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FOR A STUDY ON A
PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR
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SASEC Countries to Gain by Improving Transport Times

19 June 2018: Colombo, Sri Lanka

By investing in infrastructure that improves connectivity and reduces transport times to key markets, South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation countries could reap major benefits, a new Asian Development Bank study says.

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EVENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Workshop on SEZs and Economic Corridor Development



EVENT
INDIA
Inception Workshop for a Study on a Perspective Plan for Coastal Shipping



EVENT
SRI LANKA
Seventh SASEC Customs Subgroup Meeting

Workshop on Special Economic Zones and Economic Corridor Development

25-29 June 2018: Shanghai, People's Republic of China

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asia-Pacific Finance and Development Institute jointly organized a Workshop on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Economic Corridor Development. This workshop deepened participants' understanding of SEZs, ECD, and the logistics sector.

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Inception Workshop for a Study on a Perspective Plan for Coastal Shipping

20 June 2018: New Delhi, India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in collaboration with Ministry of Shipping of the Government of India, held an inception workshop for a study on a perspective plan for Coastal Shipping. The proposed Study will assess key constraints to the development of coastal shipping, and formulate practical and actionable recommendations. The Study is expected to be completed by December 2018.

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June 2018



The Digital Transformation and the Transformation of International Trade [Read](#)

17th India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations discuss wide range of bilateral matters, incl. high-level visits, trade and commerce, development cooperation, connectivity [Read](#)

Developing Asia is forecast to expand by 6.0% in 2018, and by 5.9% in 2019. Excluding Asia's high-income newly industrialized economies, growth should reach 6.5% in 2018 and 6.4% in 2019 [Read](#)

Poor connectivity, non-tariff barriers preventing Bangladesh and Nepal from reaping the benefits of bilateral trade [Read](#)



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July

Seventh SASEC Customs Subgroup Meeting 30-31 July 2018: Colombo, Sri Lanka

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LINKAGES TO TURN
SILCHAR INTO A
TRANSPORT HUB**

India-Nepal New Partnership in Agriculture Meeting Discuss Potential Areas of Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector

20 June 2018: New Delhi, India

This partnership was conceptualized to increase bilateral cooperation in agriculture for the benefit of Indian and Nepalese farmers. The inaugural Meeting discussed possible future collaboration, such as joint agricultural research and education; mutual recognition of inspection, testing, and certificates; and implementation of trade facilitation measures. The Meeting also signed an agreement to build two quarantine posts to ease Nepal's trade processes.

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PRC Signs Deal to Develop Hydropower in Nepal

20 June 2018: Beijing, People's Republic of China

Nepal and People's Republic of China (PRC) signed eight agreements worth \$2.4 billion, including deals to develop hydroelectricity, water resources, cement factories, and fruit industries in Nepal. The signing ceremony took place in Beijing during Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to PRC.

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Seminar Lauds Bangladesh LDC Graduation Eligibility, Discusses New Horizons for Bilateral Economic Engagement with India

20 June 2018: New Delhi, India

The seminar jointly organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi highlighted Bangladesh's eligibility to graduate from "Least Developed Country" category. Mr. Syed Muazzem Ali, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, emphasized how Bangladesh-India bilateral ties could act as a catalyst for strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and integration in the region. Both countries are working to facilitate greater trade, developing new land ports and better infrastructure, and cooperating to dismantle non-tariff and para-tariff barriers.

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Sri Lanka High Commissioner: Vision Offers Opportunities for Indian Businesses

20 June 2018: New Delhi, India

Ms. Chitranganee Wagiswara, high commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, India, urged Indian companies to take advantage of the ample business opportunities in Sri Lanka. She said Sri Lanka's Vision 2025 positions the country as an export-oriented economic hub at the center of the Indian Ocean.

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ADB Submits Jogighopa Multi-Modal Logistics Park Study Report

19 June 2018: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) submitted the Jogighopa Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) pre-feasibility study report to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, on 19 June 2018. The Government of India (GoI) requested ADB's support to conduct MMLP pre-feasibility studies at select locations, including Jogighopa in Assam, India. The development of MMLPs, under the GoI's Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Program, aims to reduce logistics costs and improve the efficiency of transport of goods and commodities.

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Ludhiana Customs Conducts AEO Camp

19 June 2018: Ludhiana, India

The Customs Commissionerate of Ludhiana held an Authorized Economic Operators' (AEO) camp at the Customs House Sanhewal. Mr. AS Ranga, Customs Commissioner, reiterated the Government of India's commitment to the implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement. He discussed important features of the AEO scheme and details to remember in filing AEO applications. Representatives from different industries, and importers and exporters attended the event.

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Nepal Government Readies Chobhar Dry Port Construction

18 June 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board (NITDB) plans to begin construction of a dry port in Chobhar by end of this fiscal year, and complete the project by end of 2019. The dry port will be equipped with warehouses, parking lots, litigation shed, Customs administrative building, quarantine, banks, and other required facilities for Customs clearance.

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SARSO Sets Regulatory Standards for Biscuits, Refined Sugar, and Milk Products

17 June 2018: New Delhi, India

Member nations of SAARC have agreed on common standards for biscuits, refined sugar, and milk products. The South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) has set regulatory standards for these three products, including requirements related to packaging, marking, labeling, and sampling of biscuits and refined sugar, as well as production, processing, and handling of milk and milk products. This milestone is expected to boost trade of these products within South Asia.

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Commentary: Opening up Nepal-India Skies

16 June 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

Establishing an additional air route via Nepal will help reduce congestion and enhance air traffic safety in the region. In this commentary, Mr. Tri Ratna Manandhar, former director general of Civil Aviation Authority, Nepal, discusses how India and Nepal could work together to implement the Himalaya Route.

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Hard and Soft Infrastructure Can Boost Myanmar's Trade with BBIN Countries

15 June 2018: Yangon, Myanmar

A Meeting organized by the Marketing Research and Development and the Consumer Unity and Trust International (CUTS)-India, discussed the importance of developing both hard and soft infrastructure to boost trade between Myanmar and its neighbors to the west—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN). The Meeting focused on discussing how to improve trade between Myanmar and its BBIN neighbors.

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Commentary: SL to Advance Cross Border Trading through NSW, Trade Information Portal

12 June 2018: Colombo, Sri Lanka

In this commentary, Mr. Bandula Dissanayake, Secretary General, National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, notes initiatives being planned by the Government of Sri Lanka to improve cross-border trading in the country. The National Single Window will offer a single point for submission of standardized information and documents to facilitate Sri Lanka's imports and exports. The Trade Information Portal, a complementary project, would help generate trade and investment.

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Shanghai Cooperation Organization Firms Up Commitment to Trade Facilitation Plan

10 June 2018: Qingdao, People's Republic of China

Leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries—the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—held an SCO Heads of State Council Meeting in Qingdao, PRC. They endorsed a statement underscoring SCO's commitment to facilitate trade across its members' borders through simplified procedures.

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India Gives \$4.8 Million to Nepal for Postal Highway Construction

30 May 2018: Kathmandu, Nepal

The Government of India turned over INR330 million (\$4.8 million) to the Government of Nepal for the construction of Nepal's Postal Highway. The amount is part of India's grant assistance for two road packages for Birgunj-Thori Road, implemented under Nepal's Postal Highway Project.

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Planned Multimodal Linkages to Turn Silchar into a Transport Hub

27 May 2018: Assam, India

Plans are being drafted to turn Silchar, a city in Assam, India, into a logistics hub. Multimodal transport linkages from Silchar to Myanmar and to Bangladesh are being considered, in line with the Government of India's "Act East" policy. These will decongest Guwahati and place Silchar at the forefront of growing economic relations between India's northeastern states and Bangladesh and the countries in Southeast Asia.

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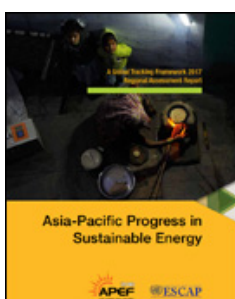
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