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## **SOUTH CAUCASUS STATES KEEN TO CASH IN ON CHINA'S, INDIA'S TRANSPORTATION EXPANSION**

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By Aslan Doukaev

With the emergence of China and other manufacturing powerhouses in Asia that constantly seek access to new markets, the Caucasus has become attractive as a transit route for the movement of goods between the two parts of the Eurasian continent. Georgia (and by extension Armenia) have a historic chance to capitalize on this economic reality.

In early September, the government of the Republic of Georgia embarked on a major infrastructure project to upgrade the motorway that connects the country with the Russian Federation. The project envisages the construction of a two-lane asphalt-concrete road, five bridges, five tunnels and the rehabilitation of one bridge, the minister of regional development and infrastructure, Irakli Karseladze, said in a Facebook post (Facebook.com, September 10). The centerpiece of the project, a nine-kilometer-long tunnel that will cut through the Jvari mountain pass, is set to become the longest in the country, according to the minister. [...]

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