



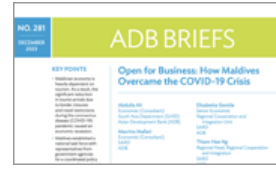
PROJECTS
INDIA PM LAYS
FOUNDATION STONE
FOR SASEC CORRIDOR
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SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

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India PM Lays Foundation Stone for SASEC Corridor Projects

4 February 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for multiple road projects in Guwahati, Assam. The projects include the upgrading of 43 roads under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Corridor Connectivity Project, such as the Dolabari to Jamuguri road and the Biswanath Chariali to Gohpur road. Both the Dolabari to Jamuguri and the Biswanath Chariali to Gohpur roads will be upgraded to 4 lanes to help push economic development in the region.

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- **Rajshahi-Murshidabad River Route Inaugurated, Will Boost Bangladesh-India Trade Ties**
- **Bangladesh and Nepal to Increase Bilateral Trade**
- **India, Nepal Sign Long-term Power Trade Deal**

India, Nepal Renew Electric Power Trade Agreement for Three Months

28 March 2024: Kathmandu, Nepal

The electric power trade agreement between India and Nepal has been renewed for a three-month period. This will facilitate the import and export of electricity between the two nations.

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Bangladesh and Nepal to Increase Bilateral Trade

28 March 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Minister of State for Shipping of the Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Damodar Bhandari, Nepal Minister of Commerce met to discuss ways to increase Banglaesh-Nepal trade. Among the topics discussed was the improvement of land transport between Banglabandha land port in Bangladesh and Kakarbhita land port in Nepal. A 37-kilometer route could be established between the two ports through India.

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Bhutan, India Finalize MoU on Establishment of Rail Links on India Prime Minister Modi's Visit

22 March 2024: Thimphu, Bhutan

The Governments of Bhutan and India exchanged multiple agreements across various sectors, encompassing energy, trade, digital connectivity, space, and agriculture. They also finalized the MoU on the establishment of rail connectivity, marking a comprehensive enhancement of cooperation between the two nations.

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Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's Visit to India Highlights Close Economic and Development Partnership

18 March 2024: New Delhi, India

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay embarked on his first overseas visit to India upon the invitation of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He shared insights into the priorities of the Royal Government of Bhutan. Prime Minister Modi affirmed India's unwavering support for Bhutan's ambition to become a high-income nation.

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Gelephu Airport in Bhutan to Be Upgraded Using ADB Master Plan

16 March 2024: Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan officials have selected a master plan by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for building a new runway for the Gelephu Airport. Under the master plan, a new 3,000-meter-long runway will be built at around 50 to 60 meters above the current runway. The master plan provides an option to extend the runway in the future to 3,500 meters.

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India Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates Third Land Port in Tripura, India

9 March 2024: Tripura, India

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the third Land Port at Sabroom, Tripura, where he emphasized the importance of developing India's northeastern region. The Sabroom Land Port is expected to boost trade and commerce with Southeast Asian countries via the Chattogram port in Bangladesh.

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BBIN Countries Meet in Dhaka to Discuss Implementation of BBIN MVA

6 March 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bhutan is contemplating rejoining the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicles Agreement (BBIN MVA). This development was communicated during a meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, focused on the implementation of the BBIN MVA.

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Bhutan's Punatsangchhu-II Hydro Project Approaches Finish Line

24 February 2024: Wangdue, Bhutan

The Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (PHPA-II) in Wangdue, Bhutan, has reached a pivotal phase with the successful filling of its reservoir on 21 February 2024. With a capacity of 7 million cubic meters of water, it will support a 1,020-megawatt facility expected to produce 4,357 million units of electricity each year.

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Sabroom ICP to Elevate India-Bangladesh Trade Relations

24 February 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The new Integrated Checkpost (ICP) at Sabroom in Tripura, India, and its counterpart in Ramgarh Upazila, Bandarban, Bangladesh, is set to usher in a transformative phase in the trade dynamics between India and Bangladesh. The Sabroom ICP is designed to be a comprehensive terminal and logistics hub.

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Bangladesh Foreign Minister Advocates MoU Completion with Bhutan on Hydropower, Urges Reconsidering BBIN Participation

13 February 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Hasan Mahmud, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, has emphasized the importance of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Bhutan for the import of hydropower during a meeting with Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Bhutan's Ambassador to Bangladesh. Dr. Mahmud also encouraged Bhutan to reconsider its participation in the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) initiative.

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Multimodal Connectivity Is Key to the Future of Bangladesh-India Ties

13 February 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Pranay Verma, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, said the future of Bangladesh-India ties lies in efficient multimodal connectivity, through connectivity via road, rail, inland waterways, and coastal shipping.

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Rajshahi-Murshidabad River Route Inaugurated, Will Boost Bangladesh-India Trade Ties

12 February 2024: Dhaka, Bangladesh

The river trade route between Rajshahi in Bangladesh and Murshidabad in India was opened on 12 February 2024 to strengthen trade between the two countries. The Sultanganj Port of Call under Godagari Upazila in the district also resumed operations to serve the river trade route and strengthen trade and economic ties between Bangladesh and India.

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Tripura Rail Gets Boost with Services to Kolkata via Bangladesh

4 February 2024: Mumbai, India

Railway service between Agartala and Kolkata, India, through Bangladesh is set to begin and expand rail connectivity in Tripura, India, according to Mr. Manik Saha, chief minister of Tripura.

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PTC India Limited Starts Power Supply from Nikachhu Hydroelectric Project

25 January 2024: New Delhi, India

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, held talks on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Uganda. They discussed issues of bilateral interests.

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Nepal Prime Minister, Sri Lanka President Discuss Regional and Bilateral Issues on 19th NAM Summit

20 January 2024: Kampala, Uganda

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe held talks on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Uganda. The two leaders discussed issues of bilateral interests, including connectivity, tourism and regional cooperation.

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Sri Lanka President Briefs Indian Business Leaders on Sri Lanka's Economic Vision

17 January 2024: Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Consortium of Indian Industry (CII) and the World Economic Forum held a roundtable discussion that focused on Sri Lanka's economic vision, led by Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe. He highlighted key factors to Sri Lanka's sustained economic growth.

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India, Nepal Hold Discussions to Bolster Trade Ties

13 January 2024: Kathmandu, Nepal

The India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) on Trade, Transit, and Cooperation to Combat Unauthorized Trade met on 12–13 January 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting highlighted the commitment by the two countries to bolster trade and investment ties to achieve the shared vision of prosperous bilateral trade.

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India, Nepal Sign Long-term Power Trade Deal

4 January 2024: Kathmandu, Nepal

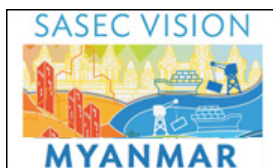
The Governments of India and Nepal signed a long-term power trade agreement on 4 January 2024. The agreement is a 25-year deal, and aims to export 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India in the next ten years.

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