



**SASEC PROJECTS**  
COMPLETION OF  
AKHAURA-LAKSAM  
RAILWAY SECTION TO  
SAVE TRAVEL TIME



**SASEC PROJECTS**  
SASEC RAILWAY  
PROJECT IN  
BANGLADESH 62%  
COMPLETED



**SASEC NEWS**  
TRANSPORT  
CONNECTIVITY KEY TO  
INTRAREGIONAL TRADE  
IN BBIN AND BAY OF  
BENGAL SUBREGIONS



**PUBLICATIONS**  
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT  
OUTLOOK 2021 UPDATE



# SASEC NEWS

THE SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #93 OCTOBER 2021

WWW.SASEC.ASIA



## ADB Approves Power Project Loan in Nepal

20 September 2021: Manila, Philippines

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting the Electricity Grid Modernization Project through an additional \$60 million loan to upgrade power transmission and distribution systems in Nepal. The project will help Nepal reach its electricity consumption target of 700 kilowatt hours per capita by 2026, according to Mr. Jiwan Acharya, Principal Energy Specialist for South Asia, ADB. [Read More](#)

# SASEC PROJECTS



**PROJECT**  
**SASEC RAILWAY PROJECT IN**  
**BANGLADESH 62%**  
**COMPLETED**

- **Completion of Akhaura-Laksam Railway Section to Save Travel Time**
- **SASEC Railway Project in Bangladesh 62% Completed**

## Completion of Akhaura-Laksam Railway Section to Save Travel Time

**25 September 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

A 23-kilometer double railway track from Cumilla to Laksam has been completed and is projected to save travel time on the track. Bangladesh Railway is set to open the line on 25 September 2021. The Dhaka-Chattogram railway corridor is a component of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) corridor in Bangladesh.

[Read More](#)

## SASEC Railway Project in Bangladesh 62% Completed

**11 September 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Government of Bangladesh aims to complete the railway line from Dohazari, Chattogram, to Cox's Bazar by June 2023, after work on the project slowed due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The SASEC railway project is building a new 102-kilometer dual-gauge single railway line. It will facilitate trade, investment, and travel for tourists and will strengthen the economy of beach communities along the railway.

[Read More](#)

# SASEC NEWS



**NEWS**  
**TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY**  
**KEY TO INTRAREGIONAL**  
**TRADE IN BBIN**

- **First Private Sector Cargo Train from India Arrives in Nepal**
- **Third Bangladesh-Nepal Power Sector JSC Meeting Promotes Further Cooperation**
- **Transport Connectivity Key to Intraregional Trade in BBIN and Bay of Bengal Subregions**

## **Bangladesh-Bhutan Preferential Trade Agreement Seen to Boost Exports**

**19 September 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Merchandise shipments from Bangladesh to Bhutan have grown significantly, reported the Daily Star. Bangladesh's export to Bhutan is expected to rise further following the preferential trade agreement signed in December 2020.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

## **Nepal Willing to Use Bangladesh Ports**

**18 September 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Nepal is willing to use the ports of Bangladesh for international trade and lessen its dependence on Kolkata port in India, according to Mr. Banshidhar Mishra, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, in a courtesy call with Mr. Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, Senior Vice President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

## **New ICP Petrapole Passenger Terminal Building to Boost India-Bangladesh Connectivity**

**17 September 2021: New Delhi, India**

The Ministries of Home Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of India inaugurated the Passenger Terminal Building I at ICP Petrapole. ICP Petrapole is the largest land port in South Asia and the most important port of entry for passengers from Bangladesh. It handles about 2.3 million passengers annually.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

## **First Private Sector Cargo Train from India Arrives in Nepal**

**15 September 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal**

A private sector cargo train from India arrived in Birgunj, Nepal, on 15 September 2021—the first following the approval and implementation of the revision of the railway service agreement between the two countries. The Hind Terminal cargo train carried 90 containers with food products from Haldia, India.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

## **KOICA Supporting Bangladesh Road Connectivity Projects**

**14 September 2021: Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Bangladesh Road Transport and Highways Division, and Roads and Highways Department held a knowledge sharing webinar on "Strengthening Road Maintenance & Management System of Bangladesh." The 9-day online fellowship program aimed to help with the challenges of establishing road connectivity, integrating traffic management, and protecting networks from natural disaster. The webinar also shared with participants how advanced technologies are used to foster road management in the Republic of Korea.

[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

# Third Bangladesh-Nepal Power Sector JSC Meeting Promotes Further Cooperation

14 September 2021: Kathmandu, Nepal

The third meeting of the Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the power sector emphasized how greater cooperation in energy will benefit both Bangladesh and Nepal. The meeting discussed how to further strengthen their work together in the power sector and took up matters such as mutual electricity trade and investment in Nepal's hydropower plants.

[Read More](#)

# Passenger Trains to Start Service Between Haldibari and Chilahati

9 September 2021: Kolkata, India

Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh is set to begin soon through the Haldibari-Chilahati border route. This was announced by Mr. Toufique Hasan, Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata.

[Read More](#)

# Transport Connectivity Key to Intraregional Trade in BBIN and Bay of Bengal Subregions

1 September 2021: Online

Increasing transport connectivity is key to regional integration and intraregional trade, according to Mr. Dongxiang Li, Lead Regional Cooperation Specialist, South Asia Department, ADB. He said the development of a regional framework is needed to harmonize policy, procedures, and practice among countries in the Bay of Bengal subregion.

[Read More](#)

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS



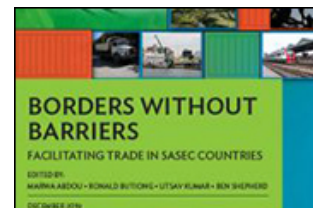
SASEC VISION



SASEC VISION  
MYANMAR



SASEC OPERATIONAL  
PLAN 2016-2025 UPDATE



BORDERS WITHOUT  
BARRIERS:  
FACILITATING TRADE IN  
SASEC COUNTRIES





India-Bangladesh Cross-Border Tourism and Cruise Operations



Using Chattogram Port as a Transshipment Hub for the North Eastern Region of India



Asian Development Outlook 2021 Update



Quarterly Dossier: Catalytic Multi-modal Connectivity Initiatives in the BBIN Sub-region



## Top Tweets for September 2021

India signs deal to develop railway link in Bangladesh [Read more](#)

A silent revolution in border trade by Mr. Prabir De [Read more](#)

India's integrated check posts are boosting regional connectivity but challenges remain [Read more](#)

Beyond 2020: Driving Up Country Climate Action Plans in South Asia [Read more](#)

Nepal's Foreign Secretary highlighted Nepal's vision to transform the country from "landlocked" to "land-linked," and stressed the need for a scaled-up and renewed partnership between LLDCs, transit countries, and development partners [Read more](#)

Follow  @SASECprogram |  Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/SASECprogram](https://facebook.com/SASECprogram)

**ABOUT THIS EMAIL**

You received this message because you signed up for the SASEC Newsletter.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation 2012