

Session Name	Roundtable on “Synergies in Services in South Asia”
Speaker / Panelist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nawaz Rajabdeen, Country Director – Sri Lanka, UNIDO & Executive Committee Member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Sri Lanka) • Mr Saimuddin Pasarly, Advisor, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) (Afghanistan) • Mr Jahangir Bin Alam, Secretary & CEO, India Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bangladesh) • Mr Tandin Wangchuk, Vice President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) (Bhutan) • Mr R B Rauniar, Member, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) & Managing Director of Interstate Multimodal Transport Pvt Ltd (Nepal) • Ms Sangeeta Saxena, Additional Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
Key data shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service sector is an important component of any country’s economy. It makes a direct and significant contribution to GDP and job creation, and provides crucial inputs for the rest of the economy, thus having a significant effect on the overall investment climate, which is an essential determinant of growth and development. • The potential of the services sector to induce growth in developing countries is great, but underutilized, often adversely affected by lacking regulation. While in the developed world this sector powers more than 70% of the economy and creates more than half of all jobs, in the developing countries its contribution tends to be substantially lower. • The services sector has grown substantially in South Asia, in terms of its contribution to total trade.
Topics covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for strengthening regulatory environment for promotion of Intra-regional services cooperation in South Asia; • Expediting SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) • Sub-Regional Approach in Service Cooperation focusing BBIN countries • Further Liberalization on Movement of People in the region and simplifying the visa process • Strengthening Cooperation in services sectors like Tourism, Education, Healthcare including Medical tourism, financial sector, Media and Entertainment. Skill Development, Energy related services, etc.

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Issues highlighted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further liberalization of visa regime • Inadequate Connectivity • Inadequate trade Infrastructure at border points • Trade facilitation and Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) • Slow progress on SATIS and Motor Vehicular Agreement (MVA) between BBIN countries
Solutions suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Connectivity by Air, road, rail and waterways • Simplified Visa process for movement of people • Need of Sub-regional approach • MVA harmonization of Axcel load of vehicles • Harmonization of SPS standards • Identifying and Promotion of Services which are cross cutting sectors • Learning of success stories in services sector in India particularly in IT and ITES, Health and Media & Entertainment • Sharing of Best practices and learning from each other

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