Defining Connectivity

“We believe in connecting ideas, knowledge, technology, culture, people, road-rail-air, movement of goods, services and investment … Physical connectivity is important in ensuring overall peace, progress and stability …”

Statement by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 18th SAARC Summit (Kathmandu, Nepal, 26 Nov. 2014)
Connectivity, as we know

- **Nature** and **Shape** of **drivers** of connectivity
  - **Trade** (production and distribution network, value chains etc.)
  - **Energy inter-change**: generation/development – transmission
  - **knowledge-based society** interactions (ICT) people-to-people exchange
Trans Asian Highway + Railway + Dry Ports: a far deeply connected world!

Why Connectivity?

- Connectivity is also an **evolving idea, process, outcome**
- Connectivity is "**flattening"** the world
- Connectivity is a cornerstone of **regional economic cooperation and integration**
  - most connected countries/regions **benefit from increased GDP growth** e.g. up to 40%+ more than the least connected countries.
  - Global (**trade** - **people** - **finance** - **data**) flows **add additional $250 – $400 billion (15% - 25%) to global GDP** each year.

- Connectivity, along with trade facilitation, significantly **enhances regional trade**, primarily by reducing transportation time and cost
  - **fast rising Global flows provide Companies with new ways** to put their assets to further productive use (**Value and Supply Chains**).
### Why Connectivity? contd.

- Develop **trust, understanding** among and within societies
- Nurture **ideas** and **knowledge**
- Promote **culture** and related **heritage**
- Advance **peoples’ interaction** among and within sub-region(s)
- Propagate **science – technology – innovation**

Deepens multifarious links and networks to facilitate socio-economic interactions

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### Connectivity - Mobility – Business nexus

- *connectivity* and *mobility* are changing fast e.g. regional or, global businesses are increasingly **Global Supply Chain -centric** than State or, economy centric:
  - facilitating **efficient interfacing** of various *processes of production and segments* within regional/global value chains
  - increasing *mobility* of all economic inputs & factors
  - **business** ask more for **social and cultural capital** of people!
Migration and mobility:  
Address contradiction/tensions in global economic systems where all factors of production are mobile except human.  
⇒Affects productivity, consumer gains and well-being

If we are to achieve sustainable development and maintain peace and stability, then mobility needs to be factored into our hyper-connected world