



SASEC EVENTS
ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE
FACILITATION FORUM
2019



SASEC PROJECTS
SRI LANKA PORTS
AUTHORITY MAKES WAY
FOR SASEC PORT ACCESS
ELEVATED HIGHWAY
CONSTRUCTION



SASEC NEWS
ADB DISCUSSES
NORTH EAST
INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR
FEASIBILITY STUDY IN
NAGALAND



PUBLICATIONS
CONNECTING
CORRIDORS
BEYOND BORDERS:
ENABLING SEAMLESS
CONNECTIVITY IN THE
BBIN SUBREGION



SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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Times of India



Kuensel

Ship Transports Cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh via India for the First Time

18 July 2019: Narayanganj, Bangladesh

An Indian cargo ship carrying a shipment of stone aggregate from Bhutan arrived in Bangladesh. It passed through the Brahmaputra River in India. It was the first shipment to take the route, saving an estimated 30% transportation cost and travelling at half the time it would take for the shipment to travel by land.

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SASEC CALENDAR

Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2019: Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for Regional Prosperity

17-18 September 2019: New Delhi, India

SASEC PROJECTS



PROJECT
CONCEPTUAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
THE VCIC PROJECT READY

- ADB prepared conceptual development plan crafts a strategy for transforming VCIC through industries
- Development of Visakhapatnam being prioritized by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Sri Lanka Ports Authority makes way for SASEC Port Access Elevated Highway construction

India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Notes CDP for the VCIC Ready

19 July 2019: New Delhi, India

Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, informed the Rajya Sabha, the Council of States of the Government of India, in a written note that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has prepared the Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) for the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) project. Four nodes have been identified for development under the VCIC. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is prioritizing Visakhapatnam and Chittoor. The CDP crafts a strategy for transforming the VCIC through industries.

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Sri Lanka Ports Authority Constructing New HQ to Give Access to Services in One Place

8 July 2019: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) will construct a new administrative building, according to Mr. Sagala Ratnayake, Minister, Sri Lanka Ports, Shipping and Southern Development of the Government of Sri Lanka. SLPA's old premises along the Colombo harbor will be vacated to make way for the construction of the South Asian Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Port Access Elevated Highway.

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NEWS

NEPAL EXPORTS
ELECTRICITY TO INDIA
UNDER ENERGY BANKING
MECHANISM

- **Nepal approves the detailed project report for the planned Indo-Nepal railway**
- **ADB to conduct feasibility study on the proposed North East Industrial Corridor**
- **Water grid program to improve Bangladesh-India connectivity**

BIMSTEC Secretary General Calls on India's External Affairs Minister

23 July 2019: New Delhi, India

Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), called on Mr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India. He briefed the External Affairs Minister on initiatives taken by the BIMSTEC Secretariat toward fulfillment of BIMSTEC leaders' directives agreed during the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit and ongoing review and rationalization of BIMSTEC's sectors of cooperation. Mr. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's strong commitment to BIMSTEC. He also expressed hope that the ongoing institutional reform will yield more results in the near future.

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Myanmar to Further Liberalize Trade

19 July 2019: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The Government of Myanmar plans to further reduce the number of products requiring import licenses. Mr. Khin Maung Lwin, Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of Myanmar, noted that this plan to liberalize trade for select items is part of an initiative to improve Myanmar's trade facilitation.

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Nepal Approves Detailed Project Report for Planned Indo-Nepal Railway

17 July 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of Nepal has approved the Detailed Project Report for the planned Indo-Nepal railway. The railway route is set to connect Rupaidiya in eastern Uttar Pradesh in India to Kohalpur in Nepal. The Government of Nepal has begun the process of land acquisition.

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Nepal Exports Electricity to India under Energy Banking Mechanism

16 July 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal exported 350 megawatts of surplus electricity to India in July, putting into practice the energy banking arrangement between the two countries. In a press conference, Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resource, and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal, informed the public that Nepal supplied India with excess electricity through the Raxaul-Parwanipur and Kushaha-Kataiya international transmission lines.

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ADB Discusses North East Industrial Corridor Feasibility Study with Nagaland Chief Secretary

11 July 2019: Nagaland, India

ADB has been tasked by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed North East Industrial Corridor. An ADB team met with Mr. Temjen Toy, Chief Secretary of the State Government of Nagaland, and senior officers of relevant state departments for further discussions. Mr. Toy emphasized the need to connect border trading points, and mentioned that lack of facilities hampered trade in the borders.

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Seventh Meeting of India-Nepal Oversight Mechanism Held

9 July 2019: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Seventh Meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism reviewed progress of projects under bilateral cooperation, including cross-border railway, petroleum pipelines, roads, integrated check posts, bridges, energy, irrigation, inundation, agriculture, and post-earthquake reconstruction. Officials expressed satisfaction in their progress, and agreed to address problems and obstacles to ensure smooth implementation.

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Bangladesh and Bhutan Discuss Preferential Trade Agreement, Cooperation in Energy and Logistics

9 July 2019: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Sonam Tobden Rabgye, outgoing Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh, called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Their meeting emphasized enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the power sector, and agreed to finalize the Preferential Trade Agreement. Prime Minister Hasina offered Bhutan access to its air and sea ports. She also said Bhutan can construct a warehouse in Bangladesh, and access this through the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal facility.

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Water Grid Program to Improve Bangladesh-India Connectivity

7 July 2019: New Delhi, India

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance of the Government of India, announced during her budget speech that the opening of a protocol route between India and Bangladesh would be the start of a water grid program. The water grid would connect India's northeastern region to Kolkata and Haldia ports in India and Mongla port in Bangladesh, allowing for seamless movement of import and export cargo and reduced logistics cost.

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India Foreign Secretary Visits Bhutan

5 July 2019: Thimphu, Bhutan

Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, visited Bhutan to meet its top leaders and deepen bilateral ties between the two countries. He called on His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, and Mr. Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bhutan.

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India's Union Cabinet Approves India-Maldives MoU for the Establishment of Passenger and Cargo Service by Sea

3 July 2019: New Delhi, India

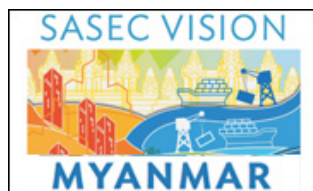
The Cabinet of the Government of India approved ex-post facto the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Establishment of Passenger and Cargo Service by Sea between India and Maldives. The cities of Malé and Kulhudhuffushi in Maldives hold good potential for the proposed ferry service to and from Kochi, India.

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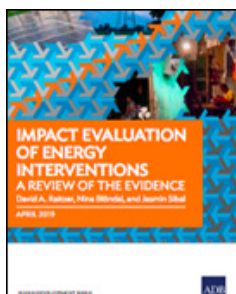
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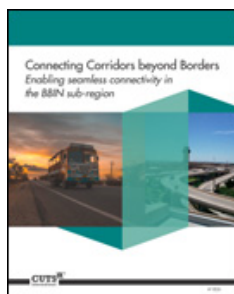
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Top Tweets for July 2019

Rail operators from Nepal and private rail operators from India could soon transport Nepal-bound cargo transiting through the Indian ports of Visakhapatnam, Haldia, and Kolkata

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Developing Asia GDP expected to grow by 5.7% in 2019 and 5.6% in 2020 [Read more](#)

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ADB undertakes feasibility study to help develop India's northeastern region, focusing on transport, urban development, and energy [Read more](#)

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