



Energy Trade in South Asia

In view of looming threats of global warming and subsequent climate change, use of renewable energy over traditional sources has emerged as an efficient way for countries to fulfil their COP27 commitment of net zero emissions. Shifts in the country's energy trade patterns and energy mix are observed worldwide towards green and clean energy.

The South Asia region is endowed with sufficient coal reserves, renewable energy, and hydropower resources. While this region also has oil and natural gas reserves, demand for these resources exceeds their indigenous supply. This is due to the substantial growth registered by South Asian economies in the past few decades coupled with rising population. Thus, countries have become heavily import dependent for their energy needs.

In order to become more resilient and safeguard the South Asian economies from global supply shocks, investment and establishment of enhanced intra-regional energy trade network is necessary. While, multiple bilateral and multilateral energy trade agreements, such as the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline, India-Nepal hydropower projects, the India-Bhutan hydroelectric joint venture; there is an urgent need for an intra-regional framework for energy trade to smoothen energy trade and transition in the region.

As enhanced intra-regional trade and global shift to clean energy are gaining traction, South Asian economies need to gear up. Therefore, this Occasional News Wrap (ONW) has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on the energy trade in South Asian economies.

1	<p>Adani Power's Jharkhand plant commences supply to Bangladesh</p> <p>The Economic Times</p> <p><i>June 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>Adani Power has begun exporting power to Bangladesh from its 1,600MW plant in Jharkhand's Godda. The reliability run test, including commercial operation tests of the second unit of the Godda power plant, was completed in the presence of Bangladesh Power Development Board and Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh (PGCB) officials.</p>
2	<p>India's Amara Raja Infra bags 100MW solar project in Bangladesh</p> <p>The Business Standard</p> <p><i>June 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>India's Amara Raja Infra Private Limited (ARIPL), a part of the US\$1.75bn Amara Raja Group, has forayed into the international solar power market by bagging a US\$130mn project in Bangladesh along with Hyderabad-based solar modules manufacturer Premier Solar Powertech.</p>
3	<p>India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index, Sweden on top: WEF</p> <p>The Hindu</p> <p><i>June 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>The World Economic Forum ranked India at 67th place globally on its Energy Transition Index. It is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.</p>
4	<p>Maheshkhali now hopes to be a green power hub</p> <p><i>By Saifuddin Saif</i></p> <p>The Business Standard</p> <p><i>June 27, 2023</i></p>	<p>As part of its effort to transition from dirty fuels to renewable energy and supplement its measures against the adverse impacts of climate change, the government is now planning to set up LNG and solar-based power plants, replacing its original plan for coal plants in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali power hub.</p>
5	<p>Bangladesh, India, Nepal near 'milestone' electricity trade deal</p> <p><i>By Faisal Mahmud</i></p> <p>Nikkei Asia</p> <p><i>June 25, 2023</i></p>	<p>The proposed three-way pact, allowing Bangladesh to import hydro-electricity from Nepal through India's grid, is expected to be signed within the next month or so after authorities from Bangladesh and Nepal recently finalised a deal with the Indian side on the use of a high-voltage transmission line.</p>

6	<p>Govt should create a climate for the private sector to trade energy</p> <p>myRepública</p> <p><i>June 15, 2023</i></p>	<p>The government should pave the way for the private sector to trade electricity. While the increment of internal power consumption has been a challenge, he suggested increasing power consumption in industries, irrigation, electric ovens and electric vehicles. The private sector could play a role in power consumption increment and energy export.</p>
7	<p>Opinion India-Nepal Energy Cooperation and a Case of Long-Drawn Trilateral Power Trade in South Asia</p> <p><i>By Atul K Thakur & Deepak Rauniar</i></p> <p>News18</p> <p><i>June 13, 2023</i></p>	<p>An increased thrust on clean energy in India is a big opportunity for Nepal. A framework of cross-border energy export from Nepal to Bangladesh and through the Indian power grid will have a transformational impact on Nepal's economy.</p>
8	<p>Energy cooperation backbone of Bangladesh-Russia economic relations</p> <p>The Business Standard</p> <p><i>June 12, 2023</i></p>	<p>Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Aleksandr Mantytsky stated that the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, a megaproject of the State Corporation Rosatom, will strengthen the energy security of Bangladesh.</p>
9	<p>India's pioneering role in promoting biofuels in South Asia</p> <p><i>By Shishir Joshipura</i></p> <p>The Times of India</p> <p><i>June 06, 2023</i></p>	<p>As the region continues to focus on transitioning towards a greener and more sustainable energy future, India's leadership in promoting biofuels serves as an inspiration and catalyst for other nations in South Asia.</p>