



Opinion in Lead

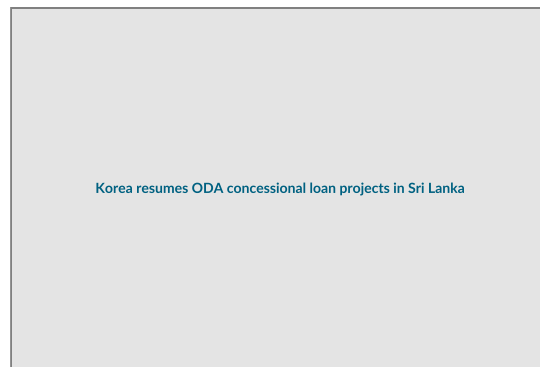
South Asia's attempt at electrifying its transport system

South Asia is gearing up to electrify its transport system as a pathway to the net-zero future. However, the unique set of challenges faced by each country means the adoption of electric vehicles in the region could still be far off the mark.

The transport sector contributes approximately 20 percent to 25 percent of total national CO2 emissions in various South Asian countries. Considering the growth trajectory of the region and the rapid urbanization, transport networks and vehicle ownership are expected to grow in the future. To balance the growing need for transportation and meet their targets to minimize greenhouse gas emissions as per the Paris Climate Agreement, South Asian countries have pledged to replace their presently internal combustible engine-dominated transport fleet—private and public—with electric vehicles. EVs typically produce lower greenhouse gases compared to gasoline or diesel vehicles. For instance, studies indicate that EVs can emit up to [60 percent less](#) carbon dioxide than conventional vehicles. EVs are more energy-efficient than traditional vehicles, [converting about 60 percent of electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels](#), compared to just 17-21 percent for gasoline vehicles. Moreover, as all the countries in South Asia are net importers of petroleum products, switching to EVs could also lead to decreased import bills.

[READ MORE](#)

News



Korea resumes ODA concessional loan projects in Sri Lanka

The Export-Import Bank of Korea notified Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies of its decision to resume EDCF Official Development Assistance (ODA) concessional loan projects in Sri Lanka.

[Read More](#)



Bangladesh's economy with deep scars limps along

Violent clashes, stemming from the quota reform demonstrations, shuttered garment factories and shops and choked port activities when Bangladesh was already grappling with the economic challenges.

[Read More](#)



FDI from China may not benefit India in long run

Increasing foreign direct investment from China in the domestic market may benefit in the short-term but it risks undermining India's long-term economic security and strategic autonomy, said the Global Trade Research Initiative.

[Read More](#)



Indo-Bangla trade comes to standstill

Trade between India and Bangladesh via land ports came to a standstill on Sunday as there was no movement of cargo trucks to and fro due to the ongoing student protests in the neighbouring country.

[Read More](#)



China to continue zero-tariff facilities post-LDC to Bangladesh

China will continue to provide zero-tariff treatment on 98 percent of taxable items to Bangladesh beyond 2026 after graduation from LDC status.

[Read More](#)



Nepal allows digital retail payments in all countries

Nepal's central bank has allowed Nepali payment system operators to deal with digital retail payments in any country for merchant-to-person payment (M2P).

[Read More](#)



Delay in traceability system curbs Ceylon Cinnamon exports

The prolonged delay in implementing a traceability system for Ceylon Cinnamon has emerged as a major obstacle, preventing the export of the spice with its Geographical Indication (GI) certification and costing the industry and the economy millions of dollars.

[Read More](#)



EU hits Chinese electric cars with new tariffs

The European Union has raised tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, as Brussels takes action to protect the bloc's motor industry. The new tariffs on individual manufacturers range from 17.4 percent to 37.6 percent, which is on top of a 10 percent duty that was already in place.

[Read More](#)

Call for SAWTEE Media Fellowship 2024

SAWTEE is delighted to announce an exciting fellowship opportunity for journalists in Nepal. The fellowship program will select two journalists who will have the opportunity to delve into trade and climate change nexus. This fellowship presents a unique opportunity for journalists to deepen their knowledge, expand their network, and contribute to the public's understanding of critical issues at the intersection of trade and climate change.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Editor

Dikshya Singh

Contact

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)
 P.O. Box: 19366, Tukucha Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Tel: 977-1-4544438, 4524360 Fax: 977-1-4544570
 Email: sawtee@sawtee.org
 Web: www.sawtee.org

You are receiving this email because you have visited our site or asked us about regular newsletter. To unsubscribe send email with subject "Unsubscribe" to SAWTEE. Check our other publications below

Trade Insight

Books

Working Paper

Newsletter



[Visit Website](#)

