



# "South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward"



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India, addressing the inaugural session at RIS@40 conference.

RIS is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. To mark this momentous milestone several high-level conferences and events are being planned. In this regard, a mega Conference on "South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward" was organized on 9-10 December 2023 in New Delhi. In these four decades, RIS has evolved into a powerhouse of intellectual contributions, playing a pivotal role in shaping regional cooperation, global South leadership, and sustainable development. In the inaugural session, the guests and dignitaries reflected on the organization's impactful endeavours, collaborative

partnerships, and its commitment to fostering meaningful connections for the greater good of South Asia and beyond. RIS aimed to embark on this celebration with a shared vision for a more connected, integrated, and prosperous future.

The session was chaired by Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India. Hon'ble Minister stated that, as RIS celebrates its 40th anniversary, it stands as a dynamic organization offering valuable support to the Ministry of External Affairs. The significant work and inputs provided by RIS, along with its

network of regional think tanks, play an important role in policy-making in the South Asian region. She mentioned that, South Asia is deeply rooted in culture and history and RIS, with its initiatives, serves as a bridge, connecting nations based on shared ethos, values, and civilization. In the face of evolving technology and geopolitical changes that may create distance, RIS acts as an important actor in enriching connectivity, contributing collectively to the well-being and welfare of the people. She stressed that beyond cultural connectivity, there is a crucial need to focus on features that contribute to the overall well-being of the

RIS Diary  
— Research shaping the development agenda





efforts contribute to the economic and infrastructural aspects of connectivity, there is an equally important need to invest in cultural connectivity. Initiatives such as student exchange programs, and collaboration between universities and colleges can strengthen people-to-people connections.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS opened the



President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta delivered keynote address. Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey,

extended South Asian family. The movement of people and goods is a critical aspect of connectivity, and RIS has demonstrated its commitment through workshops on these subjects.

In addition to connectivity, RIS has conducted in-depth research on vital matters such as tax, trade, and economic-financial linkages, providing valuable insights for informed decision-making. She emphasised that, while these



session by his welcome remarks and highlighting the 40 years of RIS journey as a think tank of the Global South.

In the inaugural session special remarks were delivered by Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh and Dr Paras Kharel, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. Professor Tetsuya Watanabe,



UNICEF Representative to India delivered guest remark.

Two commemorative volumes by RIS were also launched along with Volume published jointly by RIS and UNICEF. *Volume I: on Four Decades of RIS: Vision and Evolution* has contributions from former



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## Advancing India's Act East Policy

RIS partnered with the Centre for Myanmar Studies, University of Manipur, for organizing a day long special seminar on Advancing India's Act East Policy on 23 December 2023, at the University of Manipur, Imphal. The first part of the seminar was close door Roundtable on "Economic Development and Cross-border Trade in North East: Strengthening Research and Policy Action" held at the Committee Room of the Vice-Chancellor's Secretariat, Manipur University. The second part of the seminar was open for wider participation and was titled "Special Seminar on Advancing India's Act East Policy and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" organized at the Court Hall of Manipur University.

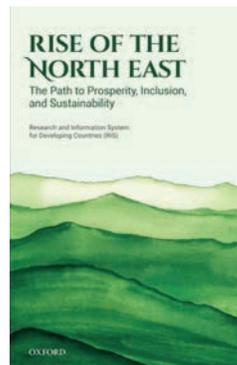
Deliberations in both the sessions were led by Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. He was joined by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Professor Naorem Lokendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University.



The seminar brought together eminent academics and research scholars from across North Eastern States as part of the North East Training, Research and Advocacy

Foundation (NETRA) which has been a premier platform nurtured and supported by RIS since 2018.

In guiding the roundtable discussion, Hon'ble MOS highlighted the potential of North East to be developed by focusing on MSMEs, tourism, health, etc. He mentioned the tremendous progress made in connectivity in recent years with 19 fully functional airports and potential for inland waterways. Development of North East needs to be prioritized for India's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He discussed the possibilities of enhancing cross-



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*Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India launched the RIS Volume on North East.*

# Global Alliance Launched to Accelerate Research And Innovation



India's G20 Sherpa, Shri Amitabh Kant with the distinguished guests at the launch of GALERI.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), in collaboration with G20 Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Republic of Indonesia organized a two-day 'Global Summit on LiFE Economy: From Principles to Action' on November 26-28, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Impact Hub and Fourth Sector Group collaborated in organizing this Summit.

The Summit was graced by the presence of India's G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant; Indonesian Ambassador to India H. E. Ina Hagniningtyas Krishnamurthi; India's G20 Sous-sherpa Mr Abhay Thakur; Assistant Administrator

of the Bureau for Asia USAID Mr Michael Schiffer; OECD Sherpa Dr Andreas Schaal; Cuban Ambassador to India H. E. Alejandro Simancas Marin; UNDP Resident Representative India Ms Isabelle Tschan; Director New Economies at the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign trade Government of Brazil Mr Lucas Ramalho Maciel and many eminent thinkers, policy makers, and industry and civil society practitioners.

The Summit brought together experts and practitioners from around the world to explore LiFE Economy pathways as a new development paradigm and the role of values frameworks and ethical norms for sustainable lifestyles. It deliberated on interrelated areas around Sustainable Consumption & Production, Sustainable Food Systems, Climate and Biodiversity, Integrated & Holistic Health Systems

and Women-led Development, to address critical challenges facing the G20 and other nations. Further, issues around creating opportunities for harnessing and enabling the LiFE Economy by reforming Development Finance & Global Financial Architecture, Transforming Trade and Value Chains and ushering New Measurement Paradigms were discussed. The Summit concluded with actionables for promoting and encouraging global growth of the LiFE Economy which is pro-planet and people and sustainable.

A new global coalition was launched on the occasion to accelerate research and innovation to grow economies that are more socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable was launched at the Inaugural by India's G20 Sherpa. The new coalition called GALERI (Global Alliance for Life Economies Research and Innovation), would conduct

research, generate knowledge, and convene stakeholders under a common vision of a world in which economic systems leave no one behind and serve life on earth in all its forms.

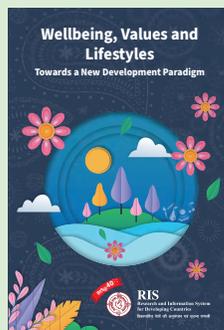
At the launch of GALERI, India's G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant said: "The launch of GALERI today is a proud moment for India's G20 Presidency. It has become clear, because of environmental degradation and other crises, that we need to re-orient our national economies and our global economy, towards sustainability and the prioritisation of all life. The G20 under India's leadership has taken important decisions, and I'm delighted that we have assembled a coalition of researchers and practitioners from around the world, including from multilateral organizations such as the OECD and United Nations, that will advance this through research and innovation."

Ms Maria del Pilar Garrido Gonzalo, Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate said that GALERI would help to advance research on innovative finance for sustainable development and how we can reduce the growing SDG Financing gap, including by supporting developing countries in overcoming bottlenecks to SDG finance. We are excited to be partnering with India, Brazil, the UN, the Fourth Sector Group in this research endeavour.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) said: "The launch of GALERI is recognition of the need to move from 'principles to action' through fostering engagement, coordination and collaboration among a committed global community of think tanks,

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## Wellbeing, Values and Lifestyles, Towards a New Development Paradigm



This book is born out of the collective efforts of insightful scholars and thought leaders, who embark on a journey to explore and articulate a groundbreaking concept – LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment. LiFE is more than a concept; it is a clarion call for a profound reorientation in our individual and collective behaviours, weaving together sustainability, ethics, and wellbeing into the fabric of our economic models. It serves as a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted dimensions that LiFE encompasses, evolving from a grassroots behavioural movement to a visionary economic model.

The volume unfolds the narrative of LiFE's journey, from its roots in India to its embrace by the G20 as a core area for reforming development pathways. As you traverse through these chapters, you will encounter the interconnected facets of LiFE; first, addressing the urgent need for sustainable consumption and production, second, ethical foundation and value system for LiFE, third, new modalities for systemic transformation, fourth, financing resilient infrastructure, and fifth, innovative approaches to measuring wellbeing beyond GDP. The contributors delve into the core principles of LiFE, emphasising ethical values, social enterprises, technology, finance, and international cooperation as pivotal elements in this transformative paradigm.

Moreover, the narrative expands to underscore the role of LiFE in accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At a critical juncture where the world grapples with the alarming pace of climate change, rising inequality, and the need for an ethical reformation of global relations, LiFE emerges as a practical pathway toward a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future. ■



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border trade, border HAATs etc. and called for achievement of the SDGs. Senior experts from the region deliberated on various issues related to SDGs and sustainable development in North-East; economic development and cross-border trade; and localization of development and community led development. Apart from specific areas of agriculture, industry, tourism, trade, infrastructure, additional issues of recognising women-led development, data and capacities were also discussed.

Hon'ble, MOS also released RIS volume titled *"Rise of the North East – The Path to Prosperity, Inclusion and Sustainability"* Published by Oxford

University Press. In his address to the audience Hon'ble MOS shared important perspectives on unique natural resource endowment of the North East and progress made in terms of significant economic expansion in the recent years indicating most crucial aspirational region of India. Development of the North East is part of national goal of Viksit Bharat and the Vision of Amrit Kaal. He suggested that North East should emerge as the growth engine and close the gap with other parts of India and has abundant resources and promising talent along with the fact that North East is at the forefront of women led development. Hon'ble MOS appreciated the RIS efforts in

focusing on issues of importance for the North East and the role of NETRA. He also announced more formal collaboration and memorandum of understanding between RIS and Centre for Myanmar Studies, Manipur University.

Apart from invited academics and scholars from various North Eastern states, the seminar was attended by faculty members and students from the Manipur University, local media and business persons. During the interactive session several participants posed key questions and highlighted pertinent issues that led to immense success of the event. ■

## How to Make Trade Procedures more Efficient for Analysing FTAs

RIS organized a day long consultation on "How to make Trade Procedures more efficient for Analysing FTAs", on 26 December 2023. The idea was to focus on relevance of trade data that would provide useful inputs for negotiations and trade facilitation measures including sustainability and standard related measures. The cross border carbon tax of EU was discussed at length. Need for deep study on Sustainability and Trade linkages was emphasised. This may have implications for auto sector exports which may get affected by 15 to 16 per cent with new sustainability standards coming up. Rules of Origin, lack of data to analyses FTA utilisation and import of electric vehicles also came up as a concern in the discussions. At the domestic level, India has to address detailed reporting on HS 8-digit data; capacity building measures for coping up with new standards which were identified as priority area for



action. Trade related infrastructure like laboratories, modernize ICPs would require greater attention as new approach on FTAs is bringing in fresh dynamism in India's trade policy.

The consultation was chaired by Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Mr. Pranav Kumar, Vice President, Reliance Industries Limited, Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, UN ESCAP, Dr Pritam Banerjee, Professor and Head,

Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER, Mr Shashank Priya, Member Customs, Mr. Ajay Srivastava, Founder, GTRI, Mr. Atanu Ganguli, Deputy Executive Director, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers and Ms Pooja Nagpal, Executive Officer, SIAM participated to share their insights on the theme. Senior Faculty members from RIS were also present. ■

### South Asian Integration....

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Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Director Generals of RIS including, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Ambassador Shyam Saran, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Prof V.R. Panchmukhi, among other eminent personalities. *Volume II: discusses Conceptual and Methodological Contributions* developed by RIS in the last 40 years. This includes Basic Needs Index, Effective Rate of Protection, SDGs Gap Index, Development Compact, Access, Equity and Inclusion for STI, among others. The RIS-UNICEF Volume titled *Investing in Early Years in Human Capital for Future Resilience: For an Inclusive and Equitable World* discusses the role of early childhood care, was jointly published by RIS and UNICEF.

The speakers emphasised RIS role is not just as a think tank but as a catalyst for collaboration, RIS focus on South Asian integration and collaboration with organizations like UN and its agencies, CPD, SAWTEE, SDPI and ERIA underscores the importance of regional cooperation. Speakers urged nations, organizations, and individuals to actively engage in shaping the future of South Asia through shared efforts, common policies, and integrated strategies.



The Plenary Session I on 'Macroeconomy and Economic Resilience in South Asia' discussed many

challenges at country level and their regional spillover such as fiscal deficit, increase in debts, terms of debts, aging population, low fertility rates, demography pressures, women labour force participation, export dependence, upgrading domestic value chains, etc. The Plenary Session II on 'Trends in Trade and Investment Integration in South Asia', highlighted experiences in regional, sub-regional, and bilateral cooperation within South Asia. These encompass initiatives like SAFTA implementation challenges, emphasis on sub-regional projects, sector specific strategies, leveraging digital connectivity, and recognizing



the potential for North-East development linked to regional integration and infrastructure. It also assessed emerging challenges and new opportunities including GVCs and discussed global uncertainties and implications for South Asia.

Moving further, 'Special Session on Evolution and Experiences of Regional Cooperation in South Asia' which was addressed by Professor Deepak Nayyar, Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor Muchkund Dubey, and Ambassador Shyam Saran. The session traced the evolution of regional cooperation in South Asia during the last five decades. The eminent speakers highlighted the key initiatives, stakeholders and priority areas

that have hitherto encompassed regional cooperation in the region. They emphasised that South Asia had immense commonalities in terms of history, culture, and people. South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) board meeting was also organized on the sidelines of the event, where members discussed ways and initiatives to enhance regional cooperation.

Three parallel sessions were organized as part of South Asia Policy Forum. The session on SDGs and social sector discussed the growing importance of tackling multidimensional poverty, interlinkages of education and health with climate change and inequality.

The session on 'Agriculture Value Chains' explored the key issues namely identification of agri-value chains and trade linkages, policy interventions, infrastructure development and facilitation, competitiveness, institutions, and entrepreneurship.



Lastly the parallel session on Women led development covered issues on participation in decision-making and leadership positions, inclusive access to employment opportunities, digital skills and financial literacy, and investment in Care Infrastructure.

This was followed by Plenary Session 3 on Connectivity and Trade Facilitation for an Integrated South

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# Asian Cooperation on Triangular Cooperation (ACTrC) - A Partnership Approach on Global Goals



*Shri Periasamy Kumaran, OSD (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, India delivering the inaugural address at the opening plenary.*

In partnership with the RIS and GPI, GIZ organised 1st Asian Conference on Triangular Cooperation (ACTrC). The conference was held on 2-3 November, 2023 at New Delhi. The aim of the conference was to foster a dialogue on Triangular Cooperation (TrC) and identify challenges and develop a roadmap for TrC to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference, the first of its kind, discussed this growing development cooperation modality where a developed country and a developing country join hands with their respective expertise to implement developmental projects in third developing countries. All the three partners in this modality contribute equally with their respective needs, experiences, funds and technical assistance capacities. Triangular cooperation circumvents the North-South barriers of traditional development

cooperation and learning from the increasing South-South cooperation among developing countries, provides a new form of international collaboration aimed at capturing the best of the existing modalities. More than a hundred decision makers, experts, practitioners, and academia involved in triangular cooperation participated in the conference from across the world. Scores participated online in this conference held in a hybrid mode. Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare representing RIS, Ms. Geovana Zoccal representing GPI, and Mr Julius Spatz representing German Cooperation were enthused by the full house attending the conference with TrC project partners from Asia, Africa and Latin America and several experts joining in the discourse.

Experts deliberated on issues related to poverty, hunger and inequality, triangular partnerships

for sustainable rural development, vocational training to reduce inequalities, empowerment of women and youths including women entrepreneurship, sustainability, Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) economy and biodiversity. The discussion also explored the need of scaling up triangular cooperation and finance for TrC.

Mr Periasamy Kumaran, Secretary In-charge of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs of India, in his address at the inaugural session lauded the recent triangular cooperation initiatives undertaken by India and Germany in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi and Peru, catalysed by the Indo-German cooperation mechanism, as successful examples of jointly designed and implemented projects to achieve sustainable development and climate goals in partner countries. He indicated that several more initiatives as per interest shown by other developing countries are in the pipeline, including a millets-based project in Africa.

Germany is a trusted friend in this Indian endeavour aimed at the Global South, he said, and appreciated that Germany understands the Indian philosophy on development cooperation based on the comfort and desire of respective partner developing countries. Triangular cooperation is an important vector in India's development cooperation, he added.

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# The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and the Emerging World Order

RIS, in collaboration with Anna University, Chennai organised a one-day seminar on "The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and the Emerging World Order" on November 15, 2023 at Anna University, Chennai. The seminar aimed at spreading awareness about the success and outcome of G20 Indian Presidency among the students and preparing them for the future.

Shri R. N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, graced the occasion and shared his rich insights on key deliverables of Indian G20 presidency along with reiterating the vision of Prime Minister Modi of a developed India in 2047. Professor R. Velraj, Vice Chancellor, Anna University, delivered the Welcome Address. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered Special Address. Besides Presidential Address by the Hon'ble Governor, the day-long event had two moderated parallel sessions on specific themes like Accelerating Progress on SDGs; Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future; Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure; and Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls. Several experts presented their work in the sessions. Most interestingly, the seminar had specific sessions meant for interaction of students with the experts and among them through group discussion on the above mentioned themes.

Hon'ble Governor reiterated the success of G20 Presidency of India and shared roadmap on how to advance the achievements of Indian Presidency in India as well as during

the future developing country presidencies, Brazil and South Africa. Permanent membership of African Union (AU) in the G20 was highlighted as one of the key achievements of India's G20 presidency and its efforts in putting forth the voice of Global South. He further emphasised the critical role of Mission LiFE in climate change adaptation efforts and overall behavioural change. The Hon'ble Governor referred to the economic, social, environmental challenges that the world is facing today, such as extreme incomes inequalities between countries, terrorism, climate change, increasing frequency of natural disasters, etc. In the post-World War-II period, the world has witnessed segregation of weapons of mass destruction by the countries. Resource depletion accompanied with excessive focus on high economic growth and development has also been a major contributor to climate change. The Hon'ble Governor laid strong emphasis on need for responsible consumption, what India has conveyed through the mission LiFE under G20 Presidency, research and development in health sector while commending India's major vaccination drive and supply to the rest of the world, JAM trinity and its extended use by the masses for economic inclusion, and need to establish an equitable world order with gender equalities and better opportunities for women.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, outlined the major thrust of Indian Presidency and the strength of the outcomes in those areas. Those include

green development, LiFE, circular economy, blue economy, women-led development, One District One Product, among others. Professor Chaturvedi reiterated the success of India's G20 Presidency and its extensive outreach in around 60 cities of the country, connecting the masses including students and the youth. Indian presidency turning as People's Presidency in all its facets was specifically mentioned by him. He stressed on the fundamental focus of Indian Presidency on making global governance more participative, inclusive and how those could be translated into action domestically. He also stated that when the world was grappling through global supply chain disruptions, India managed to keep its economy relatively stable and its central bank, RBI, did not increase interest rate that paved the way for giving new impetus to an inclusive economic growth. Professor Chaturvedi suggested some key areas from G20 presidency that could be explored by the students and academia such as, Sustainable consumption and production; Contributions of social enterprises and introduction of social stock exchange; access to credit at affordable rates, importance of ethics in the areas of technology, businesses etc.; Measurement of economy beyond GDP; and aspects of blue economy and strengthening maritime security and management.

The Parallel session had experts talk under the themes of sustainability, digital infrastructure and empowerment. Session-A on 'Accelerating Progress on SDGs'

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## 50th STIP Forum Public Lecture

## From Developing India@75 to Developed Bharat@100: Vision and Roadmap for STI during Amrit Kaal

The 50<sup>th</sup> STIP Forum Public Lecture, marking the Golden Anniversary of the STIP Forum Lecture Series (running since September 2017), was delivered by Dr Ramesh Anant Mashelkar, FRS, Former Director-General, CSIR and Former President, Global Research Alliance and Indian National Science Academy, on 21 November 2023 at New Delhi. The topic of the lecture was “From Developing India@75 to Developed Bharat@100: Vision and Roadmap for Science, Technology and Innovation during Amrit Kaal”. Dr Seshardri Chari, Member, RIS Governing Council and Emeritus Professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune chaired the event. Welcome remarks were delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS. Mr Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre, shared his brief opening remarks while Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI delivered the concluding remarks.

In his extremely insightful and inspiring lecture, Dr Mashelkar covered a whole gamut of issues ranging from access and equality to pole-vaulting and exponential growth and situated the key role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in all of this. He pondered over the question of whether we can create the magic of access and equality despite the prevailing income inequality; and then he went on to argue that it is very much possible with the development and diffusion of innovative technological solutions. Dr Mashelkar alluded to the model of his Gandhian Engineering wherein through the mantra of MLM (More from Less



for More), such miracles have been made possible in our lives. He cited the development of high quality Hepatitis B vaccine, cataract eye surgery, open heart surgery and artificial foot at 40X, 100X, 20X and 300X cheaper rates respectively, in India using the principle of MLM. While referring to the Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Awards, he highlighted several innovative technological products that have been developed by the winners, particularly in the field of affordable healthcare.

Dr Mashelkar exhorted for the imperative for India to make efforts to escape the middle-income trap, and held declining competitiveness, stagnating innovation, low productivity and institutional inefficiencies, as four responsible reasons. He proposed the idea of going from “leapfrogging to pole-vaulting” towards exponential growth to achieve this. He cited the

examples of exponential growth in mobile data consumption, real-time transactions, and LED penetration that has taken place in India is just last 8 years! He alluded to the Indian Innovation Combinatorial i.e. JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile), wherein technology, policy and system delivery innovation, all came together to ensure the financial inclusion of millions of Indian at a record short time period. He further highlighted the outstanding role of Indian science and innovation in developing and administering more than two billion COVID-19 jobs in just 18 months.

While dwelling into the question of what would be the technological landscape for Bharat@100, Dr Mashelkar stated that technology will continue to change the world and we must make sure that it helps us to build Atmanirbhar Bharat@100 with Atmavishwas. For this to take place, he put forward some fundamentals which comprised of tenets such as expansion, inclusion, excellence, speed, scale, sustainability, digitalisation, decentralisation, decarbonisation, talent, technology, trust and above all, inspiration.

He expressed that India does have the advantage of demography, diversity and democracy, and this must be leveraged optimally. In his concluding remarks, Dr Mashelkar mooted seven salient features as his vision for Bharat@100 namely संतुलित (Balanced), सुसंस्कृत (Cultured), सुविध (Educated), समृद्ध (Rich), सुशासित (Well Governed), सुरक्षित (Secured) and स्वानंदी (Happy) Bharat. ■

## Policy Dialogue on UNDP's *Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report 2024: Strategies and Insights for India*



Under realities of post-Covid impact and subsequent developments affecting progress of the SDGs globally, India provided significant leadership in placing Agenda 2030 at the heart of the G20 agenda during its presidency and built consensus on a new Action Plan for accelerating the SDGs supported by transformative frameworks like LiFE (lifestyles for environment), DPI (digital public infrastructure) and women-led development among others. In this context, a panel discussion was organised on 13 December 2023, at New Delhi to discuss the recently launched *Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report 2024* and its relevance for localization and acceleration of the SDGs in the region.

The Session was opened by welcome remarks by Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Resident Representative,

UNDP India. She stated that over the past two decades, Asia Pacific region has witnessed remarkable progress emerging as powerhouse contributing 35 per cent of global GDP. Approximately 1.5 billion people escaped poverty in the region, in India 250 million escaped Multidimensional Poverty since 2005.

This was followed by presentation on UNDP's *Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report 2024* by Mr. Christophe Bahuët, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Director, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP. Moving further, Interactive Panel Session was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Dr Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM); Ms. Yamini Aiyar, CEO, Centre for Policy Research, and Prof. Pinaki

Chakraborty, Vice-Chairman National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) delivered their insightful remarks. The speakers highlighted issues related to finance for local governance, the need for decentralized approach, and set the agenda for local governments. They also discussed role of women and female labor force participation for an inclusive and sustained growth.

During Q&A session participants and speakers reflected on specific themes and insights captured in the report and issues that emerged from the discussion, particularly urbanization, youth employment and just transition. Closing remarks was delivered by Ms. Amee Misra, Senior Economist, UNDP India, where she summarized the sessions deliberations and thanked the host, co-host, speakers, and participants. ■

## G20 Development Agenda

# FinTech, Digital Transformation and Business Prospects

RIS, in collaboration with Dyal Singh College, Delhi University, organised a National Conference on “G20 Development Agenda: FinTech, Digital Transformation and Business Prospects; Heading towards Sustainable & Inclusive World” on November 30, 2023 at New Delhi. It aimed at sharing the broader aspects of India’s G20 Presidency with special focus on LiFE, Ethics & Sustainable Business; Digital Public Goods for Accelerating SDGs; and FinTech and Financial Inclusion with the students of Commerce and other disciplines of the college.

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India graced the occasion virtually and shared his ideas of engaging the youth of India in innovative business practices and contributing to the Hon’ble Prime Minister Modi’s vision of a developed India by 2047. He also reiterated India’s emergence as the third largest economy of the world in the next few years. Professor V. K. Paliwal, Principal, Dyal Singh college in his welcome address highlighted the college’s efforts in shaping young minds and importance of sustainability in businesses and economic activities. Dr P. K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS outlined five key outcomes of India’s G20 Presidency that include vision of alternative development paradigm through LiFE, reform of multilateral development banks, India’s adoption of digitalisation, widespread use of UPI, its role in

economic inclusion and promoting millets, and inclusion of African Union as permanent member of G20. Professor Dhananjay Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Delhi Teachers University, stressed upon the role of youth in nation building keeping in mind India’s ambition of developed India in 2047 and the evolving geopolitical environment. He also underscored the importance of proper education and historical perspectives on growth of the education sector.

First session on ‘LiFE, Ethics & Sustainable Business’, chaired by Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya, deliberated upon the issues of LiFE as a transformative force for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts and overall behavioural change. India advocated strong commitment of the Global South through LiFE for just transition and climate adaptation. Dr Dheeraj Mittal and Mr Ahsish Kumar shared their perspectives as the panelists. There is a need to pay attention to sustainable production and consumption (SCP). Businesses also need to respond to SCP by adopting sustainable business practices while exploring avenues for expansion and integration with global value chains.

Second session on ‘Digital Public Goods for Accelerating SDGs’, chaired by Ms Navneet Manav, discussed the benefits and complexities of digital transformation, models of digital public infrastructure and digital public goods built on

them, its adaptability and role of digitalisation in sustainable development of industry. Professor Rajat Kathuria and Dr Mansi Kedia shared their ideas as the panellists. The panel also discussed role of technology in education, health, particularly during covid pandemic and addressed concerns over AI as a threat to employment. Importance of public-private partnership and government support to enhance DPI was highlighted. The speakers emphasised upon the need for ethical considerations in digital development, particularly in terms of resource allocation, market behaviour, and digital access distribution.

The final technical session on ‘FinTech and Financial Inclusion’, chaired by Mr Ashish Kumar, focusing on digitalisation enabling financial inclusion and promoting welfare of self-employed women, the role of local champions (digital sakhis), and the transformative impact of fintech on the financial landscape. Ms. Sonal Sharma and Dr. Priyadarshi Dash presented their views on the progress of financial inclusion in India and the emerging trends. Fintech, specifically AI based financial technology is projected to reach 1.5 trillion globally by 2030. India, being the forerunner in fintech adoption at 89 per cent, is poised to contribute significantly, reaching 13 per cent of the global fintech market. The role of local champions in promoting digital literacy and

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inclusion among self-employed women was acknowledged and need to explore innovative solutions to address the lack of smartphone access among women entrepreneurs was emphasized. The panel also discussed transformative impact of fintech in providing accessible loans through digital platforms. Need to encourage policies that foster responsible fintech growth while addressing concerns related to digital payment safety and financial literacy was also highlighted. The panel was concluded by laying importance and limitation of microfinance loans in setting up of

the businesses but at the same time limiting the entrepreneurs to 1 lakh hinders the growth and expansion of their enterprise should be reformed to support and empower self-employed women entrepreneurs.

The conference featured four compelling paper presentations on the themes of inclusive development through social entrepreneurship, skill development, sustainable investment, and the analysis of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) influence on India's manufacturing and service sectors. Professor Rakesh Sinha, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, addressed the students in the valedictory

session. He emphasized on the focus areas of G20 New Delhi Summit and stressed on the importance of India's G20 presidency theme, i.e. *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family- One Future*. He further shared the success of G20 under India's leadership. Advocate Ms Monika Arora highlighted inclusivity of Indian Constitution and its reflections during India's G20 Presidency and messages from Swami Vivekanand on facing and addressing every situation, irrespective of how tough and harsh situations may arise. ■

## LiFE and the Global Agenda: G20 and COP28 Sustainability Link

RIS organized a special lecture at Amity University, Dubai, UAE, on 6 December 2023. The programme titled 'LiFE and the Global Agenda: G20 and COP28 Sustainability Link,' was organized to coincide with India's assumption of the G20 Presidency and aimed to promote the principles of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) among the youth, students, and the academic community worldwide on the sidelines of COP28 summit.

The primary objective of the event was to spread awareness about the importance of LiFE, highlight the success of the G20, and emphasize the significance of sustainability within the context of COP28. The special lecture sought to engage the academic community and youth in a dialogue that not only educated but also inspired action towards a more sustainable future.

Ambassador Manjeev Puri and Mr Nicolas Buchoud, an esteemed expert in the fields of G20 and COP, delivered the Special Lecture,



that aimed to provide students with valuable insights and foster a deeper understanding of the connections between LiFE, the G20 agenda, and the sustainability goals of COP28.

Ambassador Manjeev Puri and Mr Nicolas Buchoud effectively communicated the role of lifestyle choices in environmental sustainability, connecting it to the broader global agenda set by the G20 and COP28. The engaging session provided students with a holistic perspective on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in

achieving a sustainable future. The Q&A session that followed allowed students to actively participate and seek clarifications on various aspects of the global initiatives discussed. This interactive engagement further enriched the learning experience and encouraged critical thinking among the attendees. The collaborative efforts of RIS and Amity University, Dubai, contributed significantly to the ongoing discourse on sustainable development and the role of youth and academia in shaping a more sustainable future. ■

### Global Alliance Launched...

*Continued from page 5*

governments, international organizations, philanthropy, business and civil society. I am sure this collaborative effort will lead to finding alternative pathways for promoting LiFE Economy that promotes sustainability of the planet and wellbeing of the people."

Mr Heerad Sabeti, Co-founder and CEO of the Fourth Sector

Group, who played a key role in supporting the Indian G20 Presidency to launch GALERI said "Achieving a holistic approach to development, as advocated by G20 Leaders, requires a transition towards 'Life Economies' –economic systems in which production, consumption, finance, employment and other economic activities not

only minimize harm but advance social and environmental objectives, delivering inclusive growth, inter-generational equity, and a thriving environment that nurtures biodiversity. We hope the coalition will continue to grow over the next few months as we investigate how this shift to Life Economies is already happening in many places." ■

### Asian Cooperation on Triangular Cooperation...

*Continued from page 8*

Germany's Ambassador to India H.E. Mr Philipp Ackermann in his address at the inaugural session traced his commitment to triangular cooperation to his days in Afghanistan when in 2006-07 he was part of efforts undertaken with India to deliver development projects in Afghanistan. He highlighted two key positives in engaging India as a pivotal partner in such cooperation in third countries. First, India's strong development history accompanied by its more recent role as a powerful emerging market inspires trust in its development initiatives with its success in several fields. Second, even with geopolitics getting more and more difficult, India's masterly negotiations towards a successful outcome during its G 20 Presidency makes India ideally suited for Germany to take its triangular cooperation operations forward.

Furthermore, the conference opened up avenues for a continued dialogue as we march towards strengthening triangular cooperation for the achievement of Agenda 2030. This was underlined by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi in his remarks. He emphasised the five facets of LiFE:

- The idea of development, the definition of development,

and its interconnection with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG7 (affordable and clean energy), and SDG3 (good health and well-being).

- The crisis of development, addressing the dilemma of growth and development, with an emphasis on achieving growth without exacerbating inequalities. LiFE underscores the concept of trusteeship and social costs for industries.
- Access, equity, and inclusion (AEI) in financing infrastructure projects, highlighting disparities in interest rates and access to capital for different countries and companies.
- The importance of ethics in finance, reflecting the need for ethical considerations in financial practices.
- Sustainable consumption and production (SCP), focusing on the demand side of the economy. It is noted that SCP is essential for achieving SDG 12 and for promoting circular economy principles
- Eminent speakers at the conference felt that triangular cooperation is not just an option, but a dynamic strategy

to overcome obstacles and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Although still small compared to bilateral and multilateral approaches for development cooperation, triangular cooperation keeps growing globally. It offers a partnership-oriented, resilient way of implementing global goals that builds on the contributions of all, for the benefit of all. ■

## Panel Discussion on Multilateralism with special focus on WTO

RIS organized a panel discussion on Multilateralism with Special Focus on WTO on 8 November 2023. Professor Abhijit Das, International Trade Policy and WTO Expert chaired the discussion. Professor Amrita Narlikar, President German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri, Principal Adviser International Trade Policy Confederation of Indian Industry were panelists. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, also joined in the discussion. ■

**The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration....***Continued from page 9*

deliberated upon the issues of strengthening global health and implementing one health approach by Dr S. R. Rao, and importance of delivering quality education, problems faced by the students during Covid, relevance of access to technology in reducing the gap, and related challenges by Dr L. Sunganthi.

Session on 'Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future' discussed the need to implement clean, sustainable, just, affordable & inclusive energy transition by Professor R. Velraj. He also covered the financial constraints associated with adopting green technology as well as ways to adopt a sustainable lifestyle and business practices in cost-effective manner. The session also included discussion on harnessing and preserving the ocean-based economy by Dr A. Subramanyam Raju and recommendations on strengthening

maritime infrastructure and development of ports. The next session on 'Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure focused on fostering digital ecosystems, where Dr. Priyadarshi Dash presented his views on the progress of financial inclusion in India and the emerging trends, the benefits and complexities of digital transformation, models of digital public infrastructure and adaptability of digital public goods, and role of digitalisation in sustainable development of industry. Professor G. Ramesh discussed about technology innovation and inclusion, JAM trinity and highlighted key issues related to lack of digital education.

The final session on 'Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls', focused on the ways of enhancing economic and social empowerment of women. Smt. Namrata Chadha suggested

ways to promote self-reliance in women and ensuring credit access for women entrepreneurs. Dr V. Gayathri highlighted the need for creation of a working group on empowerment of women, while commending efforts of W20 engagement group and focus on women led development by Indian Presidency of G20.

There was also a Parallel group discussions by the students of university under similar themes, resulting in formation of set of recommendations from their own understanding that could foster sustainable growth and development agenda of G20.

Students participating in the group discussions and presentations were felicitated by the guests in the Valedictory Session. The seminar concluded with the delivery of vote of thanks by Professor D. L. Suganthi, Dean, College of Engineering, Anna University. ■

**South Asian Integration....***Continued from page 7*

Asia. Financing of connectivity and infrastructure projects was a major focus of this session, along with addressing concerns related to these initiatives. The session also highlighted existing gaps, presenting strategies for mitigation, and outlined the way forward in the context of connectivity and infrastructure development.

The Roundtable on Financial Sector Cooperation in South Asia, was addressed by present former head/senior officials of Central Banks in South Asia, RBI was represented by Mr T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor, RBI.

The speakers discussed the growing importance of financial

sector cooperation and new opportunities, and recent initiatives in financial sector cooperation in the region. Discussions also delved into the stability of the banking and financial sectors in the region and role in promoting inclusive development and new instruments and technology, green banking, and common currency payment system.

In the valedictory session 'RIS@40 - Reflections and Way Forward', speakers highlighted the journey of South Asian integration, noting initial resistance followed by modest movements towards integration. They also stated that despite the progress, challenges remain, particularly in advancing

the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). Speakers also emphasized the importance of fostering cultural, knowledge, and emotional connections within South Asia, establishing the region's collective identity.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS mentioned that the conference was largely an effort to bring the 'RIS family' together, which extends well beyond national borders, colleagues with whom RIS started, an opportunity to connect with our partners across borders and the neighbourhood, and reflected on how the RIS journey has evolved. ■

### Professor Sachin Chaturvedi Director General

- Chaired the Session on Trade, Technology and Industrialisation at the National Conference on Towards Industrial Transformation of India: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable, and Competitive Manufacturing Sector to Realize the 2047 Vision organised by ISID on 5 October 2023 at New Delhi.
- Addressed the closed-door Session Asia's Road to COP 28 - Pathways and Opportunities Roundtable in New Delhi, co-hosted by The Rockefeller Foundation and Sattva Consulting on 5 October 2023 at New Delhi.
- Delivered Special Address at the Inaugural Session of the 20th Globelics International Conference 2023 on Innovation - Driven Knowledge Economies and Transformation in the Global South, organized by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) on 11-14 October 2023 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Discussant at the session on Strengthening innovation ecosystems through mapping STI potentials and multi-stakeholder engagement: Case Studies and Champions at the Workshop on STI4SDGs Roadmaps and Actions in Africa, organised by DESA, @UNCC on 12-13 October 2023, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the UNICEF South Asia Fall Regional Management Team Meeting, organised by United Nations Children's Fund on 16 October 2023 at Colombo.
- Delivered Lecture on "Role of Value and Ethics in Human Well-being: Time to Go Beyond GDP" organised by IC Centre for Governance on 19 October 2023 at New Delhi.
- Moderated the Session on "Advancing the Indian G20 Outcomes: High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development" at the Annual High-level Meeting on the G20 Platform on SDGs Localisation and Intermediary Cities: Towards a Sustainable Urban Future for All organized by OECD on 26 October 2023. (Online)
- Delivered Keynote Lecture on "G20's Recommendations towards a Sustainable Future through Lifestyle for Environment and Just Green Transitions", organized by the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI) held on 23 October 2023 at Singapore.
- Delivered the Special Remarks at the Inaugural Session and Chaired the Plenary Session on R. Radhakrishna Memorial Lecture, organised by the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions on 2-4 November 2023 at Hyderabad.
- Panelist at the Global Justice Programme conference on Structural Change, organised by Yale University on 4 November 2023.
- Speaker at the First High-Level Plenary on Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity: Role of Policy at the 10th Annual Sustainability Conference 2023 on Solutions for Sustainability and Inclusivity: Policy, Innovation and Collaboration organised by the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) on 6 November 2023 at New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Financial Inclusion and Productivity Gains through Digital Public Infrastructure for Strong and Sustainable Growth: The Way Forward at the Webinar on Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth, organised by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on 6 November 2023 at New Delhi.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the Act4Earth National Dialogue on Road to Dubai: From G20 to COP28, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on 7 November 2023 at New Delhi.
- Panelist in the session on Thematic Session 3 - Reorienting MDBS to Leverage Greater Private Capital for Green Investment at the workshop on Accessing MDB and Global Finance for Development and Green Growth, organised by ICRIER in collaboration with NITI Aayog on 9 November 2023 at New Delhi.
- Panelist in the session on the T7/G7 as an Opportunity for new partnerships to Deliver on Global Sustainability Agendas at the - T7 Handover, organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute on 16 November 2023. (Online)
- Participated in the closed-door Roundtable Meeting on "Think-tanks, sustainable development brokers in a new multipolar world?" organised by the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) on 16 November 2023. (Online)
- Chaired the Session on Socio-economic Development and the Security Nexus at the Roundtable Discussion on Reconceptualising Security in the Siliguri Corridor, organised by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) on 18 November 2023 at Kurseong, West Bengal.
- Moderated the session on India's G20 Presidency: Reviving Multilateralism through Responsible Leadership at the

India Week 2023 organised by the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) on 21 November 2023. (Online)

- Panelist in the RIN Annual Meeting 2023 organised by the Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on 23-24 November 2023, Chiba, Japan.
- Panelist in the Session on Time for Africa: AU in the G20 at the Cape Town Conversations 2023, organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) on 24-26 November 2023, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Panelist at the session on Lessons Learned and Replicating Innovation Success Stories at the National workshop on Improving the Innovation Aptitude and the Performance of the States and the Union Territories also spoke at the valedictory session, organised by NITI Aayog on 6 December 2023 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on the Indo-Indonesian Geopolitics: Navigating Growth Amidst Global Challenges Jointly, organised by the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi and Habibie Centre, Jakarta on 11 December 2023 at New Delhi.
- Panelist in the session on Newly Emerging Trade Architecture in the Indo-Pacific Region at the JEF-Asia Pacific Forum 2023, organised by Japan Economic Foundation on 12 December 2023. (Online).
- Moderated the UNDP Regional Human Development Report: Policy Dialogue on the Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report 2024- Strategies/Insights for India organised by UNDP on

13 December 2023 at New Delhi.

- Delivered Special Address on “Lessons from G20 under India: The Ascent of the Global South” at the 10th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave on Building resilient Brand India amidst global uncertainty, organised by State Bank of India on 28 December 2023 at Mumbai.

### Dr Priyadarshi Dash

#### Associate Professor

- Made presentation virtually on “Regulating Fintech: Current Practices and Evolving Narratives” at the CGP Seminar organised by Centre for Global Finance, SOAS, University of London on 13 December 2023.
- Joined as panelist in two Action Labs of Global LiFE Summit on “Policy and Regulation” and “Reforming Development Finance & Global Financial Architecture” organised by RIS in New Delhi on 26-28 November 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the workshop on ‘Accessing MDB and Global Finance for Development & Green Growth’ organised by NITI Aayog and ICRIER in New Delhi on 9 November 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the session on “India-AU Collaboration on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure” at the NITI Aayog-ORF High Level Workshop on ‘Inclusive G20-The Africa Dimension’ held in New Delhi on 1 November 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the session on “Fintech and Financial Inclusion” at the National Conference on ‘G20 Development Agenda: FinTech, Digital Transformation and Business Prospects, Heading towards Sustainable & Inclusive

World’ organised by Dyal Singh College (Delhi University) and RIS on 30 November 2023.

- Joined as panelist in two sessions of South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) Summit on “Value Chains and FDI” and “Macroeconomic Cooperation and the Possibility of a Common Currency” held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 4-5 November 2023.
- Made presentation on “Fintech and Financial Inclusion” at the 20th Globelics International Conference held at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram on 11-14 October 2023.

### Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan

#### Visiting Fellow

- Participated in as Speaker for the session on "Science Diplomacy and the Asia Pacific region-challenges and opportunities" in the International seminar on Science Diplomacy as a powerful force for National Unity and Friendship among Nations, organised by the National Science Foundation Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), 11 December 2023.
- Delivered a Lecture on Role of Emerging and Critical Technology in India and China on 21 November 2023 at Center for Chinese Studies, Chennai.
- Delivered a Lecture on India's #Science Diplomacy on 26 October 2023, Online International Course on Science Diplomacy 2023, organised by Diplo Academy, Malta.
- Chairman's introductory remarks in Seminar on Multilateralism beyond the #G20 India Summit 2023, 22 October 2023, at the Tiruvananthapuram, organised by Somaiyya and KIC, Session 4 on Economic outcomes of the G20 India summit 2023 .

## Dr P K Anand

### Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the Annual High-Level Meeting of the G20 Platform on SDGs Localisation and Intermediary Cities - G20 PLIC, held on 26 October 2023 and organized by OECD.
- Participated in the Accelerating progress on SDGs held on 6 November, 2023, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi and organized by NITI Aayog.

- Participated in the Research Seminar on 'Public Sector Performance in India and the Ongoing Contestation between Efficiency and Equity', held on 30 November 2023 organised by ISID, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Digital Twins of the Ocean - Opportunities for Future Proof Sustainable Development held on 7 December 2023 organized by The German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New

Delhi and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) New Delhi.

- Participated in the Policy Roundtable on India and the Global Economic Growth, held on 8 December 2023 organized by ISID -IGIDR, New Delhi.
- Participated in the IHD Global Conclave Advisory Committee, held on 18 December 2023 organized by IHD, New Delhi.

## BOOKS/REPORTS

- **Four Decades of RIS: Vision and Evolution** | Volume I | RIS, New Delhi, 2023
- **Four Decades of RIS: Conceptual and Methodological Contributions**, | Volume II | RIS, New Delhi, 2023
- **Wellbeing, Values and Lifestyles, Towards a New Development Paradigm**, RIS, New Delhi, 2023
- **Investing in Early Years in Human Capital for Future Resilience: For an Inclusive and Equitable World**, RIS-UNICEF, New Delhi, 2023

## JOURNALS

**Development Cooperation Review**, Vol 6, No. 4, October-December 2023

**Traditional Medicine Review**, October 2023

**Science Diplomacy Review**, Vol. 5, No. 1 & 2, August, 2023

## RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

#287: SDG Targets 2.2 and 4.2 Early Childhood Nutrition and Education: Bedrock of Life-long Equity by *Pramod Kumar Anand & Krishna Kumar*

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

#286: Financial Literacy across Different States of India: An Empirical Analysis by *Priyadarshi Dash & Rahul Ranjan*

#285: Promoting Districts as Export Hubs in the Export Policy India's Experiment with The One District One Product Programme by *Pankhuri Gaur*

## AIC COMMENTARIES

- No. 45: *Indo-ASEAN Cooperation for Facilitating Just Green Transition* by Anshuman Gupta, November 2023
- No. 44: *43rd ASEAN Summit: Key Takeaways* by Sampa Kundu, October 2023
- No. 43: *Decarbonizing Transport Sector: Prospects of ASEAN-India Collaboration* by Pradeep Karuturi, Rohan Malhotra and Perminder Jit Kaur, September 2023

## Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2023. "India's G20 Presidency: Pushes Global Economy, Ensures Space for Global South". *Foreign Affairs Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 3-4, July-December 2022, P. 146-157.

Chaturvedi, S., Kumar, A., & Saha, S. 2023. "COVID-19 Pandemic and the Emergence of Integrated Innovation System". In *Reimagining Innovation Systems in the COVID and Post-COVID World* (pp. 104-120), by Singh, Lakhwinder; and Joseph, K J (Eds). Routledge India.

De, Prabir and Tuhinsubhra Giri. 2023. "India-Japan Trade and Investment Relations: Emerging Trends", in Nutan Kapoor Mahawar and Jojin V. John (eds.) *70 Years of India-Japan Diplomatic Relations: Reflections and Way Forward*, KW and ICWA, New Delhi.

De, Prabir. 2023. "Regional Integration in the Bay of Bengal Region in Post-COVID-19 Period" in Lipi Ghosh and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury (eds.) *India's Relations with Neighboring South and South East Asian Countries: Perspectives on Look East to Act East Policy*, Springer, Singapore.

De, Prabir and Temjen Ao. 2023. (eds.) *Geopolitical Shifts and Opportunities: New Horizons in India-Southeast Asia Relations*, KW and ICWA, New Delhi. Also De, Prabir and Tuhinsubhra Giri, "Charting the New Agenda of ASEAN-India Cooperation" in the same volume.

De, Prabir. 2023. "Accelerating Regional Cooperation in BIMSTEC", *Hindu Businessline*, 21 December.

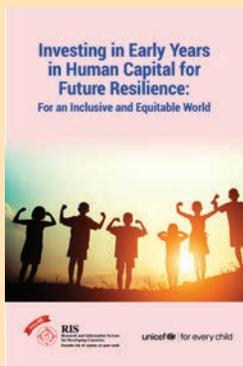
De, Prabir. 2023. "Emerging Contours of ASEAN-India

Maritime Cooperation", *East Asia Explorer*, Vol. 1, No. 10, October 2023.

De, Prabir. 2023. "Scaling up BIMSTEC", *East Asia Explorer*, Vol. 1, No. 11, November 2023.

De, Prabir. 2023. "Trilateral Cooperation between India, Korea and ASEAN", *East Asia Explorer*, Vol. 1, No. 12, December 2023

## Investing in Early Years in Human Capital for Future Resilience: For an Inclusive and Equitable World



This volume focuses on the dire need to invest in early childhood years to optimise child development, in every sphere, across the world for future economic growth. It proposes that investing in future resilience is not confined to the current child cohorts, but extends to the next generation child cohorts, equipped with higher human capital; thus today's children during the course of life can shape prosperity and resilience of their next generations.

The book argues that child development is fundamental to inclusive economic growth to create a more equitable world – in terms of child survival, well-being and in addressing social inequities. The book touches upon access, equity and inclusion in every aspect of child development through optimal investments. For inclusive human-centric development, the book addresses cross-cutting issues, be it gender and child budgeting, education, health, nutrition, effects of migration, role of IT, strengthening of rural and urban infrastructure for improving human capital, etc.

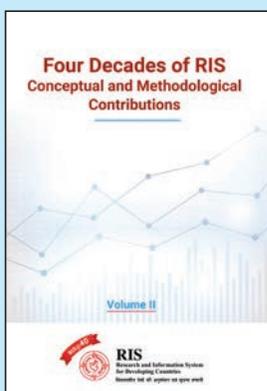
The volume gives a global evidence-based perspective on how well-designed and integrated social protection promotes equity by levelling the playing field and accelerates human development; thereby, enabling gender equality, inclusive development, and realising balanced economic growth.

India's G20 Presidency in 2023, gave a unique opportunity to draw from the Indian experience in working towards meeting these challenges, and which has resonance for other countries. The book's chapters, together tell the story of the future of the world's children, and the future of inclusive world economics, if the right investments are made, in time.

The book's 10 chapters are an important contribution to the efforts being made by countries to achieve social cohesion, gender equity, inclusive economic growth, and realise the rights of the child, in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030.

All chapters of the book contributed by eminent academicians, touch upon various aspects of the children that is crucial to address their basic needs. We hope that this book will help us to collectively aspire to the theme of India's G20 Presidency: One Earth, One Family, One Future, with the ultimate goal of better results for children now and in the years to come. ■

- **Four Decades of RIS: Vision and Evolution**  
and
- **Four Decades of RIS: Conceptual and Methodological Contributions**



To commemorate the celebration of RIS@40 two volumes have been brought out by RIS. The first volume covers the voices of those individuals who have been the guiding lights for RIS from time to time. Those include contributions by former Chairpersons, including Hon'ble Dr Manmohan Singh, Shri H.S. Puri, Ambassador Shyam Saran, Ambassador Mohan Kumar; Vice Chairpersons, including Ambassador S.T. Devare; Director Generals, including Professor V.R. Panchamukhi, Dr Nagesh Kumar and Dr Biswajit Dhar and former faculty members and other eminent persons associated with the work programmes of RIS. They have not only witnessed the evolution of RIS but have played pivotal roles in shaping its trajectory. Their stories narrate not just the history of RIS but also the broader narrative of development in the past four decades.

The second volume delves into the intellectual backbone of RIS- the conceptual framework that has guided its research endeavours over the years. RIS has consistently adapted the existing research methodologies and techniques to address the ever-evolving challenges of policy research in the realm of development. This volume offers a comprehensive exploration of these aspects, providing readers with an in-depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings that have fuelled RIS's impactful contributions. ■



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