

January 2022



SOUTH ASIA
SDG
UPDATE



I. Key Activities during Oct - Dec 2021



1. Fifth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals calls for building back better from COVID-19 while accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in South and South-West Asia



Colombo, Sri Lanka 15-16 November 2021. The Fifth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was jointly organized by the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) and the Government of Sri Lanka in a hybrid format. The two-day subregional preparatory meeting brought together stakeholders from the government, the international community, civil society, academia and the private sector to discuss achievements and challenges in the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda; assess progress on the thematic SDGs for review by the Asia Pacific Forum for

Sustainable Development and High-Level Political Forum in 2022; and advance regional cooperation to build back better from the pandemic. The opening session of the Forum was addressed by H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP; Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary-General of SAARC; Ms. Fathimath Niuma, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Maldives; Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal; and Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Pakistan. For the inaugural session, Mr. Anusha Palpita, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Policies & Plan Implementation, Sri Lanka; Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP-SSWA; and Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator, Sri Lanka, gave welcome remarks. H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, affirmed that “the theme of this year’s forum is timely and relevant, as we strive to build back better and stronger from the global pandemic that [has] resulted in devastating consequences for our economies and societies.” Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary, also noted, “We have to adopt a strategy for judiciously utilizing the resources and opportunities available to us to address both the immediate concerns of recovery from the pandemic, and the long-term requirements of resilience and sustainability of our economies.” The ESCAP report “[Achieving the SDGs in South Asia- An Integrated Approach to Accelerate SDG Progress and COVID-19 Recovery](#)” was also presented at the Forum. The report puts forward five critical areas of policy reforms that could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than 750 participants attended the event in person and virtually. Read more [here](#).



2. Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia



Colombo, Sri Lanka 17 November 2021. The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA), in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka and the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, organized a Policy Dialogue on strengthening subregional linkages towards inclusive growth and sustainable development outcomes. The opening session was addressed by Mr. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Cooperation, Sri Lanka; Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary General, SAARC; Ms. Fathimath Niuma, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Maldives; Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP-SSWA; Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, IPS, Sri Lanka; and Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General, Sustainable Development Council, Government of Sri Lanka. Mr. Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Cooperation, Sri Lanka, highlighted in his inaugural address that the deepening of intra-regional trade, technology transfers, and collaboration are important for development. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation underscored the criticality of strengthening the means of implementation and partnership towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development goals, and the need for all stakeholders to work collectively to build back better. The dialogue brought together regional policy think-tanks, representatives of governments, academia, civil society organizations, media, and other key stakeholders from South Asian countries to deliberate on topics such as deepening intra-regional trade and investment relations in the aftermath of COVID-19, improving transport and energy connectivity, promoting subregional cooperation mechanisms to address the threat of climate change, and framing of future agenda for the South Asia Network for SDGs (SANS). Read more [here](#).



3. Regional and national focused online training courses on e-commerce and digital marketing conducted for women entrepreneurs of South Asia



New Delhi, India 4-6 October / 20-21 December 2021. The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA), in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework, South Asian Network on Sustainable Development Goals and South Asia Women Development Forum, held a regional online training course for women entrepreneurs from 4 to 6 October 2021. Another national online training was organized by ESCAP in collaboration with the UBUNTU Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs Associations, India from 20 to 21 December 2021. With the objective of enhancing the knowledge and capacity of women entrepreneurs to use digital marketing tools and e-commerce platforms, both trainings covered topics on how to use e-commerce and digital marketing, including social media platforms, to promote businesses; there were also dedicated hands-on sessions on registering and creating products and services catalogues as well as uploading their profiles as entrepreneurs on e-market platforms, including ESCAP's training platform <https://www.unescap.wesellonline.org/>. Each training was attended by around 100 participants from the subregion, many of whom had the opportunity to display their products during the networking sessions. Read more on the [Oct training](#) and [Dec training](#).



4. Capacity Building Training Workshop for Nepal officials on e-commerce Policy Making



New Delhi, India 6-9 December 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has created opportunities for a greater digital transformation in South Asia and led to a paradigm shift in the way transactions are conducted. From 6 to 9 December 2021, the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) organized a capacity building workshop for government officials from Nepal, with the objective of enhancing their understanding of e-commerce and digital transformation policy formulation, including India's e-commerce policy, e-commerce and WTO, and trends and the challenges faced in the implementation of e-commerce policies. Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP ESCAP-SSWA; Mr. Gobinda Bahadur Karkee, Joint

Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal; and Ms. Hang Tran, Enhanced Integrated Framework, Geneva, delivered the key remarks. Read more [here](#).



5. Dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation

Islamabad, Pakistan, 8 December 2021. The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) in collaboration with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan organized a virtual session titled "Impact of COVID-19 on progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation" at the SDPI's Twenty-fourth Sustainable Development Conference. Mr Riaz Fatyana, Convener, Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Pakistan, chaired the session, with remarks from Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP-SSWA, and Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI. The panel, moderated by Dr. Rajan Sudesh



Ratna, ESCAP-SSWA, included the following distinguished speakers: Dr. Lutfi Rahimi, Biruni Institute, Afghanistan; Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Mr. Wangchuk Namgay, Chief Program Coordinator, Development Cooperation Division, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, India; Dr. Sabiyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India; Ms. Athifa Ibrahim, Managing Partner, EPIC Consulting, Maldives; Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal; Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Pakistan; and Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka. During the session, panelists shared their views on the implications of COVID-19 pandemic for realizing the SDGs and the role of subregional cooperation in building back better. Read more [here](#).

II. Select Outreach Activities

1. Capacity Building Workshop on “Sustainable Transport Connectivity and COVID-19 Pandemic: Pathways for Greater Resilience and Sustainability”

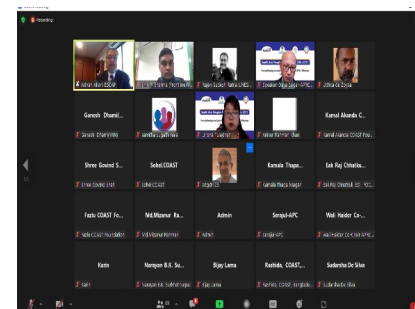


New Delhi, India, 7-8 October 2021. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have developed a joint capacity programme on “Sustainable Transport Connectivity and COVID-19 Pandemic: pathways for greater resilience and sustainability” in order to support countries in incorporating into their medium- and long-term transport policies the best practices and lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic response, as well as to implement appropriate transport policies that will achieve greater resilience, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability of their transport connectivity. Following the project inception meeting, a sub-regional capacity building workshop was organized from 7-8 October 2021, to support the development and implementation of a sustainable

transport pathway in the sub region. Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office delivered the inaugural remarks at the session. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer (a.i.), ESCAP, South and South West Asia Office and Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Transport Division presented on the impact of COVID-19 on the transport connectivity in the South and Southwest Asia: lessons learned and potential for building back better. Read more [here](#)

2. Civil Society Organizations discuss key challenges faced by South Asian countries in promoting development justice in the context of COVID-19 recovery

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-10 November 2021 As a precursor to the South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a meeting of the South Asia Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development Goals 2021 was held from 9 to -10 November 2021 with the theme ‘Promote Development Justice for Meaningful Post-COVID 19 Recovery’. Mr. Adnan Aliani, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, gave opening remarks at the Forum. The meeting was attended by South Asian CSOs and the meeting reaffirmed the role of civil society organizations in influencing the processes and deliberations at the subregional and regional levels, including those of the Fifth South Asia Forum on the SDGs, the Asia and Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations, and in advancing the shared commitment of CSOs in facilitating the achievement of SDGs in South Asia.



3. Webinar on Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements

New Delhi, India 18 October 2021. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, participated in the webinar organized by India EXIM Bank, ASEAN India Centre and ASEAN India Business Council on 18 October 2021. Dr. Ratna served as a panelist and shared his views on the current trade and investment scenario in the subregion and underscored the role of regional cooperation as countries build back better.



4. ESCAP-SSWA participates in the Womenovator Global Summit 2021

New Delhi, India 21 October 2021. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, participated in the Womenovator Global Summit 2021 held from 18 to 24 October 2021. As a panelist on Day 4 of the Summit, Dr. Ratna shared his views on the topic “Sustainable Goals and Real Women GDP”. He shared his experience of ESCAP’s capacity building events on empowering women entrepreneurs through e-commerce tools and highlighted the achievements made in this regard. He also highlighted that challenges still remain and various agencies working on this issue should join hands to make a meaningful impact in South Asia. Other distinguished speakers in the panel included Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui, UN Global Compact Network India; Ms. Sushma Kaushik, Aavishkaar Capital; and Ms. Shruti Kushwaha, Founder and CEO, Crealoons Innovations.



5. Webinar on “Harnessing Digital Skills of Women entrepreneurs – Ground Reality” held during Festival of Inclusive Trade 2021



Zurich, Switzerland 29 October 2021. An online webinar on “Harnessing Digital Skills of Women entrepreneurs – Ground Reality” was organized by Global Trade Professional Alliance and the Enterprise for Management, Economic Reform and Gender Equality at the Festival of Inclusive Trade 2021. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, participated as a panelist at the session and spoke about the emerging trend of women’s entrepreneurship in the subregion as well as the importance of digital skills in expanding businesses in the current times given the exponential increase in the e-commerce transactions in the subregion. In his remarks, Dr. Ratna also highlighted his experiences of implementing ESCAP’s [e-commerce capacity building project for women MSMEs in South Asia](#).

6. ESCAP-SSWA participates in the Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021

Dhaka, Bangladesh 29 October 2021. At the Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021, Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia participated as a speaker in the webinar titled “Asia & Pacific and Bangladesh: Harnessing Economic Potentials”. The event saw the presence of various distinguished high level delegates including Mr. Md. Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; Ms. Fatima Yasmin Secretary Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; and Mr. Ito Naoki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Bangladesh. Dr. Ratna highlighted some of the studies done by ESCAP and the policy recommendations relating to sustainable graduation, export diversification, addressing non-tariff barriers and how Bangladesh can go up the value chain in certain sectors like textiles and pharmaceuticals.



7. Inaugural workshop “Mainstreaming Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in National Urban Policies and Programmes (SDGs 11 & 6) in South Asia” held in December 2021



New Delhi, India, 3 December 2021. The inaugural workshop on “Mainstreaming Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in National Urban Policies and Programmes (SDGs 11 & 6) in South Asia” was organized by ESCAP together with UN-Habitat and UN-OICT on 3 December 2021, to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and embark on the journey of mainstreaming LNOB in national urban policies and programmes and facilitate creating inclusive and safe urban environments. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, moderated a

8. ESCAP participates at the SDPI's Twenty-fourth Sustainable Development Conference

Islamabad, Pakistan, 8 December 2021. The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) participated in various dialogues at the SDPI's Twenty-fourth Sustainable Development Conference at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan. Ms. Li Stephanie Choo, Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA, participated as a panelist in the session "The Digital Economy: An Opportunity for Decent Work and Economic Growth" held on 8 December 2021, and presented on the topic of empowering women for the digital economy in Pakistan. Mr. Joseph George, Senior Research Assistant, ESCAP-SSWA, participated as a panelist in the session "Building Local Resilient Food Systems to End Hunger – Leaving No One Behind" held on 7 December 2021, and presented on the topic of regional cooperation for food security in South Asia. At both sessions, panelists representing various organizations shared thoughts on strengthening sustainable development in Pakistan and South Asia.



III. Knowledge products issued by ESCAP-SSWA in the year 2021



- [Achieving SDGs in South Asia: An Integrated Approach to Accelerate SDG Progress and COVID-19 Recovery](#) (November 2021)
- [SSWA Development Paper 21-04- Leveraging Regional Cooperation for Achieving the SDGs in South Asia](#) (September 2021)
- [Working Paper – Steps taken by India to Contain the Second Wave of COVID-19](#) (September 2021)
- [SSWA Development Paper 21-03- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the SDGs in Sri Lanka and the potential for Regional Cooperation](#) (August 2021)
- [How to Make South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals \(SANS\) More Effective and Sustainable](#) (August 2021)
- [SSWA Development Paper 21-02- Implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh](#) (April 2021)
- [Flagship – Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post COVID-19 resilient economies](#) (March 2021)
- [Flagship – Beyond the Pandemic: Building Back Better from crises in Asia and the Pacific](#) (March 2021)
- [SSWA Development Paper 21-01- Evolving Indian Strategy on SDGs](#) (March 2021)
- [Policy Brief – Weaving a Stronger Fabric: Managing Cascading Risks for the Climate Resilience](#) (January 2021)
- [Report – Fourth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (January 2021)



IV. South Asian Countries highlight the Importance of Global Climate Action at The UN Climate Change Conference (26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26)



Bangladesh

H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, noted that Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, while contributing less than 0.47 per cent of global emissions. She highlighted the establishment of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund in 2009 for climate adaptation as a measure to address the country's climate challenge, and that the country had thus far allocated 480 million dollars to this fund from their own resources. She further shared that climate-relevant allocation in the country's Annual Development Plans has doubled from USD 1.44 billion in Financial Year 2015-16 to USD 2.96 billion in Financial Year 2021-22 for climate adaptation and resilience building. She also highlighted the implementation of world's biggest housing project for people displaced by climate change in Cox's Bazar. She also noted the government's adoption of the "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100", a 100-year strategic plan aimed at gradual sustainable development through

adaptive delta management process targets to achieve a safe, climate-resilient and prosperous delta. Furthermore, she underlined the country's extensive domestic solar energy programmes, which have ensured solar electricity to 18 million people over the last few years. She then stated that Bangladesh has submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC wherein the country has cancelled ten coal-based power plants, and hoped to have 40 per cent of their energy from renewable sources by 2041; the government is also going to implement the 'Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan' – a journey from climate vulnerability to climate resilience and then to climate. She also mentioned that Bangladesh, as the Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Vulnerable 20 Group, is promoting the interests of 48 climate-vulnerable countries, and is also sharing best practices and adaptation knowledge with other climate-vulnerable countries through the Global Centre on Adaptation's South Asia regional office in Dhaka. Further, Bangladesh is pursuing to establish a global partnership of the Climate Emergency Pact that would prioritize (a) limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees; (b) \$100 billion a year climate finance; (c) ambitious adaptation and mitigation actions; (d) additional and adequate financial mechanisms to address loss and damage and displacement of people due to climate change; and (e) championing nature-based climate solutions. Finally, she urged the countries to work together towards the following five achievable goals: major emitters to submit ambitious NDCs and implement those; developed countries to fulfil commitments of providing USD 100 billion with 50:50 balance between climate adaptation and mitigation; developed countries to disseminate clean, green, and advanced technology to the vulnerable countries at affordable costs; the issue of loss and damage to be addressed, including the global sharing of responsibility for climate migrants; and the need to have a "common global commitment" for leaving a healthier planet for the future generation. Read more [here](#).



Bhutan

H.E. Mr Yeshey Penjor, Honorable Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, in Bhutan's capacity as Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group and a highly vulnerable country, called for the scaling up of finance for adaptation, loss and damages, technology transfer and capacity building to enable LDCs to recover from the severe impacts of climate-induced disasters. He highlighted that LDCs do not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions but bear the brunt of climate change impacts and that water resources, agriculture and infrastructure for life, food security and livelihood are at risk in fragile mountain ecosystems of countries like Bhutan. He stated that climate change adaptation was the country's priority, and that adaptation must be supported with grants in finance; he further urged countries to live up to the US\$100 billion climate finance commitment wherein adaptation must receive equal share in climate financing. He shared how Bhutan, under the policy guidance of their Environmental Champion Monarchs, had demonstrated leadership in environmental conservation and that their low emission development policy for climate change and sustainable development goals have been committed. Additionally, he highlighted Bhutan's commitment towards e-mobility in the transport sector and energy efficient housing, and invited investors, governments, multinational donors, INGOs, and the private sector to support green initiatives in the country. He further expressed that countries like Bhutan have been worst impacted due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic along with climate crisis, and urged leaders to consider post-pandemic economic support. He further expressed the need for regional cooperation and global support in saving the Himalayas and the livelihoods of 240 million people living within these mountains. He expressed that while Bhutan welcomed the COP 26 Presidency's "*climate finance delivery plan: meeting the US\$ 100 billion goal*" and contributions committed by partners in the replenishment of the LDC Fund, Bhutan would like to reiterate that climate finance must be predictable, easily accessible, and sustainable based on the priorities and needs of the vulnerable countries. He emphasized that countries must speed up the delivery of ambitious, concrete, and enhanced climate action and support, as COP26 approached its final week. For Bhutan, he reiterated that COP26 must deliver concrete decisions on enhanced ambition, adaptation, loss and damage, robust rule for implementation of market and non-market mechanism that ensures environmental integrity and enhanced financial support for climate action. Lastly, he stated that Bhutan is committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention and Paris Agreement and called on all parties to be flexible, open and constructive to deliver strong climate action and support. Read more [here](#).



India

H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, shared examples of how India was committed to mitigate the impacts of climate change. One of the major commitments included making Indian Railways 'Net Zero' by 2030. He also highlighted India's LED bulb campaign that has been reducing emissions by 40 million tonnes annually, as well as India's initiation of the initiative of the International Solar Alliance, which represents a coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure for climate adaptation. He stated the mantra of "LIFE"-Lifestyle for Environment - to ensure peaceful existence with nature and expressed that LIFE could become a mass movement of the "Environmental Conscious Life Style". Additionally, he presented five nectar elements, 'Panchamrit', to deal with the challenge of climate change, specifically: (a) India would take its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by the year 2030; (b) the country would meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by year 2030; (c) the country would reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till year 2030; (d) by year 2030, India would reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45 percent, and (e) by the year 2070, India would achieve the target of Net Zero. In his conclusion, he highlighted the need to track climate finances, and that India expects developed countries to provide climate finance of \$1 trillion at the earliest. Read more [here](#).



Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Ali Salajegheh, Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran, stated that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed alongside with other nations to combat the climate change and global warming. He shared that Iran has an ambitious national plan to cope up with the consequences of climate change. He informed that Iran is in the legal process of ratifying the Paris Agreement, and noted the difficulty the government would face in implementing due to the lack of financial or technical assistance from the international community. Read more [here](#).



Republic of Maldives

H.E. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, began his address by underscoring that the island's existence is at stake due to the gravity of the climate change situation. He mentioned the severe erosion on the islands of Maldives and expressed concern regarding inundation of the islands by the sea. He highlighted that if trends are not reversed, Maldives would cease to exist by the end of the century; an increase of temperature rise to two degrees would mean a death sentence for the Maldives. He stated that Maldives is determined to be a part of the global solution to reverse these trends and take the most ambitious climate actions to achieve low-emission development and climate resilient future. He urged major emitters to step up their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for achieving Net Zero and advised countries to band together to assist the most climate-vulnerable states adapt to climate change. Additionally, he suggested for stringent accountability measures to ensure that all commitments on climate finance are met. Read more [here](#)



Nepal

H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He mentioned that Nepal had submitted an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to decarbonize its economy in all sectors, and stated that Nepal aims to reach a net zero emission by 2045. He expressed that Nepal will ensure that 15 per cent of its total energy demand is supplied from clean energy sources and maintain 45 per cent of the country under forest cover by 2030. Furthermore, he mentioned that Nepal had recently approved its Long-Term Strategy, Framework for Loss and Damage and National Adaptation Plan, with a policy of spending at least 80 per cent of the available climate finance to support local climate actions and reaching out to the vulnerable communities through its Local Adaptation Plan of Action. He urged world leaders to recognize the specific climate vulnerability in the high mountains and accord high priority to the mountain agenda in all climate-related negotiations. He underscored that keeping global temperature below 1.5° Celsius is vital for mountain people. To raise awareness on the climate crisis in the Himalayas, he declared that his government would host the Sagarmatha Sambad, a dialogue named after Mount Everest. In addition, he mentioned that Nepal has mechanisms to ensure that international climate finance is channelled to support transformational approaches in implementing adaptation, mitigation and disaster management actions together. In his conclusion, he highlighted that the subject of loss and damage must find a place under article 4.8 of the Convention, and called upon all Parties to make loss and damage a stand-alone agenda for negotiations and to support the framework of additional financing for loss and damages. He also highlighted that COP 26 must ensure adequate support for adaptation in the most vulnerable countries by scaling up financial, technological, and capacity-building resources. Lastly, he called upon the Parties to agree to a clear roadmap for a new collective goal on climate finance before 2025. Read more [here](#).



Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Federal Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan highlighted two lessons taught by the ongoing COVID crisis, firstly, that mankind cannot fight nature and hope to win, and secondly, that a better world, decarbonized and a nature positive, is out there and possible. He expressed that Pakistan's climate vision is built on two pillars – shifting 60 per cent of the country's energy mix towards clean energy and 30 per cent of its transport on electric vehicles by 2030, and investing in "Nature Based Solutions". He mentioned that Pakistan has announced its complete shift out of imported coal projects, and will be turning the China Pakistan Economic Corridor into a China Pakistan Green Economic Corridor. He then shared examples of real climate action undertaken by Pakistan such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami program, Protected Areas

Initiative and Recharge Pakistan, all of which are part of the country's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). He further highlighted that, utilizing the country's own resources, Pakistan had dropped its emissions to 9 per cent below business as usual (BAU) by 2020 and has developed a pathway to reach 15 per cent below BAU by 2030. Mr. Malik then underscored that while Pakistan is not a major contributor to climate change, the country continues to be on the top ten list of most vulnerable countries for ten straight years, and that the country's forced climate adaptation needs remained between \$7 billion to \$14 billion per annum, almost 70 per cent of which fall in the loss and damage category. He then underlined that private sector initiatives are gaining ground, with technologies becoming available and affordable and with new innovative financial mechanisms like the "Energy Transition Mechanism" and "Nature Performance Bonds" pushing new frontiers. Read more [here](#).



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

H.E. Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, expressed that sustainability is at the core of the country's national policy framework, and that its updated Nationally Determined Contributions aimed to reduce emissions towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. He highlighted that the country had prioritized the enhancement of forest cover, with initiatives underway to increase carbon sequestration capacity by 7 per cent by 2030, and that Sri Lanka would increase the contribution of renewable energy sources to 70 per cent of national energy needs by 2030. He mentioned that Sri Lanka is a co-lead of the "Global Energy Compact for No New Coal Power", and leads the Action Group on Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods under the Commonwealth Blue Charter initiative. He also said that Sri Lanka recently restricted imports of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and weedicides, and, in 2019, spearheaded the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, which seeks to halve Nitrogen waste by 2030. He concluded by expressing that Sri Lanka welcomes investments, technology transfers, and climate financing for its ambitious sustainability efforts, along with broader development assistance to support recovery from the COVID19 pandemic. He also stated that climate change was disproportionately impacted developing island nations, and that it was essential for the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases to fulfill their national commitments and assist developing nations navigate through the climate crisis. Read more [here](#).



Turkey

H. E. Mr. Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Turkey, mentioned that Turkey is exposed to disasters such as floods, landslides and forest fires, the frequency and severity of which has increased every year, and that Turkey has been fighting against these climate-induced crises for 20 years. He mentioned that Turkey has finally become a Party to the Paris Agreement as a result of the unanimous decision of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and that immediately thereafter, the President of Turkey announced the country's vision of 'Green Development' towards the '2053 Net Zero Emissions' target. He elaborated that government has named his ministry as the 'Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change'; that Turkey has entered a new period of developing more effective strategies and policies in its fight against the climate crisis. He highlighted that Turkey is preparing the Climate Law, which contains policies, targets and regulations for climate change; is updating its Climate Change Strategy and Nationally Determined Contribution with the net zero emission target of 2053; has activated the action plan necessary for harmonization with the European Green Deal; is establishing the infrastructure of the Emission Trading System, which will support investments in climate-friendly and clean production technologies; is making the provinces resistant to climate change along with Turkey's Regional and Local Climate Change Action Plans; and is rolling out the Zero Waste Project. He further shared that Turkey has increased its forest assets from 20.8 million hectares to approximately 23 million hectares, and that by increasing the share of renewable energy sources in Turkey's installed capacity to 53 per cent, the country has reached the 12th place in the world and the 5th in Europe in this area. He said that Turkey is building a national garden in each city, giving life to biological diversity with ecological corridors, and has increased its conserved natural areas to protect their natural resources against the danger of pollution and extinction. Finally, he emphasized that it is imperative that countries that have historical responsibility for the emergence of the problems that cause climate change should take responsibility with the same sincerity, and that climate change is not just an environmental issue, but a development and security issue as well that deeply affects all countries. He affirmed that Turkey will continue to do its part in the fight against climate change and in the protection of the environment in the future, and will continue to stand by countries most affected by climate change. Listen to the statement [here](#).



V. SDGs IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

a. SGDs: priorities, actions and means of implementation

World Bank approves \$500 million loan for Sri Lanka 1 October 2021. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors have approved \$500 million in financing for Sri Lanka to provide safe, climate-resilient roads to connect agricultural supply chains through the Inclusive Connectivity and Development Project. Read more. [here](#)

Indian economy's fundamentals strong; private investment picking up: Arvind Panagariya 3 October 2021. The fundamentals of the Indian economy are sound as the real GDP in Q3 and Q4 of FY'21 already crossed the pre-pandemic level, former NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya said. Read more. [here](#).

Nepal: Farmers encouraged to grow basmati rice commercially 3 October 2021. The government has been persuading farmers in far western Nepal to grow Hansaraj basmati rice commercially because of its export potential. The indigenous aromatic rice is not grown on a large scale despite swelling demand, and Nepal has been importing it from India to satisfy the palates of urban consumers with growing incomes. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank jointly launch country partnership strategy 4 October 2021. The Asian Development Bank launched a new country partnership strategy (CPS) jointly with Bangladesh aiming at boosting competitiveness, employment, and private sector development, promoting green growth and climate resilience; and strengthen human capital and social protection. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey to open 1,000 new markets to rein in price hikes: Erdoğan 4 October 2021. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said Turkey had tasked agricultural cooperatives with opening about 1,000 new markets across the country to provide "suitable" prices for consumer goods amid efforts to rein in price increases. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan urges United Nations Human Rights Council to boost efforts to halt growing Islamophobia 5 October 2021. Pakistan has called for redoubling efforts to halt and reverse the rising trend of Islamophobia and other forms of racial discrimination, emphasizing that "meaningful accountability of the perpetrators" must be ensured. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka assures will address core issues behind war 5 October 2021. Sri Lanka assured that it will address the core issues behind the war. Foreign Minister, Professor G.L Peiris told Parliament that he had recently informed the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that Sri Lanka is committed to achieving tangible progress on the entire range of issues relating to accountability, reconciliation, human rights, peace and sustainable development. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey's new council aims to address impact of climate change 5 October 2021. With climate change taking hold in Turkey, the country has felt the impact, from changing temperatures to pollution. As a result, the government will organize a council in 2022 to combat the phenomenon, Environment and Urban Planning Minister Murat Kurum said. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh reiterates firm stance against terrorism 6 October 2021. Bangladesh has reaffirmed its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, mentioning that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, culture, ethnicity or society. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations expects Turkey to present climate action plan soon: Guterres 8 October 2021. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed Turkey's ratification of the 2015 Paris climate accord, saying Ankara should rapidly present its national plan to combat climate change. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal Authorities tighten the rules to limit foreign currency outflow 9 October 2021. Considering the diminishing foreign exchange reserves, falling remittances and rising imports, the government of Nepal has started tightening rules to limit the outflow

Turkey acquired 4th drillship for hydrocarbon exploration: Erdoğan. 17 November 2021 Addressing ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) deputies in Ankara for the parliamentary group meeting, Erdoğan said: "Unlike other ships, this vessel is a seventh generation ship equipped with the latest technology. There are five of these ships in the world, and we have one of them." Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's one-off effects of incentives fade: Remittances likely to remain flat in 2022: World Bank 18 November 2021. The remittances in Pakistan are likely to remain flat at the presently high levels in 2022, as the one-off effects of government incentives to attract them fade, though the Afghanistan factor will continue to sustain flows, says the World Bank. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lankan government slammed for failing to build foreign reserve buffers 18 November 2021. In the absence of policy guidance, the government has failed to build up its foreign reserves in contrast to other South Asian governments, which have beefed up reserves to meet the external challenges, a senior Opposition lawmaker charged. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's 'Our future': Imran says government striving to ensure children's rights 20 November 2021. With its policies aimed at future generations, Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday said the government was determined to ensure that children's rights including development, education, healthcare, participation, dignity and security were upheld. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka abandons farm chemical ban as organic drive fails 20 November 2021. Sri Lanka abandoned its quest to become the world's first completely organic farming nation, announcing it would immediately lift an import ban on pesticides and other agricultural inputs. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey records lowest rainfall of the past two decades 20 November 2021. Turkey saw its lowest precipitation rate in 20 years during the Oct. 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021 period, or the "2021 water/agriculture year," as it is technically called. The period corresponds to the time suitable for agricultural activities. Read more. [here](#)

(Afghanistan) United Nations warns of 'colossal' collapse of Afghan banking system 23 November 2021. The United Nations on Monday pushed for urgent action to prop up Afghanistan's banks, warning that a spike in people unable to repay loans, lower deposits and a cash liquidity crunch could cause the financial system to collapse within months. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan, International Monetary Fund reach staff-level agreement on steps for revival of package 23 November 2021. The IMF and Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement on policies and reforms needed to complete the sixth review under the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility which has been 'in recess' since April, the Fund announced in a statement on 23 November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Turkish education competes with the best: President Erdoğan 23 November 2021. Turkey has made improvements in all areas of education over the last 20 years and can now compete with other developed nations, especially Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh's Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approves Tk 5,883.74cr digital connectivity project 23 November 2021. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved on 23 November a Taka 5,883.74 crore big project to establish broadband internet connectivity all over the country. Read more. [here](#)

India to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from strategic reserves 23 November 2021. India plans to release about 5 million barrels of crude oil from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the US, Japan and other major economies to cool prices, a top government official said. Read more. [here](#)

Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan: Progress on sustainable development goals termed unsatisfactory 10 October 2021. Federal and provincial governments will have to share the responsibility of taking the development agenda forward for enhancing the wellbeing of people. Read more. [here](#)

India never had more decisive government: Prime Minister Modi 11 October 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA), an industry body aspiring to be the voice of the country's space sector, and underlined his dispensation's commitment to reforms, saying the country never had a more decisive government. Read more. [here](#)

Development to continue whatever risks come: Prime Minister of Bangladesh 13 October 2021. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed to continue the country's development spree whatever risks come, calling all to act cautiously keeping in mind the dangers of disasters. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan Government focused on accelerating pace of work on various development projects in Gilgit Baltistan 13 October 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that the federal government was focused on accelerating the pace of work on various development projects in Gilgit Baltistan by taking effective measures to ensure the delegation of administrative and financial powers. Read more. [here](#)

Group of 20 leaders agree to step up Afghan humanitarian effort 13 October 2021. Group of 20 leaders agreed to work together to avoid a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan, as the European Union pledged a one-billion-euro aid package and host Italy stressed the need to maintain contacts with the Taliban. Read more. [here](#)

250,000 employment opportunities created since start of construction activities under Naya Pakistan Housing Program: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan 14 October 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan on October 14 said that 250,000 employment opportunities have been created so far in the country since the construction activities started under Naya Pakistan Housing Program. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan: World Bank acknowledges progress on structural reforms 14 October 2021. The World Bank acknowledged that a lot of progress had been made on implementation of structural reforms in various sectors by Pakistan, stressing that there was need to keep up the momentum to achieve the projected growth targets. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh can significantly expand renewable energy: Conference of Parties 26 envoy 17 October 2021. Conference of Parties 26 Regional Ambassador Ken O'Flaherty has said it is possible for countries like Bangladesh to significantly expand its renewable energy sector as it has been the cheapest option for new energy in Asian countries. Read more. [here](#)

New report reveals harassment of Muslims in Sri Lanka 18 October 2021. Sri Lanka's Muslim community has suffered consistent discrimination, harassment, and violence since 2013, culminating in the adoption of Government policies explicitly targeting the minority group, said Amnesty International, in a new report. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan taking steps to transform Pakistan into true Islamic welfare state: Farrukh Habib 19 October 2021. State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking steps to transform Pakistan into a true Islamic welfare state by protecting the rights of neglected segments and providing justice to each and every person without any discrimination. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka Cabinet approves proposal to gazette bills on cattle slaughter 19 October 2021. The Cabinet has approved a proposal to gazette the bills amending laws related to cattle slaughter. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was granted on 28th September 2020 to prohibit cattle slaughter in order to increase local agriculture and local milk production. Read more. [here](#)

Maldives minister: Failure to limit warming a death sentence 20 October 2021. A failure to limit global warming could mean a "death sentence" for small island nations like the Maldives, including the end of their livelihoods and cultures, the country's environment minister said. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's sustainable environment protection plan needed to fight pollution: Prime Minister Imran 23 November 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan has stressed that a sustainable environment protection plan is the need of the hour to fight pollution, especially in major cities. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority selects 11 sectors to woo foreign direct investment mainly from 15 countries 24 November 2021. The government has set a primary target to woo investment from 15 countries and regions during the upcoming International Investment Summit 2021. Read more. [here](#)

India's fertility rate drops below 2.1, contraceptive prevalence up: National Family Health Survey 24 November 2021. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), or the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime, has declined from 2.2 to 2 while the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased from 54 per cent to 67 per cent, according to Phase 2 data of National Family Health Survey-5. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan- \$3.898bn foreign debt incurred in 4 months 24 November 2021. Pakistan incurred foreign debt of \$3.898 billion from multiple financing sources in the first four months (July-October) of 2021-22 including \$866.43 million from foreign commercial banks (22 percent) against the total budgeted external loans of \$14.088 billion for the entire fiscal year. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations expert to visit Sri Lanka to assess contemporary forms of slavery 24 November 2021. The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Tomoya Obokata, will undertake his first country visit to Sri Lanka from 26 November to 3 December 2021. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations resolution on Bangladesh graduation from least developed country is 'great milestone': Kamal 25 November 2021. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has termed the approval of the resolution by the United Nations to graduate Bangladesh from the LDC status as a 'great milestone' towards the development march of the country. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal to be upgraded from least developed country category 25 November 2021. The United Nations General Assembly has approved a proposal to upgrade Nepal from an underdeveloped country to a middle-developing country by 2026. Read more. [here](#)

Asian leaders at economic summit vow to help Afghanistan 27 November 2021. The leaders of several Asian countries called for boosting their economic ties and pledged to provide assistance to Afghanistan during a summit in Turkmenistan on 29 November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh- Launching Of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 27 November 2021. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on 29 November 2021 said that the United Nations has increased its development cooperation with Bangladesh during current Awami League government. He was speaking virtually at a programme marking the release on 'The United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (UNSDCF) 2022-26'. Read more. [here](#)

Indian National Family Health Survey: Does India really have more women than men? 27 November 2021. According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data, released by the Indian government recently, there are now 1,020 women for every 1,000 men. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka commitment to combat Gender-Based Violence 27 November 2021. Sri Lanka is committed to combat gender-based violence, Foreign Minister Professor G. L. Peiris said. To mark the annual "Orange the World: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" Read more. [here](#)

Nepal's graduation to developing country hinges on political stability 29 November 2021. Nepal's recent history of development is marred by a paradox. Despite political instability, Nepal has recorded brisk poverty reduction. It, however, still is one of the poorest and slowest-growing economies in Asia. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistani Prime Minister orders half-yearly price projections for fuel, power 29 November 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed the Ministry of Energy to carry out six months' price projections for petroleum, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG),

Sri Lanka's Education Minister: Come to school tomorrow to enjoy the right to free education 20 October 2021. Arrangements and relevant decisions have been taken to restart the schools for about 600,000 children in our country from tomorrow, Education Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said. Read more. [here](#)

Impacts of climate change to be studied in Turkey's Muğla 20 October 2021. Turkey, like the rest of the world, experienced its share of the impact of man-made climate change especially during the summer when wildfires plagued the nation's south. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations sets up trust fund for 'people's economy' in Afghanistan 21 October 2021. The United Nations said it had set up a special trust fund to provide urgently-needed cash directly to Afghans through a system tapping into donor funds frozen since the Taliban takeover last August. Read more. [here](#)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls for exploring new markets to enhance export earnings 21 October 2021. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed diversification of the exportable products, urging businessmen and officials concerned to expand production of export items and explore new global markets to strengthen the country's economy further through enhanced foreign earnings. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh: Industrial modelling emphasized to harness blue economy 25 October 2021. Bangladesh can overcome many of post-Least Developing Countries graduation challenges by harnessing huge resources hidden in its bay-based blue economy, experts say and suggest urgent industrial modelling based on the riches. Read more. [here](#)

Iran: Expansion of industrial production to help develop trades 25 October 2021. Focus on export of industrial production will help Iran boost trade ties with neighboring countries, an Iranian official believes. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan, China urge world to send humanitarian aid to Kabul 26 October 2021. In a rare joint appeal, the leaders of Pakistan and China on November 26 urged the international community to swiftly send humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, where people are facing food and medicine shortages in the shadow of winter. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh to be bridge between east, west for business, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tells investment summit 26 October 2021. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the businessmen who come to invest here would get the opportunity to avail the market of South and Southeast Asia as Bangladesh will make a bridge between east and west for expanding business. Read more. [here](#)

Climate change: India lost \$87 billion due to natural disasters last year, says World Meteorological Organisation 26 October 2021. India lost \$87 billion last year due to natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts, according to the World Meteorological Organization's "State of the Climate in Asia" report released on October 26, 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan pushes for conflict resolution as United Nations debates report aiming at global cooperation 26 October 2021. Pakistan underscored the need for promoting conflict resolution and dispute settlement during a discussion at the United Nations on Secretary-General's landmark report that sets out his vision for the future of global cooperation. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka to back global deal against coal power 26 October 2021. The signatories to the accord will take steps to minimise environment pollution and stop the issuance of new licenses for coal power electricity generation projects. The Cabinet has granted approval to a proposal furnished by the Minister of Power for Sri Lanka to support the agreement. Read more. [here](#)

Above 80 per cent of Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks 27 October 2021. More than 80 per cent Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks, while Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are states which are most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India, said the Climate Vulnerability Index released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water. Read more. [here](#)

Regasified-Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) and propose specific measures to absorb increase in their prices. Read more [here](#).

Wind becomes largest source of electricity for 1st time in Turkey 29 November 2021. Wind power became the largest source of electricity generation for the first time in the country's history with a 22.6 per cent share on Nov. 28, according to the Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation (TEİAŞ) on 29 November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh: Dhaka to adopt 'peace declaration' at peace conference: Momen 30 November 2021. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said Dhaka will adopt a 'peace declaration' at the 'World Peace Conference' to be held in Dhaka from December 4 and 5 that expected a gathering of peace activists from more than 90 countries. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lankan government to import electric vehicles to reduce carbon emission, air pollution 30 November 2021. Due to the higher amount of carbon emissions from gasoline vehicles and due to the current air pollution in urban areas, the government has decided to give priority to the promotion of electric vehicles when importing vehicles in the future, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said. Read more. [here](#)

India's economy grows by 8.4 per cent amid signs of recovery 1 December 2021. India's economy grew by 8.4 per cent in the July-September quarter from the same period a year earlier, the government announced on 1 December 2021, raising hopes of a recovery after the country suffered historic contractions sparked by the coronavirus pandemic. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal banks want to count percent of federal grant to local units as deposit to maintain regulatory threshold 1 December 2021. The government and bankers are discussing allowing banks to count 75 percent of the grants that the federal government sends to the local governments' bank accounts as deposits with most of the banks crossing the regulatory threshold of loan to deposit ratio. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh's government inks deal to set up country's first waste-based power plant 1 December 2021. The government has signed an agreement to set up the country's first-ever waste-based power plant at Amin Bazar area of Dhaka. The government on 1 December signed the deal to set up a 42.5 MW waste burn method power plant in the area, as it is not harmful to the environment. Read more. [here](#)

States improve fiscal position, but local bodies still suffer: Reserve Bank of India report 1 December 2021. States have budgeted to bring down their deficits by a full percentage point from last year, as revenue improved in sync with lift in pandemic-related restrictions, but the local bodies have been badly hit by the pandemic and must be allowed functional autonomy, said a report by the Reserve Bank of India. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan clinches Group77 top slot at United Nations 1 December 2021. Pakistan has been elected the next chair of the 'Group of 77', which is the largest intergovernmental grouping of developing countries in the United Nations. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka briefs Special Rapporteur on efforts to eradicate child labour 1 December 2021. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery including its causes and consequences Tomoya Obokata, who is currently undertaking a visit to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka, called on Foreign Minister Prof. G.L Peiris at the Foreign Ministry. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey says no turning back from low-interest rates model: Erdoğan 1 December 2021. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Wednesday said there was "no turning back" from the new policy direction he says will release the country from the trap of the exchange rate, inflation and interest rates. Read more. [here](#)

India's slow exports growth takes trade deficit to record high of \$23 billion 2 December 2021. Trade deficit touched a record high of \$23.27 billion in November as exports growth slowed faster than imports, following holidays in the festive month. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's Imran to inaugurate Green Line bus service on December 10: minister 5 December

Bangladesh cancelled 10 coal-based power plants for climate's sake: Prime Minister 1 November 2021. Bangladesh has cancelled 10 coal-based power plants involving 12 billion dollars of foreign investment, just to supplement its efforts against the adverse impacts of climate change. Read more. [here](#)

India cannot impose blanket ban on crackers, says Supreme Court 2 November 2021. The Supreme Court on November 1st, 2021 said a blanket ban on firecrackers may not be possible, but measures ought to be in place to prevent the use of toxic chemicals in firecrackers. Read More. [here](#)

COP26: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledges net zero by 2070 2 November 2021. India has promised to cut its emissions to net zero by 2070 - missing a key goal of the COP26 summit for countries to commit to reach that target by 2050. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's Prime Minister stressed the need for growth of large-scale manufacturing sector 31 October 2021. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed the need for growth in large-scale manufacturing sector so as to ensure employment opportunities for skilled workers. The prime minister stated this in a meeting with businessmen Aqeel Karim Dhedhi to discuss overall economic situation in the country. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey's New fund may act as 'leverage' in its climate change fight 1 November 2021. Turkey recently secured more than \$3.1 million (TL 28.57 million) from the Green Climate Fund, a landmark contribution to the country's fight against the climate crisis. Environment Urban Planning and Climate Change Minister Murat Kurum said the deal will help Turkey pursue more efficient efforts in the fight against climate change. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh now a \$409b economy: Gross Domestic Product size up, growth down as new base year takes effect 2 November 2021. In terms of dollars, the GDP size stood at \$409 billion in the last fiscal year if Tk 85 per USD exchange rate is taken into account. Per capita income rose to \$2,554 in FY21 as per the new calculation, which was \$2,227 as per the old one. Read more. [here](#)

Hiring activity in India grows by 43 per cent annually in October, says report 2 November 2021. With 2,523 job listings in October 2021, there was a 43 per cent year-on-year (Y-O-Y) growth. However, sequentially there has been 8.35 per cent decline as the total number of job listings was 2,753 on the portal in the previous month. Read more. [here](#)

Afghanistan's United Nations Children Fund to directly fund Afghan teachers, bypassing Taliban authorities 3 November 2021. The United Nations children's agency said it was planning to set up a system to directly fund Afghan teachers, after the international community placed a freeze on funding to the Taliban-led administration. Read more. [here](#)

India's Indian Oil to set up 10,000 electric vehicle charging stations in next three years 3 November 2021. The country's largest automobile fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation has announced its plans to set up 10,000 charging stations in three years. Setting up of EV charging stations and production of green hydrogen will both be part of the company's net carbon zero strategy that is expected to be unveiled soon. Read more. [here](#)

India's services sector activity expands at fastest pace in 10.5 years in October: Purchasing Managers Index 3 November 2021. Companies indicated that a notable pick-up in new business led to the fastest expansion in output in over a decade and as a result more jobs were created, even though business confidence remained subdued due to growing inflationary concerns. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's public debt-Gross Domestic Product ratio to ease in FY22, FY23 4 November 2021. The World Bank has projected Pakistan's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to ease to 90.6 per cent in current fiscal year to and to 89.3 per cent in next fiscal year 2022-23. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey sees double-digit growth, international bodies also see stronger 2021 4 November 2021. Turkey's economy is expected to record double-digit growth in 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Thursday, higher than a previous government forecast. Read more. [here](#).

Pakistan has become a 'food-deficit' country: Tarin 7 November 2021. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin said that

Prime Minister Imran Khan will inaugurate the long-delayed Green Line bus rapid transit system (BRTS) on December 10, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar announced. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka's plan of action to include air quality reports of many cities from next year: Amaraweera 5 December 2021. Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera instructed the ministry officials to expand the Air Quality Investigation program to check the air quality in several cities in Sri Lanka. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh govt's bank borrowing surges 7 December 2021. Government bank borrowing sees a sudden surge amid bid for turning its accounts position positive from the negative as fund deficit doubled in a day, officials said. Read more. [here](#).

World Bank's Public Expenditure Review report launched for Nepal 7 December 2021. Nepal has made significant strides in implementing fiscal federalism while key reforms are needed to support fiscal sustainability and Nepal's transition towards green, resilient, and inclusive development states the World Bank's Public Expenditure Review (PER) report on Fiscal Policy for Sustainable Development. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran expresses confidence in economic growth by year-end 7 December 2021. Prime Minister Imran Khan said Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators were stable and expressed confidence that by the end of the current fiscal year 2021-2022, the economy will grow at a higher rate as compared to the previous year. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka's transport service to be digitalised by next year: Minister 7 December 2021. Steps will be taken to digitalise the transport services to provide an efficient and comfortable public transport service to commuters by 2022, Transport Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said. Read more. [here](#)

Asian Development Bank approves \$603million loan to support Pakistan's Ehsaas program 8 December 2021. The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$603 million results-based lending program to strengthen and expand social protection programs in Pakistan. Read more. [here](#)

Stronger democratic institutions, governing structures to fuel Bangladesh's future success: US envoy 9 December 2021. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has said Bangladesh's future success will be fueled by strengthening of democratic institutions and governing structures with a plural and democratic electoral process in place. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey- Istanbul municipality eyes international bond to fund infrastructure 9 December 2021. Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality is working on a possible international bond to fund new infrastructure projects, the metropolis 'mayor said, a year after the Turkish city completed its first eurobond issue. Read more. [here](#)

Deeper policy reforms recommended for Bangladesh's post-LDC trade 10 December 2021. Bangladesh ought to conduct comprehensive policy reforms for striking effective trade deals on preferential market access in the post-LDC era, a government body suggests as the country is poised for status change. Read more. [here](#)

Asian Development Bank approves \$385m to help improve livability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan) 11 December 2021. The ADB has approved \$385 million in financing to help improve the livability and community health of five cities in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Read more. [here](#)

Iran President says budget bill for next year after economic stability 11 December 2021. President Ebrahim Raisi said that the budget bill presented to Majlis (Iranian Parliament) for the next Iranian year (starting on March 21, 2022) is aimed at ensuring economic stability. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh economy further 'informalised' 13 December 2021. Bangladesh economy faced further 'informalisation' with consequent lower wages and higher underemployment under a stumbling upset done by the pandemic, it was revealed at a conference on post-corona policy choices. Read more. [here](#)

India says climate commitment ambitious yet

Pakistan aspires to become a food-deficit country. Last year alone, it spent around \$10 billion on imports of food and cotton. Read more. [here](#).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization says ready to support Iran on science, technology 7 November 2021. A UNESCO official said the United Nations body was ready to support Iranian entities to strengthen their efforts in science, technology, and innovation to address current challenges. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey prepares road map for homegrown engine development 2021 4 November 2021. The Turkish defense industry continues to work on domestic engine and transmission technology for land and air vehicles, with the country preparing a roadmap that will take it towards this ultimate goal. Read more. [here](#)

(Afghanistan) World Health Organization, UNICEF launch Afghan polio vaccine campaign with Taliban backing 8 November 2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations children's agency kicked off a polio vaccination campaign in Afghanistan on 8th November 2021, the first nationwide campaign to fight the disease in three years. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh's trade deficit widens over threefold 9 November 2021. The country's trade imbalance with the rest of the world increased by US\$4.46 billion to \$6.50 billion during the July-September period of the FY 2021-22, from \$2.04 billion in the same period of FY'2, according to the central bank's latest statistics. Read more. [here](#).

Indian government notifies amended minerals concession rules to ease pricing pressure 9 November 2021. The Union government has notified the amended minerals concession rules that will pave the way for sale of 50 per cent of mineral produced from captive mines, transfer of mines without any charges and partial surrender of a lease. Read more. [here](#).

Pakistani government fast tracking work on World Bank funded projects: Asad Umar 9 November 2021. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, while appreciating the contribution of the World Bank in the socio-economic development of Pakistan, said on 9 November 2021 that the incumbent government was committed to fast-track the various projects being funded by World Bank. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal receives just around half of the committed foreign loans 10 November 2021. According to the Annual Report 2020-21 of the [Public Debt Management Office](#) released early this week, the government in the last fiscal year received foreign loans amounting to Rs128.7 billion, which accounts for just 42.97 per cent of the targeted loan amount for the fiscal year. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey's Arçelik secures \$173.9M EBRD loan for green manufacturing 10 November 2021. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will provide a 150 Million Euro (\$173.9 million) loan to Turkish home appliance manufacturer Arçelik for green manufacturing, the company said on 10th November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

India's growth to exceed 10 per cent in FY22 on strong agri recovery, says Niti Vice Chairman 11 November 2021. Indian economy is expected to grow by more than 10 per cent in the current fiscal supported by a record kharif crop and bright rabi prospects, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar has said. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka budget deficit to moderate over medium term, says central bank 11 November 2021. Sri Lanka expects slower expansion of its budget deficit as the government aims to sustain growth with a focus on exports and economic diversification with help from domestic and foreign investment, the central bank said on 11th November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh needs to show strong grounds for European Union market access: Study 14 November 2021. Bangladesh should put forward a set of strong grounds urgently to retain its duty-free benefit for apparel exports under new GSP+ rules of the European Union (EU), suggests a study. Read more. [here](#)

Indian brothers win Children's Peace Prize for waste project 13 November 2021. Indian brothers Vihaan and Nav Agarwal won a prestigious children's prize on 13 November 2021 for a project they

achieve net-zero carbon emissions and increase its share of renewables in the energy mix were "very ambitious yet very much achievable," environment secretary, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, said. Read more [here](#).

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran launches Naya Pakistan Sehat Programme in Punjab 13 December 2021 Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the Naya Pakistan Sehat Programme in Punjab, announcing that the entire population of the province would be covered through the health insurance initiative within the next three months. Read more. [here](#)

Government may seek International Monetary Fund assistance 13 December 2021. Referring to reports which said that a special cabinet meeting has been summoned to decide whether the government should seek IMF assistance to get out of the economic crisis, SJB MP Harsha de Silva said it is too late for it without a restructuring of debts. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey's industrial output up 8.5 per cent year-over-year in October 13 December 2021. Turkey's calendar-adjusted industrial production soared 8.5 per cent in October on a yearly basis, according to the country's statistical authority. Read more. [here](#)

Afghan currency plunges to record low against dollar 14 December 2021. Afghanistan's national currency, the afghani, has dropped further recently amid economic woes, causing grave concern among the Afghan people. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh government's focus sharpens on Medical and Personal Protective Equipment sector 14 December 2021. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi assured the Medical and Personal Protective Equipment (MPPE) industry of providing the government's all-out support on priority basis to facilitate export diversification and deeper industrialization. Read more. [here](#)

In Pakistan third successive hike: State Bank of Pakistan increases key interest rate by 100 basis points, takes it to 9.75 per cent 14 December 2021. The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has raised the key interest rate by 100 basis points, taking it to 9.75 per cent. Read more. [here](#)

Iran- 'Additional effort and patience 'needed to revive Iran nuclear deal 14 December 2021. Ongoing talks to get the Iran nuclear deal back on track indicate "additional effort and patience" are required for its full restoration, the UN political affairs chief told the UN Security Council in New York. Read more. [here](#)

India unveils \$10.2B plan to attract semiconductor makers 15 December 2021. India on 15 December 2021 announced a \$10.2 billion plan to try to attract global chipmakers to set up shop in the country and transform it into a production hub of semiconductors. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's Asian Development Bank forecasts higher inflation 15 December 2021. The Asian Development Bank forecast higher inflation projection for Pakistan, while saying that adjustments to energy tariffs and higher global commodity prices are expected to exert upward pressure on domestic prices. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey's gas, liquefied natural gas storage facilities gear up to face winter demand 15 December 2021. With the increase in gas consumption during the winter season, operations at Turkey's liquefied natural gas import terminal and the country's biggest underground natural gas storage facility have intensified. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations lauds Bangladesh for achieving massive success despite distress, turmoil 17 December 2021. The country has traversed a long and difficult path from new nationhood devastated by war and famine, to its undeniable influence as a UN member state at the threshold of Least Developed Country graduation, providing shelter to 900,000 Rohingya, the United Nations said. Read more. [here](#)

Time to act now before farming issues become severe, says Indian Prime Minister Modi 16 December 2021. Urging farmers to turn to organic or natural farming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said there is a need to take agriculture out of the chemical laboratory and connect it with the nature's lab. Read more. [here](#)

launched that aims to reduce waste and pollution and plant trees in their home city of New Delhi. Read more [here](#)

Pakistan: 'Good news' about IMF programme in the offing, says Shaukat Tarin 14 November 2021. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin on Sunday said that uncertainty surrounding the IMF loan facility for Pakistan will be over soon, saying a "good news" was on the cards. Read more. [here](#)

India's economic recovery taking hold; private investment should resume: Reserve Bank India Governor 15 November 2021. Despite many economists revising down their growth forecasts between 8.5 and 10 per cent for the current fiscal, the central bank has not changed its forecast of 9.5 per cent for the year so far. Read more. [here](#)

United Nations panel adopts Pakistan's draft targeting disinformation 16 November 2021. A United Nations General Assembly committee unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that called for a multidimensional response to counter all forms of disinformation eroding human rights. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey vows holistic approach in fight against inflation 16 November 2021. Treasury and Finance Minister Lütfi Elvan said Tuesday Turkey was still not at the desired level in its battle with inflation. Read more. [here](#)

Conduct of lawmakers should be in line with Indian values: Prime Minister Modi 17 November 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 17 November 2021 that doing one's duty should be the mantra for the country for the next 25 years as India heads towards centenary of its Independence, and this message should go out from its Parliament and state legislatures. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan: International Monetary Fund facility hinges on '5 prior actions': Tarin 17 November 2021. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Shaukat Tarin said that the approval of pending sixth review of the extended fund facility (EFF) of the IMF is contingent to fulfilment of about five prior actions set by the Fund. Read more. [here](#)

International Monetary Fund projects Pakistan's gross debt at 83.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product 16 December 2021. The Fund in its updated Global Debt Database, estimated Pakistan 'private debt, loans and debt securities at 27.39 percent of Gross Domestic Product. The household debt, loans, and debt securities is estimated at 3.67 percent of Gross Domestic Product. Read more. [here](#)

Turkish central bank slashes key policy rate to 14 per cent 16 December 2021. Turkey's central bank cuts its benchmark policy rate for the fourth consecutive time on 16 December in line with market expectations. Read more. [here](#)

International Monetary Fund raises Bangladesh's economic growth forecast for Financial Year 22 19 December 2021. The International Monetary Fund has scaled up its projection for Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product growth to 6.6 percent in 2022, from its previous forecast of 6.5 percent in October. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan- Power distribution, energy reforms: World Bank Board approves \$195m financing 19 December 2021. The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$195 million in financing to support Pakistan in improving electricity distribution and implementing energy sector reforms to increase service quality for consumers. Read more [here](#).

Islamic countries vow to work with United Nations to address growing crisis in Afghanistan 20 December 2021. Muslim nations resolved to work with the United Nations to try to unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in frozen Afghan assets in a bid to address a growing humanitarian crisis. Read more. [here](#)

Indian Private Sector Banks recover more than Rs 5.49 lakh crore over last 7 fiscal years, says Finance Minister in Lok Sabha 20 December 2021. The government has taken comprehensive steps to reduce NPAs and to effect recovery, enabling public sector banks to recover more than Rs 5.49 lakh crore over the last seven fiscal years, the Lok Sabha was informed. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey hosts over 5 million migrants, deputy interior minister says 20 December 2021. Turkey hosts over 5 million migrants from 190 different backgrounds said Deputy Interior Minister Ismail Çatakli. Read more. [here](#)

b. Regional cooperation and other means of implementation

China to provide additional 1 million doses of SinoVac under grant assistance 6 October 2021. During a meeting at the Ministry of Health and Population, the Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, Hou Yanqi, made sure of China's consistent support for Nepal. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka gets funded by China in a project to strengthen fruit value-chains in the country 4 November 2021. A project to provide technical assistance to improve the production and commercialization of fruit value-chains in Sri Lanka has been launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture with financial assistance from China. Read more. [here](#)

(Bangladesh) Dhaka now seeks \$701m from Beijing to bankroll two priority projects 11 November 2021. The government now seeks to borrow US\$701 million from China to bankroll two priority projects, after a pause of nearly two years in Beijing's bountiful development-financing support for Bangladesh to execute mega projects. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey, Iran to strengthen cooperation in security: Foreign Ministe Çavuşoğlu 15 November 2021. In terms of human trafficking, terrorism and security we believe that there is much we can do, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu stated on 15 November 2021 during a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal, India sign MoU for reciprocal recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificate 23 November 2021. The Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding for reciprocal recognition of Covid-19 certificate between two countries, on 23 November 2021. Read

With Russia during Putin's visit to New Delhi. 7 December 2021 Russia and India signed a flurry of trade and arms deals during President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including one that will see India produce more than 600,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles. Read more [here](#).

Maldives seeks loan from Bangladesh 7 December 2021. In another show of the growing strength of Bangladesh's economy, the government might give loans to the Maldives after the Island nation sought funds. Read more. [here](#)

(Bangladesh) Dhaka-Delhi could benefit from generating hydropower in Nepal, Bhutan: Prime Minister 8 December 2021. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh-India can be benefited by generating hydro power in Nepal and Bhutan as it will be a clean energy and cheaper also. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan desires relationship with US that is in sync with its 'changed priorities': Qureshi 14 December 2021. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said Pakistan wanted a relationship with the US that was in line with the changed priorities of the former from "geopolitics to geo-economics". Read more. [here](#)

Islamic world pitches ways to aid desperately poor Afghans 19 December 2021. Islamic countries scrambled to find ways to help Afghanistan avert an imminent economic collapse they say would have a "horrendous" global impact. Read more. [here](#)

Final location survey for Kathmandu- Raxaul rail set to chug along 20 December 2021. The government has initiated the necessary approval process to allow India to conduct a final location survey for the proposed cross-border railway line between Kathmandu and Raxaul, an Indian town

more. [here](#)

India, US relaunch Trade Policy Forum 23 November 2021. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Tuesday relaunched the Trade Policy Forum and agreed to engage on issues which are affecting the trade between the two countries. Read more. [here](#)

Look forward to continue working with Bangladesh Prime Minister to further deepen ties: Indian Prime Minister Modi 5 December 2021. As India and Bangladesh commemorate 'Maitri Diwas', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he looks forward to continue working with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina to further expand and deepen bilateral ties. Read more. [here](#)

c. Gender equality and empowerment

Indian Women officers to soon command army units: Rajnath Singh 15 October 2021. Defence minister Rajnath Singh said women officers will soon command army units and battalions following being accepted for permanent commission (PC), while listing contributions of women in all spheres of security and nation-building, including that of former prime minister Indira Gandhi and former President Pratibha Patil. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey determined to fight violence against women, Erdoğan says 25 October 2021. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reiterated that Turkey is determined to fight violence against women within the framework prepared earlier this year. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh: Lack of documents, database make difficult for woman entrepreneurs to access finance 8 November 2021. Women-led enterprises in the country have long been facing difficulty in accessing finance of formal channels -- mainly for lack of information, improper documentation, complexity in availing trade licence, and absence of a comprehensive database. Read more. [here](#)

d. Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience

Delhi unveils 10-point action plan to combat air pollution in winter 4 October 2021. To combat air pollution in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a 10-point "winter action plan" that focuses on dust control, using the Pusa bio-decomposer, installing smog towers and checking waste burning and vehicular emissions. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal: Rain damage to roads, bridges estimated at Rs3 billion 5 October 2021. Landslides and floods during this year's long monsoon have caused massive damage to the roads and bridges in various parts of the country. According to the officials at the Department of Roads, the estimated damage this year is worth nearly Rs. 3 billion, which is significantly high compared to the past several years. Read more. [here](#)

India: West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seeks Prime Minister's intervention to prevent 'man-made floods' 6 October 2021. Around 2.2 million people were affected while 400,000 were evacuated when floods hit West Bengal's eight districts. This was the second flood to hit West Bengal since July-August. Read more. [here](#)

Climate change affecting physical, mental health of Bangladeshis: World Bank 7 October 2021. Weather variations in Bangladesh, caused by climate change, is leading to an increase in the spread of infectious diseases and affecting mental health of people, says a new World Bank Report. Read more. [here](#)

Strong earthquake in southwest Pakistan kills at least 23 7 October 2021. A powerful earthquake collapsed at least one coal mine and dozens of mud houses in southwest Pakistan early Thursday, killing at least 23 people as the death toll continued to creep higher. At least another 200 people were injured, an official said. Read more. [here](#)

Floods, landslides kill at least 28 people in southern India 18 October 2021. Officials predicted more rain as the death toll from floods and landslides in the southern Indian state of Kerala rose to 28.

more. [here](#)

Turkey strives to improve relations with Gulf countries: Erdoğan 6 December 2021. Turkey aims to further enhance its relations with all Gulf countries in addition to Qatar, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said before heading to Doha to attend a high-level committee meeting. Read more. [here](#)

Survey finds 20.4 per cent women in Sri Lanka experienced violence by intimate partner 25 November 2021. Sri Lanka's first national survey on women and girls has found that 20.4 per cent of women experienced violence by their intimate partner. Read more. [here](#)

Women activists call for more rights in Afghanistan 5 December 2021. Women's rights activists in the Afghan capital of Kabul insisted on 5 December they would continue fighting for their right to education, employment and participation in Afghan political and social life, and said a recent Taliban decree banning forced marriage was not enough to address the issue of women's rights. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistani authorities scramble to curb rising air pollution 2 November 2021. Air quality in the Pakistani city of Lahore has risen to dangerous levels as winter starts, leaving authorities to scramble to cope with desperate situations. The air quality index (AQI) of the eastern city of Lahore was recorded as 397, making it the most-polluted city in the world. Read more. [here](#)

(India) Chennai rains: At least five dead after heavy downpour 8 November 2021. Heavy showers and thunderstorms have caused severe flooding in the southern Indian city of Chennai. No deaths have been reported, but officials in the state of Tamil Nadu, of which Chennai is the capital, have issued warnings to evacuate people from low-lying areas. Read more. [here](#)

India, Sri Lanka- 9 dead after floods in Sri Lanka, southern India 8 November 2021. Nine people are dead and two others missing after floods in Sri Lanka and parts of southern India caused by more than a week of pounding rains. Read more. [here](#)

Several areas including Colombo placed on high alert 8 November 2021. "Very heavy showers above 150 mm can be expected at some places in North Western, Western and Sabaragamuwa provinces and in the Kandy and Nuwara-Eliya districts. The Department of Meteorology said in a weather update. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka's death toll from inclement weather goes past 20 10 November 2021. The death toll from the inclement weather being experienced in Sri Lanka reached 20 today with more people being reported dead from landslides and floods. Read more. [here](#)

Delhi smog: Schools and colleges shut as pollution worsens 17 November 2021. Authorities in the Indian capital, Delhi, have shut all schools and colleges indefinitely, construction work has also been banned until 21 November but an exception has been made for transport and defence-related projects. Read more. [here](#)

Heavy rains in southern Indian state kill 17,

Read more. [here](#)

At least 43 dead in overnight landslides across Nepal 20 October 2021. Overnight landslides across the country following unseasonal rainfall have claimed at least 21 lives while seven people are still unaccounted for, authorities said. Read more. [here](#)

Nearly 200 perish in India, Nepal floods 21 October 2021. Nearly 200 people have died in floods and landslides in India and Nepal, officials said with whole families buried in their homes and two young girls swept away as forecasters warned of yet more heavy rain. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka: 1,912 people affected, low pressure area still persists: Meteorology Department 1 November 2021. Some 1,912 people from 477 families have been affected due to the current deluge in the country. So far one death has been reported from the Mullaitivu district due to lightning. 334 houses were partially damaged in the said districts and two houses were fully damaged in the Badulla district. Read more. [here](#)

India saw 125 extremely heavy rainfall events this Sept, Oct, highest in 5 years: India Meteorological Department 2 November 2021. Nine low-pressure systems, including two cyclones, one deep depression and six lows, affected the country during the period. The country recorded 89 extremely heavy rainfall events in September against 61 in the same month last year, 59 in 2019; 44 in 2018 and 29 in 2017. Read more. [here](#)

e) Health & Covid-19 Related

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque of Bangladesh: 20 per cent people to be vaccinated by December under COVAX facilities 2 October 2021. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque has said 20 percent people will be vaccinated by December under COVAX facilities. "As per total population of Bangladesh, we will get COVID-19 vaccines for 40 percent population of the country under COVAX facilities...WHO Chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus agreed to send coronavirus jabs to Bangladesh for our 40 percent people in phases," he said. Read more. [here](#)

Illegal sanctions deprive Iran of having access to COVID-19 vaccine in due time 2 October 2021. First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Mohammad Ghorbanpour said in a statement to the UN that illegal sanctions did deprive Iran of having access to the COVID-19 vaccines in proper time. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh: Dengue fever 2 dead, 192 hospitalised in a day 4 October 2021. At least two more dengue patients died while 192 were hospitalised, of whom 30 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Read more. [here](#)

70 per cent of India's adult population administered first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, says Mandaviya 4 October 2021. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that 70 per cent of India's adult population has been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Read more. [here](#)

Covid-19: India to pay \$674 compensation for every death 4 October 2021. India's top court has approved the government's decision to pay 50,000 rupees (\$674; £498) as compensation for every death due to Covid-19. The Supreme Court's order followed a petition by lawyers seeking compensation under India's disaster management laws. Read more. [here](#)

India's children and the grim reality of congenital heart diseases 4 October 2021. With over 240,000 children born every year with a hole in their tiny hearts, congenital heart disease (CHD) is by far the most common birth defect in India. The disease, while treatable, still results in thousands of deaths across the country, with over 20 per cent of the children afflicted with CHD dying in the first year of birth. Read more. [here](#)

Dhaka advocates an equal shot at recovery 7 October 2021. Bangladesh has called for universal and affordable access to Covid vaccines to ensure an equitable and sustainable global recovery from the ravages of the pandemic. Read more. [here](#)

World Health Organization okays vaccination of

dozens missing 20 November 2021. At least 17 people have died and dozens are reported missing in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh after days of heavy rains, authorities said 20 November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Extreme weather takes hold across Turkey after deadly storms 30 November 2021. Provinces in Turkey's west grappled with storms that claimed six lives as authorities warned of more adverse weather – a phenomenon experts tie to climate change. Read more. [here](#)

India's Air quality: Delhi records worst November air in years 1 December 2021. Data also showed that the residents of Delhi didn't experience even one "good" day of air quality through the month. Experts blame the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states and the festival of Diwali for the alarming levels of pollution in November. Read more. [here](#)

Storm weakens after heavy rain, evacuation in southern India 4 December 2021. A tropical storm weakened after dumping heavy rains overnight in parts of southern India off the Bay of Bengal as more than 50,000 people evacuated to government-run camps, officials said. No loss of life or major damage has been reported so far from the rain-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh state. Read more. [here](#)

India: Delhi pollution: Indoor air worse than outside, says study 9 December 2021. The study found that the levels of PM2.5, the lung-damaging tiny particles in the air, indoors were "substantially higher" than those found on the nearest outdoor government monitors. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh government moves to allow Corona medicine manufacturing in Bangladesh 8 November 2021. The government has taken initiative to allow manufacturing the Coronavirus medicine Molnupiravir in the country in a bid to ensure proper treatment of the Covid 19 patients. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh scraps annual exams for primary students for second year in pandemic 9 November 2021. The government has decided to promote primary school students to the next grade without holding a final exam due to the pandemic for the second year. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal's health minister: Nepal to vaccinate all adults by mid-April. 10 November 2021 Nepal will obtain enough vaccines to immunize all adults against COVID-19 by mid-April and is focusing on getting doses into remote mountainous areas of the Himalayan nation, the health minister said on 10th November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal: 492,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine arrive from Switzerland 11 November 2021. Nepal on 11th November 2021 received 492,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine provided by the Switzerland government and the COVAX facility, an international vaccine-sharing scheme backed by the United Nations. Read More. [here](#)

Pakistan's more than 50 per cent students between 12 to 18 years administered one dose of Covid vaccine: Umar 11 November 2021. Pakistan Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that more than 50 percent of students between the ages of 12 and 18 have been administered at least one dose of coronavirus vaccine across the country. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey ratifies deal on refugee health care project with European Union 11 November 2021. Turkey ratified an agreement to enhance health care infrastructure for refugees in the country, signed with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey on 11 November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan among South Asian nations facing alarming diabetes surge amid Covid-19 13 November 2021. The number of diabetes patients has soared alarmingly across South Asia, even as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to have severe psychological and economic effects through the region, experts and international bodies report. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh can produce Covid vaccine, let us do it: Prime Minister 15 November 2021. Bangladesh is capable of producing Covid-19 vaccine and exporting

those below 18 in Bangladesh: Health Minister 10 October 2021. The World Health Organization has approved the vaccination of those who are under 18 years of age in Bangladesh, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque. Read more. [here](#)

Turkey emphasizes international cooperation in fighting effects of COVID-19 13 October 2021. As the international community continues its efforts in combating the coronavirus pandemic, cooperation is also essential in resolving the global issues of rising terrorism, human trafficking, organized crime and irregular migration, Turkey's deputy foreign minister said. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan to receive 2.4 million doses of Pfizer vaccine from the United States 14 October 2021. The United States government will ship 2.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan, bringing the total number of doses sent to the South Asian country to about 18.3 million, more than any other country, a White House official said. Read more. [here](#)

(Afghanistan) United Nations: Taliban agrees to restart door-to-door polio vaccination drive 18 October 2021. The Taliban leadership has agreed to allow the resumption of the door-to-door vaccination drive against polio across Afghanistan, the WHO and UNICEF announced in a joint statement. Read more. [here](#)

Second Chinese vaccine may get trial approval in Nepal 18 October 2021. Nepal Health Research Council is preparing to give its nod for the third phase trials to a Covid-19 vaccine developed by China's WestVac Biopharma Co, Ltd after the company submitted almost all the documents demanded by the council. Read more. [here](#)

Restrictions need to continue until year end: Sri Lanka Health Director General 18 October 2021. The country will have to keep under certain restrictions until the month of December this year in order to curb people's unnecessary movement, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardane said. Read more. [here](#)

India delays COVID-19 vaccine supplies to World Health Organisation-backed COVAX, sources say 20 October 2021. India has delayed committing supplies of vaccine to the COVAX global sharing platform, two sources told Reuters, a day after one of its key backers, the World Health Organisation, said the agency could not "cut corners" to approve a domestically developed vaccine. Read more. [here](#)

India celebrates 1 billion vaccine doses, hopes to speed second dose 21 October 2021. India celebrated giving its billionth COVID-19 vaccine dose on October 21, 2021, a hopeful milestone for the South Asian country where the delta variant fueled a crushing surge earlier this year and missteps initially held back its inoculation campaign. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal to administer Vitamin 'A' capsules to around 2.7 million children across country 21 October 2021. Ministry of Health and Population is going to administer Vitamin 'A' capsules free of cost to all children across the country. Around 2.7 million children from six months to 59 months across the country would be administered with Vitamin 'A' capsule on October 24 and 25 under the National Vitamin 'A' Programme. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka: School children from 16 to 17 also to get Pfizer 21 October 2021. School children aged between 16 and 17, throughout the country, will be administered the Pfizer vaccines from October 22, 2021, Sri Lanka Director General of Health Services Dr Asela Gunawardane said. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's overall vaccination count crosses 100 million 23 October 2021. Pakistan on October 23, 2021 achieved the landmark of administering over 100 million doses of the coronavirus vaccines to its citizens as the country continued to witness a decline in its Covid-19 cases. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal Health Ministry is seeking Cabinet nod to buy 6 million doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine 24 October 2021. The doses will be bought through non-disclosure agreement. COVAX is supplying 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine. Read more. [here](#)

Indian Prime Minister Modi launches Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission 25 October 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on October 25, 2021. Read more. [here](#)

ahead, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in Parliament on 15th November 2021 Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka approves use of first pill to treat Covid 15 November 2021. Sri Lanka has approved the use of the first pill to treat Covid patients, Molnupiravi. In clinical trials the pill, originally developed to treat flu, cut the risk of hospitalisation or death by about half. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal on track to vaccinate its eligible population as more jabs are on way 16 November 2021. After a brief setback, Nepal by and large has managed to secure Covid-19 vaccine doses on a regular basis to continue its vaccination campaign. And with some new deals the government has signed, along with the promises to provide the jabs in grants, the country is set to receive enough doses to inoculate the rest of the targeted population. Read more. [here](#)

In Sri Lanka booster shots to be administered to people over 60 years 15 November 2021. Booster shots will be administered to people over 60 years of age from tomorrow in the Western and Southern provinces and in the Anuradhapura and Ampara districts. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh- \$150m Asian Development Bank loan to support Covid-hit small enterprises in Bangladesh 18 November 2021. The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD150 million loan to Bangladesh to provide financing for cottage, micro, and small-sized enterprises operated by youth, returning migrant workers, and rural entrepreneurs, particularly women, who have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan's coronavirus vaccination for children 12-15 to remain suspended till November 27 20 November 2021. India's Health Minister Zahid Maleque on 20th November 2021 said the government will administer 6 crore more Covid-19 vaccine doses by January next across the country. Read more. [here](#)

Iran says 44 million fully vaccinated, half its population 20 November 2021. Iran announced Saturday it has now fully vaccinated 44 million people, more than half of its population of 85 million. The country has been hit the worst by the pandemic in the Middle East. Read more. [here](#)

India's Financial Year 22 Gross Domestic Product projection upgraded to 9.3 per cent-9.6 per cent range: State Bank of India Ecowrap 22 November 2021. With 42 per cent population fully vaccinated against Covid-19, SBI Research has revised upwards India's GDP growth projection to range of 9.3 per cent-9.6 per cent for FY22 and 8.1 per cent in Q2FY22. Read more. [here](#)

India over 117 crore Covid vaccine doses administered in India so far 23 November 2021. In a milestone achievement, the total number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in India has crossed 117 crores, informed the Central Government on 23November 2021. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal government asks provinces, local units to ramp up vaccination amid falling public response to jabs 23 November 2021. In the rural areas of Makawanpur district, only around 35 percent people have so far taken the Covid-19 vaccine. But the vaccination rate in Hetauda, the headquarters of Bagmati Province is around 80 percent. Read more. [here](#)

Omicron variant: Pakistan restricts travel from six southern African countries, Hong Kong 27 November 2021. Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar announced on Saturday that a notification has been issued to restrict travel from six southern African nations and Hong Kong after the emergence of a new heavily-mutated Covid-19 variant, Omicron. Read more. [here](#)

Maldives bans travellers from 7 African nations due to Omicron COVID variant 28 November 2021. Maldives said it was barring travellers from seven African countries from 28November over concerns about the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. Read more. [here](#)

India: Omicron doesn't escape RT-PCR and RAT; ramp up testing: Centre tells states 30 November 2021. India Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level meeting with states/UTs amid reports of Omicron variant of Covid emerging across various countries, Tuesday in the presence of Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog. Read more. [here](#)

10 lakh jabs a day: Bangladesh Government plans to ramp up vaccination in November 27 October 2021. The Bangladesh government plans to jab 10 lakh doses daily from November to ramp up the Covid-19 vaccination campaign which has gathered some pace in recent months following smooth supply of vaccines. Read more. [here](#)

Foreign national in Iranian province receive 11,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine 31 October 2021. This is the aggregate number of doses, which included 9,932 first doses and 1,210 second shots. Concern over the decrease in observing health protocols, wearing mask has decreased to 45 percent and keeping social distance to 49 percent. Read more. [here](#)

Iran president urges national bodies to make effort to open schools 31 October 2021. Vaccination of students should be followed up seriously, President Raisi said at the national task force for fighting coronavirus in Tehran on 31 October, 2021. The number of the dead in Iran has passed 126,000. Read more. [here](#)

India's Covid vaccination certificate gets 5 more recognitions. 1 November 2021 Five more recognitions for India's vaccination certificate, including from Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, State of Palestine, Mauritius and Mongolia. This comes days after foreign secretary Harsh V Shringla said that a discussion was held on mutual recognition of vaccination certificate during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy. Read more. [here](#)

Maldives supplies 201,600 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Nepal 31 October 2021. The doses had around a week before expiry when they were delivered to Nepal. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry said that 1.9 million doses of Vero Cell vaccine will arrive within two to three days from China. The doses are part of the northern neighbour's grant assistance to the government and Nepal Army. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka rolls out booster jabs amid warning of virus surge 1 November 2021. Sri Lankan authorities on 1st November 2021 began to roll out COVID-19 booster shots to frontline workers as the South Asian nation's top medical association warned of a possible virus surge. About 62 per cent of Sri Lanka's 22 million people have been fully vaccinated, according to the ministry's statistics. Read more. [here](#)

Indian home-grown COVID-19 shot wins World Health Organization emergency use approval 3 November 2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) said on 3rd November 2021. that it has granted approval for Indian drugmaker Bharat Biotech's home-grown COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use listing, paving the way for it to be accepted as a valid vaccine in many poor countries. Read more. [here](#)

Most hospitals in Bangladesh unable to provide special care to people with disabilities: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies study 4 November 2021. Most of the country's hospitals, including Dhaka Medical College hospital, don't have special arrangements and specially trained doctors and nurses to provide care to people with disabilities. As a result, patient care attendants have to give more attention to patients as nurses do not have adequate training to deal with people with disabilities. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal government readies guidelines for cash grant to the pandemic-hit poor 4 November 2021. The government has finally prepared guidelines for the distribution of cash incentives to the poor households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Around half a million households selected by the respective local governments based on the federal government's quota will get Rs 10,000 each as a one-time support. Read more. [here](#)

Nationwide polio eradication campaign starts in Afghanistan 7 November 2021. The Taliban-run Afghan public health ministry announced on 7th November the start of a four-day nationwide polio vaccination campaign aimed at inoculating children under age 5. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lankan government assures no lockdown for Christmas 30 November 2021. Cabinet co-spokesman Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said that the country was reopened following the success of the vaccination program. He said that reopening the country does not mean the virus has been fully controlled in Sri Lanka. Read more. [here](#)

India's Omicron scare: Govt puts on hold restart of regular international flights 2 December 2021. The Centre has formally put on hold the resumption of scheduled international flights from December 15 in view of the global spread of the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal receives 972,000 doses of Covishield vaccine from COVAX 2 December 2021. Nepal on 2 December received 972,000 doses of Covishield, the AstraZeneca type vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, from the COVAX facility. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan allows booster shots for healthcare workers, people over 50 amid new variant fears 1 December 2021. Pakistan has approved booster shots of coronavirus vaccines for healthcare workers, immunocompromised people and those aged over 50 years, amid the spread of the Omicron variant in other countries. Read more. [here](#)

Pakistan fully vaccinates 33 per cent of its eligible population against Covid-19 2 December 2021. Pakistan has fully vaccinated 33 per cent of its population against the novel coronavirus as the country rushes to tackle the threat of the new Omicron variant. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka takes all preventive measures taken against more COVID-19 patients entering the country 2 December 2021. In the wake of fears amongst people that Omicron might enter Sri Lanka wreaking havoc, the Health Ministry ON 2ND December said all preventive measures had been taken at the country airports to prevent more possible COVID-19 patients from entering the country. Read more. [here](#)

Moderna vaccine to be administered to 12-18 age group in Nepal 7 December 2021. The government of Nepal is preparing to administer Moderna manufactured Covid-19 vaccine to people belonging to 12-18 age-group, beginning this week. Read more. [here](#)

How pandemic ate up a huge chunk of Nepal's budget 10 December 2021. Nepal spent over Rs56 billion in health care, social safety and welfare and economic recovery to address the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic between March 2020 and July 2021, a government report says. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka lifts ban on travellers from African countries 10 December 2021. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that travellers from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini will now be allowed into Sri Lanka. Read more. [here](#)

Bangladesh's Cabinet for precise guideline of Covid booster dose campaign 13 December 2021. The Cabinet Monday directed the authorities concerned, particularly the health minister and the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, to work on a precise guideline over the campaign of booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine in Bangladesh. Read more. [here](#)

Sri Lanka grants approval to administer jab to children above 12 years 13 December 2021. Deputy Director of Health Services, Dr. Hemantha Herath said that the Health Ministry has given approval to administer the jab to school children above the age of 12. Read more. [here](#)

India's 55 per cent of eligible adult population fully vaccinated 14 December 2021. Fifty-five per cent of India's eligible adult population is now fully vaccinated, according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Read more. [here](#)

Nepal's 42 per cent vaccinated in Sudur Pashchim Province 16 December 2021. About 42 per cent of the targeted population in nine districts of Sudur Pashchim Province have received their double dose of Covid-19 vaccines in Nepal. Read more. [here](#)






JULY 2019

1. SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN THE 75TH COMMISSION SESSION OF UNESCAP



[Read the Theme Story](#)
[Find Country Statements](#)

JULY 2019

JANUARY 2019

Content	Editorial Introduction
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCAP SUBREGIONAL INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH ASIAN VNRs 2018 SDG PRIORITIES OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SDGs IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDGs: priorities, actions and means of implementation Regional cooperation and other means of implementation Gender equality and empowerment Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience 	<p>We are pleased to share the January 2019 issue of the <i>South Asia SDG Update</i>. The issue begins with a briefing on UNESCAP's activities in South Asia subregion during September-December 2018. It goes on to provide briefings on Voluntary National Reviews of South Asian countries and their statements at the United Nations General Assembly pertaining to SDGs, to get an idea of priorities of the subregion. Finally it has a news round-up from across the subregion regarding SDGs, regional cooperation and other means of implementation. The update will appear in January, April, July and October of each year reporting on the highlights and initiatives during the previous quarter. Comments and feedback welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Nagesh Kumar Director UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office</p>

JANUARY 2019



South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS)

The South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) has been developed by ESCAP to foster subregional cooperation by sharing good practices towards achievement of the SDGs amongst the government agencies, think-tanks, CSOs and other stakeholders in South Asia to build back better.

For further details click [here](#) and for details on SANS membership, click [here](#).

CONTACT US

UNESCAP- South and South-West Asia Office,
 C-2, Qutab Institutional Area, Post Box No. 4575, 110016 New Delhi, India
 Telephone: +91 11 3097 3700 / Fax: +91 11 2685 6274
 Website: swa.unescap.org | E-mail: sswa.unescap@un.org





