



## Launch of South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015



Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India releasing the 'South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015'. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr. A. M. Gondane, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi and Co-chair, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India; and Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS.

RIS launched its flagship publication the 'South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015' (SADCR) in New Delhi on 25 June 2015. Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India released the Report. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the Welcome Address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi and Co-chair, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); Mr. A. M. Gondane, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to India, also made special remarks at the inaugural session. Prof. Ram Upendra Das,

RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. The event also had sessions on 'Economic Cooperation for Economic Development in South Asia' and 'New Challenges before SAARC'.

H.E. Amb. Lyonpo Dago Tshering, Former Ambassador of Bhutan to India chaired the Valedictory Session. Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University, New Delhi and Amb. Jayant Prasad were the panellists. Mr. Arvind Mehta, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. The event was attended by senior diplomats, government officials, policymakers, academicians, industry representatives and the media.

The Report offers concrete policy recommendations in several crucial areas including trade in goods, trade in services, investment, trade facilitation, connectivity, food security, energy security, climate change, science and technology, development cooperation and social infrastructure.

The dominant narrative regarding South Asia is that it is a non-performing region in the world and that trade integration in the region is low and slow. The SADCR 2015 states that this is a statistical folly. The Report emphasises that far from being a non-performing region, South Asia is today the fastest growing region in the world, led by India. This is a considerable achievement as this region was, like other regions,

*Continued on page 6...*

### Seminar on India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation

RIS, jointly with the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised a Seminar on 'Towards India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation' on 11-12 June 2015 in New Delhi. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired the Inaugural Session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, made the Special Remarks. Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. H.E. Mr. Mirzosharif Asomuddinovich Jalolov, Ambassador of Tajikistan to India; Mr. Evgeny Kablukov, Minister Counsellor, Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Sardar Shihiyev, First Secretary, Counsellor, Turkmenistan; and Mr. Gayrat Tairov, Trade and Economic Counsellor, Uzbekistan also addressed the Inaugural Session.

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) and former Ambassador to Kazakhstan chaired the first session on 'Trade and Investment Linkages'. Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Ms. Maya A. Sooronbaeva, Adviser, Public Association International Issik-Kul Forum under the name of Chingiz Aitmatov, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Mr. Ikromov Jovid Zafarovich, Senior Expert of Strategic Research Centre under the President of Tajikistan were the panellists.

Mr. Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary (ERS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India chaired the second session on 'Role of Regional and Multilateral Frameworks'. Prof. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi; Dr. Benu Schneider, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office (FfD), New York; Dr. Anuradha



*Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS making welcome remarks. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Mr. Shambhu S. Kumaran, Joint Secretary (ERS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Shri Navtej Singh Sarna, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi.*

Chenoy, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS; Dr. Laura Yerekesheva, Deputy Director, R.D. Suleimonov Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Prof. Arun Mohanty, Professor, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi were the panellists.

The third session deliberated on 'Innovation and Technology Transfer collaboration Opportunities'. Dr. Laura Yerekesheva, Deputy Director, R.D. Suleimonov Institute of Oriental Studies and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences co-chaired the session. Mr. Esenkul Momunkulov, Consultant, Serep Research Institute, Kyrgyzstan; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Mr. Abhishek Sahay, Senior Assistant Director, FICCI, New Delhi were the panellists.

Dr. Saparbayev Batyr, Head Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Turkmenistan chaired the fourth session on 'Development of

Entrepreneurial Partnerships and Agenda for Economic Development'. Prof. Sanjay Pal, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad; Dr. Suchandana Chatterjee, Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata; Dr. Manjeet Kaur, Additional Director, ASSOCHAM, New Delhi; Ms. Bobojonova Farangis Sobirovna, Expert of Academy of Science of Tajikistan; and Dr. Borjakov Maksat, Head Specialist, Institute on Research Commodity Circulation of Turkmenistan's National Goods, Turkmenistan were the panellists.

India and the Central Asian region share a long history. The closest trade and cultural links between India and Central Asia can be traced to the Indus Valley civilisation. India's close and friendly relations with the erstwhile Soviet Union enabled continuity of India's diplomatic relations with the Central Asian countries. As is well known, the Central Asian economies are rich in natural, mineral and human resources but quite diverse in terms of their stages of development. This is most evident in terms of their levels

### Seminar on India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation



*Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS speaking at the seminar. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Mr. Ikromov Jovid Zafarovich, Senior Expert of Strategic Research Centre under the President of Tajikistan and Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) and Former Ambassador to Kazakhstan.*

of GDP with Kazakhstan's GDP being US\$ 231.88 billion and Kyrgyzstan's GDP being US\$ 7.23 billion. While Tajikistan's GDP is also very low, the other two countries, viz. Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, have their GDPs in the medium range. The varying levels of development among Central Asian economies are an aspect which stands out quite clearly. However, in terms of GDP growth rates except for Kyrgyzstan the other Central Asia Region countries have recorded impressive and high growth rates in recent years.

Central Asia has gained considerable significance in India's foreign policy over the past decade due to its growing strategic importance based on factors such as India's escalating energy requirements, Central Asia's proximity to Afghanistan, and growing Chinese presence in the region. The ongoing instability in Afghanistan and its impact on regional security after the withdrawal of international troops is also a source of concern for India. As the global spotlight is now rapidly shifting towards Asia, India has to pay closer attention to the Central Asian Republics for their geo-strategic importance. Therefore, it would be in India's interest to deepen its trade and economic

linkages with the countries of this oil and mineral rich region. Therefore, there is an urgent need for commensurate efforts towards enhancing trade and investment ties with the region.

India's efforts towards exploring trade and investment opportunities and possibilities of expanding manufacturing value chain may be better served through a two pronged approach. First, by promoting bilateral and regional trade with the region and second, by expanding India's role and relevance in regional/

multilateral trade regulatory frameworks, including Shanghai Economic Cooperation, Eurasian Economic Union and others that form common platforms for India's engagement with Central Asia.

The countries of the region have already commenced the process of radically departing from the Soviet-style model of command economy and embarking on the road towards the development of the private sector. In their quest for igniting the spirit of private enterprise to lay the foundations of private sector, the countries of the region look towards India with an extremely high degree of hope and optimism because of its close and friendly relations with these countries. India can utilise this valuable window of opportunity to further deepen its presence in the region by way of sharing the technical know-how for the development of small and medium enterprises.

Critically linked to the development of industrial production base is the availability of technology and indigenous capacity of technological value addition. While the region



*Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India speaking at the seminar. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi.*

*Continued on page 10...*

### Release of Report on APEC and India

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), organised the launch function for the Report 'APEC and India: An Appraisal' authored by Ambassador V. S. Seshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS on 21 May 2015 in New Delhi. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India released the Report and made Keynote Remarks. He appreciated the Report and said, 'The report is timely, as the Indian Lion, the brand image of our flagship economic diplomacy initiative, 'Make in India', is taking purposeful strides across global economic hotspots, where it has been a roaring success!'

Mr. Sidharth Birla, Immediate Past President, FICCI & Chairman, XPRO India Limited made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made Special Remarks. Ambassador V. S. Seshadri made a presentation about the Report which was followed by open discussion. Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Coordinator



Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India releasing the Report. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Mr. Sidharth Birla, Immediate Past President, FICCI and Chairman, XPRO India Limited; Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; and Ambassador V. S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS.

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

The Report looks into prospects of India joining APEC. It highlights that it would be desirable for India to join APEC as it would provide an impetus for domestic trade and investment facilitation initiatives;

assist in familiarisation with newer issues and best practices developing in a host of areas; offer networking opportunities at official, expert, business and think tank levels; and strategically enable India to have wider options on emerging global trade governance.

### Panel Discussion on India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity

RIS organised a Panel Discussion on 'India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity' in New Delhi on 29 May 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made the Introductory Remarks. Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Chairman, Pahle India Foundation, New Delhi made a presentation on his book 'India 2050: A Roadmap to Sustainable Prosperity', which was followed by a panel discussion. The panellists included: Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development (CSD); Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, former Vice Chancellor, JNU; Mr. Manish



Dr. Ramgopal Agarwala, Chairman, Pahle India Foundation, New Delhi making the presentation about the book. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya, former Vice Chancellor, JNU; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, CSD; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

Singhal, Assistant Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI);

and Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

### Third Asia-Pacific NIS Forum on Diagnosis of NIS and Development of STI Strategies in the Open Innovation Framework

RIS collaborated with Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), New Delhi, India and National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI), Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand for organising the Third Asia-Pacific NIS Forum on 'Diagnosis of NIS and Development of STI Strategies in the Open Innovation Framework' in Bangkok, Thailand on 8-9 April 2015. In the opening session, Dr. Somchai Chatratana, Associate Professor, National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Royal Thai Government delivered the Welcome Address. Mr. Michael Williamson, Head, Asian and Pacific Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APCTT-ESCAP) and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made remarks. Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Thailand delivered the Keynote Address. Mr. N. Srinivasan, Coordinator, Science, Technology and Innovation, APCTT-ESCAP gave a background of the Forum and extended the Vote of Thanks. From RIS, Dr. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, also participated in the Forum and made a presentation on 'Open Innovation Framework as an STI Strategy'.

The programme had country presentations and panel discussions on topics including (a) International and emerging NIS diagnostic approaches, (b) Elements of national

and international STI strategies, (c) Emerging concept and business models of open technology innovation, (d) Diagnosis of NIS and development of STI strategies in the Asia Pacific (e) Challenges and opportunities in diagnosis and strategy development and (f) Development cooperation in support of NIS diagnosis and development of STI strategy.

Experts from key national institutions studying STI policies and diagnosing innovation systems in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam along with resource persons from national and international institutions participated in the Forum and shared best practices and their experiences on the selected topics of the Forum. The forum was organised for key national institutions studying and analysing

their national innovation systems. The objective of the Forum is to foster discussion and exchange experiences among national institutions who study national STI policies, diagnose innovation systems (national, subregional, sectoral) and advise on STI strategies in the context of national development goals thus supporting the policymakers to make evidence-based policy decisions.

The Forum provides a platform for experts to deliberate on the emerging concept of open innovation as an important element of STI strategy as well as South-South and regional cooperation. These deliberations are aimed to identify best practices and methodologies of NIS diagnosis in the participating countries. The open innovation approach as a national STI strategy would strengthen NIS and it could be deployed to forge regional cooperation for co-development of technologies for mutual benefit.



*Participants of the Third-Asia Pacific Forum.*

## Policy Dialogues

### Interactive Session on South-South Cooperation Strategy of UNDP

RIS organised an interactive session on 'South-South Cooperation Strategy of UNDP' with Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wag, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York in New Delhi on 14 April 2015. Ms. Nan Collins, SSC Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub at Bangkok, and Ms. Momin Jaan, Programme Officer, UNDP India Country Office also joined RIS faculty in the discussions.

### Discussion Meeting on India-Africa Economic Arrangements

RIS organised a Discussion Meeting on India-Africa Economic Arrangements (IAEA) in New Delhi on 12 June 2015. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS chaired the meeting. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made initial remarks. The main speakers in the meeting included: Mr.

Syed Akbaruddin, Joint Secretary and Chief Coordinator (IAFS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Amit Shukla, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Rohit Mishra, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS.

### RIS Breakfast Seminar Series

RIS Breakfast Seminar Series is a process meant to provide a platform to younger faculty members and early career researchers to disseminate their research findings, discuss ongoing work and receive comments/feedback from experts and peers.

Eminent scholars are also invited to this series to speak on subjects of academic and policy relevance.

The following seminars were organised under this series:

- 'Developments in Trade Theory and Practice' by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS on 7 April 2015. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired this seminar.
- 'India's Development Cooperation with Ethiopia in Sugar Production: An Assessment' by Mr. Sushil Kumar, Consultant, RIS on 5 May 2015. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS chaired this seminar.
- 'An Introduction to CGE Modelling and its Application' by Mr. Sunando Basu, Research Associate, RIS on 2 June 2015. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS chaired this seminar.

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adversely impacted by the global financial meltdown in 2008-09. Size of SAARC in terms of real gross domestic product (GDP) is larger than regional groupings like the ASEAN, Mercosur, SACU, SADC, COMESA, GCC and CARICOM. According to the Report, the current growth momentum needs to be sustained and one of the ways to achieve this is through regional trade-augmentation.

The Report also dispels misperceptions that trade integration in South Asia is low and slow. The South Asian region under the aegis of SAARC has moved much faster in this regard. Trade within the region has hovered around 5-6 per cent as a proportion of trade with the rest of the world. The fact is that the



*Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, South and South-West Asia Office, UNESCAP, New Delhi making remarks in the session on 'Cooperation for Economic Development in South Asia'. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Prof. K.J. Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development, New Delhi; Dr. Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation; Dr. S. P. Sharma, Chief Economist-Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS.*

former has been expanding at the same pace as the latter, keeping the ratio of the two constant at 5-6 per cent. In fact, the success of SAFTA

lies in the fact that the intra-SAARC trade has doubled since the region implemented the SAFTA Treaty. The intra-regional exports have increased from US\$ 10 billion in 2006 to about US\$ 22 billion in 2013.

Recent estimates suggest that the formal trade in South Asia can grow to the range of US\$ 44 billion and US\$ 66 billion by 2018 if there are full tariff liberalisation, trade facilitation and productivity improvements by member countries. According to the Report, there is enormous trade potential that remains to be tapped to the tune of US\$ 80 billion by 2018 if adequate measures on sensitive lists, relevant NTBs and completion of trade in services negotiations are ensured.

South Asia may be highly dependent on aid inflows. But this narrative is changing. Besides India, development partnerships have been initiated by Pakistan and Sri Lanka for strengthening South-South Cooperation. The Report underscores the urgent need for launching a SAARC Development Forum to discuss development issues within the region. It also forcefully underscores how S&T cooperation can be utilised for addressing emerging challenges of energy security and climate change while facilitating the transition to low carbon growth. There is also a need for the development of a SAARC Satellite, as proposed by the Prime Minister of India for providing real-time scientific data for preventing natural disasters, among other things.

The Report has focused on the theme 'Economic Integration for Peace-Creating Prosperity', which is in line with the theme of the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu (2014). The Report stresses on achieving prosperity in the region through economic integration, which in turn could be 'peace-creating' and calls for a paradigm shift in cooperative endeavours.



Mr. Arvind Mehta, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivering the Valedictory Address. Also seen in the picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University, New Delhi; H.E. Amb. Lyonpo Dago Tshering, former Ambassador of Bhutan to India and Amb. Jayant Prasad, former Ambassador of India to Nepal.

### India wants to Grow and Prosper with Neighbours: Prabhu

Launching the *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015*, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Government of India lauded RIS by characterising the Report as 'path-breaking' and 'trend-setting'. He said, "The South Asian region could cooperate in the fields of agriculture, water conservation and climate change besides trade and tourism to make the region more prosperous and inter-connected". He underlined that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region despite being home to nearly one-fourth of the world's population lacks the clout it should rightfully have.

The Hon'ble Minister further said that South Asia being predominantly agriculture-driven, the countries should focus on cooperation in this sector, especially on new seeds, less water-consuming crops and heat-resistant crops.

Besides, the countries could also cooperate in water conservation and use, the overarching issue of climate change, flood control, energy and tourism.

He pointed out that while the ASEAN region, which shares some of the rivers, has prospered, the South Asian region has not done so due to infighting. It is time to cooperate by leaving the challenges out and see the possibilities of benefits. Then, automatically they would realise that the challenges no longer exist.

Shri Prabhu also said that the region must focus on enhancing trade, which would in turn boost the GDP growth and improve the human development index of the region.

He said that India wants to be "extremely friendly towards neighbours and wants them to be equally friendly towards it". He emphasised, "We want to grow together and prosper together".

The development should be people-centric. As regards to India, we have a responsibility and we always feel we must take care of our neighbours in a way that we will take care of our brothers and sisters. We consider this as a responsibility given to us by history and also an obligation that we have taken upon ourselves and which we feel we should do to promote goodwill among the countries and in the region.

### Two Workshops on Trade Policy and Analysis

RIS supports Myanmar in Building Capacity through its capacity Building programme on Trade Policy and Analysis by organising workshops on a regular basis. Under this, RIS, jointly with the Centre for Economy, Environment, and Society (CESS), Myanmar, organised the fourth workshop at RIS from 9-13 June 2015 in New Delhi. This programme was supported by IPE Global, UK Aid-Department for International Development (DFID), Knowledge Partnership Programme and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce.

Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS welcomed and made an Introduction about the Programme. Dr. Geethanjali Nataraj, KPP IPE Global, New Delhi made the Special Remarks. Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS made the Opening Address. Mr. San Oo Maung Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar delivered the Inaugural Address on behalf of by H.E. Mr. Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in India.

The programme covered



*Participants of the Third Workshop on Trade Policy and Analysis with Faculty Members.*

various themes including Trade and Development: Theory and Policy, Trade and Investment Linkages: International and Regional Dimensions, Trade Policy, Preference Utilisation and LDCs, Dealing Non-Tariff Measures, Food Safety and Standards: Indian Experiences, Overview of Bureau of Indian Standards: Perspective on Bilateral Cooperation, Trade Negotiations: Multilateral and Regional Perspective, Trade Facilitation: Building Infrastructure at Border,

Global and Regional Initiatives in Trade Facilitation, Indian Customs, India-Myanmar Relations, and National and Regional Connectivity. The participants were also introduced to Trade Databases and Analytics.

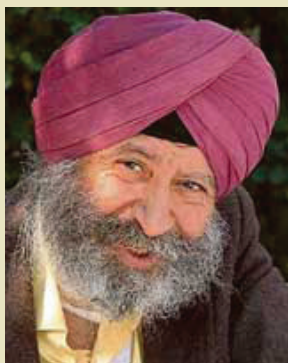
There were also special lectures on 'Transforming Connectivity Corridors between India and Myanmar into Development Corridors' by Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS and 'Building a Stronger Global Trading System' by Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, Former

*Continued on Page 15...*



*Participants of the Fourth Workshop on Trade Policy and Analysis with Faculty Members.*

## Ajit Singh: A Great Mind with Extra-ordinary Courage



The world of economics suffered a great loss with the demise of Prof. Ajit Singh on 23 June 2015. We at RIS were deeply grieved to receive the sad news of passing away of a real proponent of the cause of developing countries. RIS was honoured to have the intellectual presence and guidance of Prof. Ajit Singh in various forms including the recent one when he gave a seminar on 'Climate Change and the Premises for a New Society' on 15 November 2014 which proved to be his last one at RIS. His visit to RIS and his interactions with the faculty were a source of inspiration and stimulation.

Prof. Ajit Singh, who was Emeritus Professor at the Cambridge University and Dr. Manmohan Singh Chair Professor at the Punjab University, made fundamental academic contributions in the areas of modern business enterprise, de-industrialisation in advanced and emerging economies and globalisation of financial and product markets.

He was a pioneer in the analysis of take-overs and the structure of the modern business enterprise. He also devised the first operational definition of de-industrialisation in advanced economies and was a leading voice in the debate over the dynamics of industrialisation and financial markets in the developing world.

Prof. Singh's work on corporate behaviour resulted in two major publications, *Growth Profitability and Valuation* (1968, co-authored with Geoffrey Whittington) and *Takeovers: Their Relevance to the Stock Market and the Theory of the Firm* (1972). In these two books, he tested the work of the Cambridge economist Robin Marris, who developed upon the research of Adolf Berle and Gardiner Means corporate structure in the 1930s, by arguing that the role of disciplining corporate managers and aligning their decision-making with the welfare of shareholders would be played by the stock market alone. In other words, the market will ensure efficiency by selecting the fittest companies for survival.

Prof. Singh demonstrated conclusively that these rosy conclusions were false. By a careful empirical study of takeovers, he revealed that it is not possible to distinguish between the characteristics of acquired and non-acquired firms, moreover there is a tendency to take over smaller firms. Takeovers also lead to substantial loss of wealth for shareholders.

Later, Prof. Singh's interest in industrial structure and performance took a more macro-economic focus in the debate, stimulated initially by another Cambridge economist, Nicholas Kaldor, over the de-industrialisation of Britain. De-industrialisation had been defined as simply a declining share of manufacturing in GDP. But this is a characteristic of most advanced economies today. The concept was first given the analytical precision in Singh's path-breaking article in 1997.

In this, he defined an efficient manufacturing sector as "one which (currently as well as potentially) ... sells enough of its products abroad to pay for the nation's import requirements ... at socially acceptable levels of output, employment and the exchange rate".

Prof. Singh's analysis of the interaction across financial development, industrialisation and international competitiveness covered his subsequent research spanning a wide range of topics including the role of the state, industrial policy, structural change, competition policy, foreign aid, agriculture, basic needs, urbanisation, employment and income distribution. He considered the role of manufacturing as central to economic development and poverty reduction.

He was a prolific writer having contributed in over 250 publications; out of which there are more than a hundred refereed journal articles, an almost equal number of book chapters, 15 books and monographs and three edited volumes.

Despite being struck by Parkinson's disease in 1982, when he was just 42, Prof. Ajit Singh kept on growing in professional stature. In fact, he saw opportunity in adversity. No longer able to sleep for long hours, he chose instead to think, write and publish with a frequency much higher than before 1982. He was a Soldier not like many others from his beloved Punjab but a Soldier in real life.

While we feel sad about his absence, Prof. Ajit Singh shall live on through a vast body of profound literature which he contributed to. All members of RIS faculty join together in paying homage to him.

### Australia and India: Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Asian Economic Order

Two well-reputed Australian public policy Commentators: Mr. Rowan Callick, Asia-Pacific Editor of the Australian Newspaper and Mr. Tom Switzer, Lecturer, Politics and International Relations and Research Associate, United States Studies Centre,

University of Sydney visited RIS on 26 May 2015 to have a Roundtable discussion on 'Australia and India: Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Asian Economic Order'. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General made the initial remarks and provided his insights. He also

chaired the session. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS spoke on the issues related to important elements of the Australia-India economic relations were discussed.

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suffers from insufficient firm-level capabilities to support the creation of technological alliances and acquisition of new technologies, India's role in strengthening national innovation systems and firm level capacities through technology transfer collaborations may be highly relevant and timely.

The seminar was an initiative towards rejuvenating India's interest in the area and to make a fair and up-to-date assessment of the prospective areas of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian countries.

It focused on key themes that best capture India's opportunities in engaging with Central Asia. Under the broad themes, the seminar covered issues of promotion of bilateral and regional trade; role of regional/multilateral trade

regulatory frameworks, including Shanghai Economic Cooperation, Eurasian Economic Union and others; entrepreneurial partnership and agenda for economic development; and innovation and technology transfer collaborations.

Among other things, the seminar explored the possibility of developing a digital platform carrying statistical data and other information on Central Asian countries, which would, *inter alia*, highlight the specific areas and their potential to further strengthen India's trade and economic relations with the region. It would immensely help India's trade and industry organisations to develop a sound understanding of the benefits of engagement with these countries as it is extremely difficult to get relevant statistical information in this regard which is an imperative for deeper engagement with the region. It would also benefit a large number of

Indian start-ups, which have recently come up with a wide range of low-cost innovative technologies for the development of consumer goods and services and they are looking for interested partners in the region.

The concluding session of the seminar was addressed by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Ambassador Rajiv Sikri, Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, who delivered the Valedictory Address. Mr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences extended the Vote of Thanks.

Research scholars, business and industry leaders, academicians, diplomats, senior government officials and other prominent thinkers with specialised knowledge of the region participated in the seminar and shared their knowledge and expertise.



*Participants of the Seminar on Towards India-Central Asia Economic Cooperation.*

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

### Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi Director General

- Made a presentation on 'WTO: Agriculture Imbroglio' at the 59th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organised by Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 16 April 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Socio-Economic Challenges in Biotechnological Projects in India' at the Workshop on 'Socio-Economic Methodology' organised by Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB) in Switzerland on 20-21 April. Also delivered special remarks about the purpose of the workshop and expectations of ISCB and participated in the Podium discussion on data publishing.
- Made a presentation on 'Mobilizing Human and Financial Resources for India's Think Tanks' at the Think-Tanks, Public Policy and Governance: Ideas, Analysis, Innovation and Impact US-India Think Tank Summit organised jointly by the TTCSP University of Pennsylvania, Observers Research Foundation, Brookings Institution and the Embassy of USA, in New Delhi on 27-29 April.
- Made a presentation on 'Mechanisms to Encourage Social Innovations for Health in India' at the Seminar on Responsible Inclusive Innovation in Health organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva on 4-7 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Indian Seeds in African markets: South-South Cooperation in Trade and Technology' at Rising Powers

in International Development Programme organised by Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in UK on 8 May 2015.

- Made a presentation on 'Means of Implementation: The Role of Financing and Technology' at the seminar on 'Perspectives from India on the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda' organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and Saferworld and the Center on International Cooperation (CIC), in New York on 15 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Indian Economic Diplomacy: Genesis and Evolution' at the Training Programme for Indian Information Services (IIS) officers organised by International Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in New Delhi on 20 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'BRICS Trade in High Technology Products (HTPs): Trends and Key Policy Imperatives' at the VII BRICS Academic Forum on "BRICS: Cooperation for Growth, Security and Prosperity" held in Moscow on 22-23 May 2015.
- Participated as a member of the external Advisory Panel at the Advisory Panel Meeting of the FAO Symposium on 'The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition' held in Rome on 3-4 June 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Western Aid Architecture and South-South Paradigm: Would China provide a New Leadership on Global Framework?' at the Roundtable Meeting of the 'China's Overseas Development Policy in a World Beyond Aid', held in Bangkok on 9-10 June 2015.

- Participated at the field trip to the Nabanhe National Nature Reserve (NNNR) in the Xishuangbanna region organised by The China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Yunnan Province on 28 June-2 July 2015.
- Participated at the Third Annual Conference of China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) held in Beijing on 2 July 2015.

### Prof. S.K. Mohanty

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on NBA and NTC matters, organised by Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers' Association in New Delhi on 10 April 2015.
- Participated in Discussion Meeting on China and the Asia Pacific Region Issues in the US Embassy, New Delhi on 15 April 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'India-China Trade Relationship with Africa' at the Africa Division, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi on 9 May 2015.
- Participated in discussion Meeting on Trade Potentials of India in Africa with Joint Secretary FT (Africa Division), FT (WANA), EP (CHEMEXCIL) and Administration of EP (CAP), EP (Textiles), PLEXCONCIL and FT (NEA), at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 11 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Biological Resources Trade Classification for India', at the Meeting of Reconstituted Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities, organised by the National Biodiversity Authority of India in Goa on 17 May 2015.

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

### Prof. Ram Upendra Das

- Participated in Evaluation of Corporate Skills Development Programme (CSD) held at New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM) on 11 April 2015.
- Delivered a lecture on 'India's Trade Policy', under Induction Level Training Programme to Indian Economic Service (IES) Officer-Trainees, Batch 2014, at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi on 23 April 2014.
- Participated in the Inter-Ministerial Preparatory Meeting to discuss initiating of the Joint Study Group on feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Commission organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 6 May 2015.
- Panellist at the '20th Anniversary of the WTO' organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi on 13 May 2015.
- Lead Speaker on 'New Foreign Trade Policy' at 'State of the Economy Seminar' organised by NCAER, New Delhi on 14 May 2015.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on the BKRU-Customs Union held at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 4 June 2015.

### Mr. T.C. James Consultant

- Appeared on an interview on 'Draft National IP Policy' on CNC News channel on 5 April 2015.
- Participated in the Meeting with the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha and proposed formation of a Core Group to study and prepare briefs and other

materials for Hon'ble Members of Parliament on various selected current topics to enable them to participate more effectively in the Lok Sabha debates and discussions on 6 April 2015. The Core Group was later formed and RIS is represented therein.

- Conducted a half day training programme on 'Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement' for Customs Officers at NACEN, Faridabad on 25 May 2015.
- Delivered lectures on 'Intellectual Property Rights' to newly recruited CSS Officers at ISTM, New Delhi on 26, 27 and 29 May 2015.
- Participated in the first meeting of the Core Group formed by the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker and offered RIS expertise on topics being studied and researched by the Institute such as development cooperation, current economic issues, innovation, IPR and health related issues, and regional and bilateral agreements on investment on 28 May 2015.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'National Intellectual Property Policy' on the Lok Sabha TV on 28 May 2015.
- Participated in the National Workshop of Stakeholders of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants organised by the National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi and provided a paper on 'IPR Issues related to Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Herbs & Their Allied Products)' on 29 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Common Objectives and Policies in the area of research, innovation and IPR – a historic opportunity for Indian and European Innovators' and chaired the panel discussion on 'Best Practices in Strengthening

IPR administration through cooperation' at the Indo-European Conference on Fostering Economic Development through bi-lateral cooperation in research, innovation and IPR' organised by the EU Business Council and CII in New Delhi on 5 June 2015.

- Delivered a keynote address at the IPR Workshop for entrepreneurs organised by CII in Kochi on 19 June 2015.
- Conducted classes on 'Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights', 'Protection of Geographical Indications of Goods' and 'Protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions' at the National Refresher Course for Law Teachers at Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi on 24 June, 2015.

### Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas Consultant

- Made a presentation on 'Biofuels, Sustainable Development, and Responsible Innovation: The Case of Synthetic Biology' at the Conference on 'Biofuels and (ir) responsible Innovation: Tensions Between Policy, Practice and Sustainable Development' organised by Eindhoven University of Technology in Eindhoven, Netherlands on 13 April 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Open Source, Open Innovation and Commons: Towards an Alternative IP Regime in Agriculture and Plant Breeding' at the Cultivating Innovation Conference on 'How (and How Not) to Think about Intellectual Property in Agriculture and Plant Science' held in Norwich, UK on 14 April 2015.

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Made a presentation on 'Pricing of Technology Intensive Products, Intellectual Property and Socio-economic Framework' at ISCB Socio-Economic Methodology Workshop at the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL, Zollikofen, Switzerland on 20 April 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'Rice Germplasm, Seeds, Intellectual

Property Rights and Innovation' at the Lead Authors Workshop on Rice Strategy at the Institute for Socio-Economic Change, Bangalore on 27 June 2015.

### Dr. Sabyasachi Saha Assistant Professor

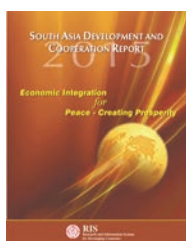
- Delivered two lectures on "WTO and India" at the Institute of Secretariat Training

and Management (ISTM), Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India in New Delhi on 11 May 2015

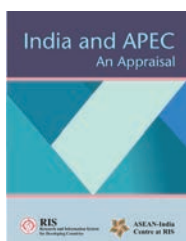
- Participated as an expert at the 2015 BRICS Think-Tank Roundtable, organised by the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing on 18-19 June 2015.

## Latest Publications

### BOOKS AND REPORTS



**South Asia Development and Cooperation Report 2015**  
RIS, 2015.



**India and APEC: An Appraisal**  
V.S. Seshadri  
AIC at RIS, 2015.

### POLICY BRIEFS

- No. 72: *The Contingent Reserve Arrangement: A Redesign of the International Monetary System*, May 2015
- No. 71: *Classification of Countries and G-20*, May 2015
- No. 70: *Access, Equity and Inclusion : Ethical Norms and S&T Policy Outcomes*, May 2015

No. 69: *Access, Technology Development and National IPR Policy*, May 2015

No. 68: *New Development Bank: A Contribution to Development Finance*, May 2015

### DISCUSSION PAPERS

No. 197 *Promoting Innovations in Indian Universities: A Theoretical Model of University-Industry Interface* by Sabyasachi Saha

**Abstract:** While India's emergence as a rising economic power is an outcome of dynamic advantages based on technological learning and skills, innovation driven competitiveness has been much less prominent. It is expected that public funded institutions like universities and institutions should deliver on innovative research and ideas that can be commercialised. In this paper, we intend to understand university-industry interactions in India from a game theoretic perspective to capture issues of quality, objectives and incentives. Industry's low appetite for university inventions in India needs careful assessment, even as industry is increasingly engaging with the academia for problem solving inputs. The probability of market success of a university technology is prima facie low because these technologies are allegedly short of significant technological value addition. Often such a deficit in novelty is linked to lesser degree of complexity of research undertaken at Indian universities in the first place. Our model has indicated how various parameters like royalty fees and scientist's share of royalty and consultancy revenue could be used to promote cutting edge research at universities for technology commercialisation

**Keywords:** University-Industry Interface, Technology Transfer, Innovation, India

## Latest Publications

No.196 *Reconfiguring International Financial Institutions: The BRICS Initiative* by Manmohan Agarwal

**Abstract:** This paper examines the implications of the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) for the international financial system and for the BRICS countries. Their establishment is placed in the context of the current international aid architecture and of the international monetary system (IMS) and the economic performance and needs of developing countries. Developing countries have been dissatisfied with the governance system, the operations and the lack of reform of the World Bank and the International Monetary System. Dissatisfied at their lack of success in engineering reform developing countries have moved to a positive phase of devising new institutions that could meet their needs. The scope for the NDB to break new ground is greater. Not only additional aid would be made available but the NDB could break new ground in project preparation and implementation that might force the current multilateral development banks to alter their practices. But the task of replacing the IMF is more difficult. A new IMS can only come into being if it is universal. A group of developing countries even if very large cannot develop a new international monetary system. The CRA can only provide a welcome new source of BOP finance.

**Keywords:** BRICS, BRICS Initiative, International Financial Institutions, Reconfiguring

### RIS DIARY

Vol. 11 No. 2 April 2015

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTSIDE PUBLICATIONS BY RIS FACULTY

#### BOOKS/REPORTS

Chaturvedi, Sachin, *et al.* (eds). 2015. *Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers*. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. *India's Strategy for Economic Integration with CLMV*. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

#### RESEARCH PAPERS

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2015. "Exploring Indian Engagement in Agriculture and Health: A Case of Angola and Mozambique." *BRICS Policy Centre Paper*, Vol. 3. No. 03, January-April.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2015. "Robust Neighbour Policy way to Act East Policy." *Asia Connect*, Issue No. 1, January-March, Makaias Newsletter, Kolkata.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2015. "Introduction: Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers", "The Emerging Institutional Architecture of India's Development Cooperation" and "Conclusion, Outlook and Policy Recommendation" in Sachin Chaturvedi, *et al.* (eds) *Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers*. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. "Trade and Investment Liberalization in India: Implications for Productivity Gains", in Khee Giap Tan and Kong Yam Tan (eds.) *Foreign Direct Investment and Small and Medium Enterprises: Productivity and Access to Finance*. Singapore: World Scientific. May.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. "Rationale for and Constraints to South Asia-Central Asia Economic Linkages." *Eurasia Review*, Albany, Oregon. ISSN 2330-717X.

Das, Ram Upendra and Reena Marwah. 2015. "India-China Economic Engagements In A Global Context." *Eurasia Review*. May.

### OPINIONS

Asher, Mukul. 2015. 'India Compares Well in External Trade Integration in Asia Pacific'. *Swarajyamag*, 20 June.

Asher, Mukul. 2015. 'Rationale & Key Requirements For Implementing GST in Indian States'. *Swarajyamag*, 5 July.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. 'Saarc countries to harmonize standards to boost trade'. *LiveMint*, 12 March.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. 'Govt plan investment channel for CLMV region'. *LiveMint*, 24 March.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. 'Infra hurdle for wider visa-on-arrival scheme'. *LiveMint*, 26 March.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. 'Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher to visit Iran on Sunday'. *LiveMint*, 4 April.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2015. 'Trade Gap with China May Double to \$60B in 2 Years'. *Economic Times*, 6 April.

## Latest Publications

Das, Ram Upendra and Reena Marwah. 2015. 'India-China Economic Engagements In A Global Context - Analysis'. *Eurasia Review*, 22 May.

Nayyar, Deepak. 2015. 'The interest rate conundrum'. *LiveMint*, 12 June.

Nayyar, Deepak. 2015. 'Make in India: Yes, but how?'. *LiveMint*, 10 July.

Pisupati, Balakrishna. 2015. 'To Beijing, Softly'. *The Indian Express*, 14 May.

Pisupati, Balakrishna. 2015. 'Redefining SAGAR in Indian Ocean'. *The Hindu*, 26 May.

Saha, Sabyasachi. 2015. 'IPR must promote local innovation'. *Financial Express*, 27 April.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'India and a fragmented globe'. *Business Standard*, 10 March.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'A road India must travel'. *Hindustan Times*, 19 March.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'Paying for multilateralism'. *Business Standard*, 7 April.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'Revisiting India's growth strategy'. *Business Standard*, 12 May.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'On foreign policy, Modi must walk the talk'. *Hindustan Times*, 20 May.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'An IMF boost for China's currency'. *Business Standard*, 9 June.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'The Pope Wades in Where Angels Fear to Tread'. *The Wire*, 25 June.

Saran, Shyam. 2015. 'The Beijing Paradox'. *Business Standard*, 8 July.

*Continued from Page 8...*

Indian Ambassador to WTO. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Prabir De made the Closing Remarks and also extended the Vote of Thanks.

Earlier, the third workshop was organised by RIS jointly with Centre for Economy, Environment, and Society (CESS), Myanmar, at Yangon University of Economics, Yangon in association with University of Sussex, UNESCAP, Yangon University of Economics, Trade Sift, and Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNeT) from 11 to 15 May 2015. This event was also supported by Myanmar Ministry of Commerce, UK Aid-Department for International Development (DFID), and the IPE Global.

U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary and Director General, Ministry of Commerce delivered the Opening Address on the behalf of H.E. Dr. Pwint San, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Myanmar. Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Ambassador of India in Myanmar delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. Tun Aung, Pro-Rector, Yangon

University of Economics delivered the Special Address. Prof. Prabir De, who is managing the project, gave an introduction of the programme. The programme covered various themes related to international trade. The participants were also introduced to TradeSift, a method and software developed by Sussex researchers to

help policymakers and governments overcome the issues of complex and expensive mathematical modelling in order to analyse trade policy simply and cost effectively. The training programmes were attended by senior officials and scholars from Myanmar.

### RIS Website

#### **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**

<http://www.ris.org.in>

### RIS Webpages

#### **ASEAN-India Centre at RIS (AIC)**

<http://aic.ris.org.in>

#### **Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC)**

<http://fidc.ris.org.in>

#### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**

<http://iora.ris.org.in>

#### **New Asia Forum**

<http://newasiaforum.org>

## दक्षिण एशियाई विकास एवं सहयोग रिपोर्ट 2015

### शांति-सृजक समृद्धि के लिए आर्थिक एकीकरण



श्री सुरेश प्रभाकर प्रभु, माननीय रेल मंत्री, भारत सरकार 'दक्षिण एशिया विकास एवं सहयोग रिपोर्ट 2015' के विमोचन के अवसर पर बोलते हुए। इसके साथ चित्र में बाएं से दाएं प्रो सचिन चतुर्वेदी, महानिदेशक, आरआईएस; श्री ए एम गोनदाने, संयुक्त सचिव (सार्व), विदेश मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार; राजदूत श्याम सरन, अध्यक्ष, आरआईएस; प्रो दीपक नैयर, एमेरिटस प्रोफेसर ऑफ इकोनॉमिक्स, जेएनयू, नई दिल्ली और सह-अध्यक्ष, नीति अध्ययन के लिए दक्षिण एशिया केंद्र (ससेपस); श्री शैदा मोहम्मद अब्दाली, भारत में अफगानिस्तान के राजदूत और प्रो राम उपेंद्र दास, आरआईएस।

रिपोर्ट दक्षिण एशियाई आर्थिक एकीकरण सम्बन्धी प्रचलित विचारधारा से हट कर है तथा विभिन्न आर्थिक विचारों एवं दृष्टिकोणों को प्रस्तुत करती है। यह एक 'विपरीत सोच' का प्रतिमान भी प्रस्तुत करती है। वास्तव में रिपोर्ट में नयी अंतर्दृष्टियों के साथ एक वस्तुनिष्ठ अध्ययन है जो एक ऐसा संतुलित दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत करता है जो विद्वतापूर्ण एवं नीति निर्धारक अध्ययन एवं शोध प्रणाली

के लिए निर्णायक होता है। रिपोर्ट इस तथ्य को भी उजागर करती है कि दक्षिण एशियाई क्षेत्र किसी तरह से भी न्यूनतम-एकीकृत क्षेत्र नहीं है। साथ ही रिपोर्ट यह भी रेखांकित करती है कि अब इस धारणा को बदलना होगा। अक्सर यह कहा जाता है की अन्य आर्थिक समूहों की बड़ी-बड़ी सफलताएं हैं लेकिन दक्षिण एशियाई आर्थिक एकीकरण में कमियां रही हैं। परन्तु वास्तव में तथ्य यह है कि दक्षिण एशियाई आर्थिक एकीकरण पहल की अपनी सफलताएं हैं जबकि अन्य आर्थिक समूहों की अपनी असफलताएं हैं जिनसे हमें सीख लेनी चाहिए, इसकी भी चर्चा इस रिपोर्ट में की गयी है।

रिपोर्ट की केंद्रीय विषय-वस्तु 'शांति-सृजक समृद्धि के लिए आर्थिक एकीकरण' है जो, दक्षिण एशियाई आर्थिक एकीकरण प्रक्रिया की उपलब्धियों को परखने के लिए, क्षेत्र में शांति स्थापना की आवश्यकता को उजागर करने के लिए तथा दक्षिण एशिया को एक सम्पन्न क्षेत्र बनाने के लिए क्षमता को हासिल करने हेतु एक नयी सोच एवं नये दृष्टिकोण को प्रस्तुत करती है। शांति एवं सम्पन्नता के बीच जो सम्बन्ध है, उस संदर्भ में रिपोर्ट इस बात पर बल देती है कि क्षेत्र में सम्पन्नता लाने का प्रयास ही प्रमुख लक्ष्य होना चाहिए जो दक्षिण एशियाई आर्थिक एकीकरण के माध्यम से संभव हो सकता है। इससे अपने आप से शांति-सृजन भी होगा। इस तरह आरआईएस कि यह रिपोर्ट एक नयी विचारधारा प्रस्तुत करती है जो सार्क क्षेत्र के विभिन्न हितधारकों के साथ क्षेत्र के बाहर के लोगों के लिए भी लाभप्रद होगी।



# RIS

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# आरआईएस

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान  
एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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