Upgrade Road Network in Tamil Nadu Industrial Corridor

16 June 2021: New Delhi, India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed the Tamil Nadu Industrial Connectivity Project on 16 June 2021. Under the agreement, ADB will finance a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor.

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## SASEC CALENDAR

July

**Advancing Maritime Cooperation in SASEC: Workshop on the Findings of Port Logistics and Hinterland Connectivity Study**

**7 July 2021: Online**

## SASEC PROJECTS



- **Bangladesh Highway Awaits e-Operation**

### **Bangladesh Highway Awaits e-Operation**

**9 June 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Roads and Highways Department is set to incorporate an electronic road operation system to the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Project II, which is currently under construction. The Tangail-Rangpur Highway project will be the first to be operated electronically using the IT-based intelligence surveillance system to facilitate traffic flow and road safety.

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- **Bangladesh to Import Hydropower from Nepal to Meet Electricity Demand**
- **Bhutan's Bicameral Parliament Passes Customs Bill 2021**
- **BIMSTEC Countries Must Work Together Toward Shared Progress -Sri Lanka President**

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## **Proposed Revisions for the India-Nepal Railway Service Agreement to Allow Other Operators, Utilize Other Border Points**

**30 June 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal**

A Letter of Exchange for the revision of the Railway Service Agreement between Nepal and India proposes to allow all authorized private container train operators from India and Nepal to utilize the Indian Railway network to transport freight containers for Nepal's imports or exports, and transport goods to and/or from other border points besides Raxaul (India)/Birgunj (Nepal).

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## **Bhutan's Bicameral Parliament Passes Customs Bill 2021**

**28 June 2021: Thimphu, Bhutan**

Bhutan's Houses of Parliament, the National Council (Upper House) and the National Assembly (Lower House), have passed the Customs Bill 2021.

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## **Vaccination for Truckers Engaged in Cross-border Transit of Goods Prioritized**

**28 June 2021: Ranchi, India**

India's Ministry of External Affairs has directed states that share borders with Bangladesh to make vaccination for truckers a priority.

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## **Bangladesh to Import Hydropower from Nepal to Meet Electricity Demand**

**27 June 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh will import around 700 megawatts of hydropower from Nepal to meet its future electricity demand. The country is set to sign an agreement with Nepal for the hydropower import.

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## **Benapole Railway Station Being Improved to Serve Rising Rail Imports**

**21 June 2021: Benapole, Bangladesh**

Import of goods from India to Bangladesh by trains have seen a significant rise during the coronavirus pandemic. To serve the growing demand for imports by rail and smoothen the transit of goods, work on a double railway line from the Petrapole port in India to the Benapole railway station in Bangladesh has commenced.

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## **Bangladesh Eyes Resort and Leisure Wear Exports to Maldives**

**21 June 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is looking to produce resort wear and leisure apparel for Maldives. Mr. Faruque Hassan, President of BGMEA discussed the potential of tapping this Maldives market with Mr. Shiruzimath Sameer, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives.

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## **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to Begin Negotiations to Sign a Preferential Trade Agreement**

**16 June 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The Government of Bangladesh plans to begin negotiations with Sri Lanka to sign a preferential trade agreement by July. Both countries aim to increase their bilateral trade volume.

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## **Waterways to Increase India-Bangladesh Trade**

**15 June 2021: Agartala, India**

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is pushing for the development of waterway connections to increase trade between India's northeastern states and Bangladesh. According to Mr. Biswajit Chakraborty, FICCI director for the northeast chapter, developing waterway connectivity would benefit the lives and livelihoods of people living across the Meghna basin.

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# BIMSTEC Countries Must Work Together Toward Shared Progress -Sri Lanka President

8 June 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Member states of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) should "continue to deepen cooperation to address the region's challenges and to seize the many opportunities for shared progress," said Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on 6 June 2021 during the 24th anniversary of BIMSTEC.

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# BIMSTEC's Close Cooperation Lauded at 24th Anniversary Commemoration

6 June 2021: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Heads of BIMSTEC member states commemorated the 24th BIMSTEC Day on 6 June 2021 with messages that pledged to cooperate with each other in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to overcome its consequences. They also conveyed wishes for peace and prosperity of the region in separate messages.

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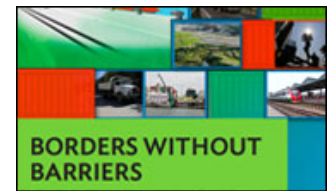
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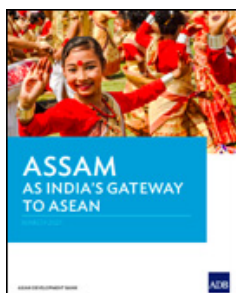
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## Top Tweets for July 2021

The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement aims to lift restrictions on cross-border movement of cargo, passengers, and personal vehicles. It has accompanying protocols and operating procedures for passenger and cargo movement [Read more](#)

The BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity articulates implementation strategies to be adopted and the goals to be achieved. It also includes proposed measures to monitor the realization of connectivity goals. [Read more](#)

Indian Energy Exchange sees good demand from cross-border customers [Read more](#)

How South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation SASEC countries can enhance maritime cooperation to boost international trade. [Read more](#)

Bangladesh to import around 700 megawatts of hydropower from Nepal to meet its future electricity demand [Read more](#)

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