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# SASEC NEWS

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## ADB Loan to Spur Growth along Tamil Nadu Industrial Corridor

8 April 2021: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$484-million loan for a project to improve transport connectivity along the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu, India, to strengthen industrial growth and create jobs along the corridor. The CKIC is part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor, which stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects to Southeast Asia and East Asia.

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- **Trade Facilitation Mobile App Launched in India**
- **17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting Finalizes BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity**
- **Connectivity Continues to Improve among BBIN Countries**

## **Webinar Highlights Economic Potential of Bangladesh-India River Tourism**

**29 April 2021: Online**

Experts discussed unique opportunities in river tourism between Bangladesh and India at a public-private dialogue on India-Bangladesh cross-border tourism and cruise operations organized by CUTS International on 29 April 2021.

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## **COVID-19 Fight Needs Collective Action at National, Subregional, and Regional Levels**

**28 April 2021: Online**

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries have been severely affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, affecting lives and livelihoods of millions of people, according to Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary General, SAARC. He said that facing the challenges brought about by the pandemic requires collective action at national, subregional, and regional levels.

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## **Sustainable Hydropower Development Policy 2021 to Guide Bhutan's Hydropower Development**

**21 April 2021: Thimphu, Bhutan**

The Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Government of Bhutan launched the Sustainable Hydropower Development Policy (SHDP) 2021 on 21 April 2021. The SHDP 2021 is expected to guide the overall development of Bhutan's abundant hydropower resources in consonance with national economic development goals, other relevant policies and laws, and more importantly to benefit the nation and achieve the larger aspirations of its people for peace, prosperity, and happiness.

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## **Indian Energy Exchange Starts Cross-border Electricity Trade Platform**

**19 April 2021: New Delhi, India**

The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has launched the Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) on its platform. The IEX aims to provide the most competitive benchmark for power prices and valuable signals for the value chain. It will work closely with designated nodal agencies for cross-border electricity trade to facilitate inter-country power trade through the exchange market.

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## **Foreign Ministers of India and Maldives Review Bilateral Cooperation**

**16 April 2021: New Delhi, India**

Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of the Government of Maldives, met with Mr. S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of the Government of India, on 16 April 2021, as part of his two-day visit to India. The two foreign ministers reviewed the status of ongoing projects in Maldives backed by India. India supports around \$2 billion worth of projects in Maldives, including ports, roads, bridges, water and sanitation, and socioeconomic development projects.

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## **Trade Facilitation Mobile App Launched in India**

**12 April 2021: New Delhi, India**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India has launched a Directorate General of Foreign Trade Trade Facilitation Mobile App. India aims to move toward paperless, automated processing systems, simple procedures, online data exchange between departments, and digital payments and acknowledgements.

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## **17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting Finalizes BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity**

**1 April 2021: New Delhi, India**

Foreign Ministers of the Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping finalized the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity at the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held on 1 April 2021. The master plan will be endorsed for adoption in the next BIMSTEC summit to be hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka later this year.

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# Connectivity Continues to Improve among BBIN Countries

1 April 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Connectivity among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) in the last couple of years has improved bilateral relations in the fields of trade, business, culture, and education and research. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman Khan, president, SAARC Peoples Link Forum, noted the importance of increasing cultural relations and other forms of regional cooperation among SAARC countries, as well as of further developing road and rail connectivity.

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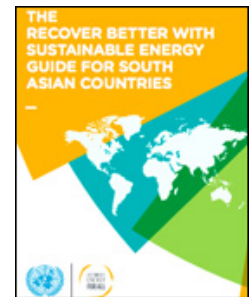
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Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina and Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering calls for Secretary-level meeting among Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India to move forward with discussions on trilateral cooperation in hydropower [Read more](#)

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for early conclusion of the proposed free trade agreement and undertake measures for trade facilitation to boost trade [Read more](#)

BIMSTEC finalizes charter [Read more](#)

The multimodal transport initiative transported 48 tonnes of cargo from Dhaka, Bangladesh, to Spain [Read more](#)

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Bangladesh MoUs signed with neighbors to boost connectivity, tourism [Read more](#)

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