

आरआईएस

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट

2021-22

RIS

Annual Report

2021-22



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, Research and
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Countries



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

From Director General's Desk

The COVID-19 health crisis continued to have serious socio-economic impact across the world during the year 2021-22. RIS, with its consistent commitments, continued to provide analytical support by bringing together various stakeholders to discuss about how to meet the challenges thrown up by this unprecedented health crisis at regional, sub-regional and multilateral levels.

For the RIS Annual Report 2021-22, we requested our faculty members to write their take on different aspects of the RIS work programme. In this regard, Chapter 1 by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan discusses our research pillar related to global issues and development cooperation architecture. It highlights various RIS initiatives on this broad theme and related issues. Among others it has focus on the temporary waiver of TRIPS provisions.

Emerging challenges in development cooperation forced by inward looking trends in developed nations brought forth another set of crises. To address this, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) at RIS took the lead and discuss issues related to post-COVID-19 development challenges in the context of South-South cooperation.

As part of the Special Week of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', RIS also organised a week-long exhibition on India's development cooperation that is a saga of commitment to plurality, diversity and collective progress. A report on this subject was also launched on this occasion. Effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continue to be an integral part of the institute's work programme.

In order to have greater focus on issues related to development, as part of the work programme for India's preparation for G-20 Presidency, RIS organised a number of discussion meetings. The institute also undertook series of activities in view of India as Chair of BRICS forum.

Chapter 2 by Professor S. K. Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash and Dr Pankhuri Gaur discusses RIS initiatives on trade, investment and regional cooperation. It deals with our efforts in

From Director General's Desk

the spheres of multilateralism, WTO, MC-12, Fishery subsidy, dealing with regionalism, mechanism for financial cooperation. RIS also brought out its flagship publication, the *World Trade and Development Report* that presented a critical overview of intricacies between technology and development relationship.

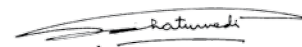
The focus of Chapter 3 by Dr Prabir De is on trade facilitation, connectivity and regional cooperation. It covers ASEAN-India relationship, work programme of ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, connectivity cooperation in Indo-Pacific, maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, training and capacity building and dissemination, BIMSTEC, India-EU partnership, etc.

Similarly, the RIS work programme on new technologies and development issues and activities or the, Forum for Indian Traditional Medicine are discussed in detail in Chapter 4 by Dr Ravi K Srinivas, Dr Amit Kumar and Dr Sneha Sinha and Chapter 4B by Dr Namrata Pathak.

The Annual Report also has a separate Chapter 5 on "Gender Equality in Social Cohesion Perspectives" by Dr Beena Pandey that calls upon the G-20 member countries to work effectively for bringing about desired improvements in the socio-economic conditions of women. The report also gives details about the publications that the institute brought out for disseminating its policy research outputs. RIS faculty members also contributed to outside policy dialogues and publications.

We are grateful to our Chairman, Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar; all Members of RIS Governing Council and General Body; and Amb. S. T. Devare, Chairman and other members of the RIS Research Advisory Council for their continuous guidance and support for our research programme. We extend our gratitude to the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of AYUSH and other partner organizations for support received from them.

We also take this opportunity to convey thanks to all RIS faculty members and colleagues from administration, IT, publication and library wings for their contribution in execution of the research agenda and related programme of RIS.



Sachin Chaturvedi

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation



Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan
Science Diplomacy Fellow

Responding to the COVID Pandemic

The year 2021-22 witnessed a major impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe. The emergence of new virulent strains with increased infectivity outpaced the global response, with shortages of diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics and medical infrastructure. Many countries responded with partial or complete restrictions on movement, resulting in disruption of the economy. Developing countries, especially in Africa were particularly hard hit, while the advanced countries were far better placed to acquire vaccines. The response to the pandemic exposed major fault lines in global cooperation. Affordable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics became a high priority issue. In this situation, India and South Africa launched an initiative at the WTO for a temporary waiver of TRIPS provisions for vaccines and medical equipment needed to fight COVID-19. While this move was strongly supported by developing countries and many non governmental organisations, it met with strong resistance from several advanced countries and large multinational pharmaceutical companies. In order to meet this challenge, RIS launched a series of public webinars on the issue of TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 on this issue at global and regional levels, to enhance public awareness and support for the India-South African initiative. Thus, RIS in collaboration with the South Centre, Geneva, organised webinars on 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges' (5 June 2021), 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Africa' (12 June 2021), 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Latin America' (19 June 2021), and 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for South East Asia' (26 June 2021), with a wide spectrum of experts from these regions.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, India, despite its own needs, had generously made vaccines and therapeutics available bilaterally and multilaterally to many countries in need, including even the US. India had decided to make available free of charge its unique Co-WIN Public APIs (for appointments and vaccine certificate downloads) for use by third party applications. Several countries had expressed interest in adapting and using this technology.

India's readiness to share its experience and expertise regarding the COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout with the help of the digital technology with other countries, especially those in Africa and the Global South, had attracted wide interest. To build further on this, a Webinar was organised by GDC- RIS on 'Coping with COVID: Experiences of Developing Countries in Vaccine Platforms and Rollout' (19 May 2021).

Building economic recovery post-COVID

The increasing impact of control measures and pick up of vaccination rates across the world, resulted in reduction in COVID-19 intensity, though unevenly, and always with the ever present threat of new variants in the background. Attention turned to mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic and helping economies to recover. Here again, there was a wide variety of tools and measures adopted across the globe, depending on the severity of the economic impact and the status of the pandemic. The importance of finding the most appropriate set of tools and economic measures emerged. In the G20, India, a major developing country member and future chair of the G20 for 2023, had concerns that conditions related to climate change were sought to be imposed by advanced countries on economic recovery packages and mechanisms. Such advocacy of a 'green recovery' with stringent conditionalities could be regarded as a form of 'green colonisation' at a time when the developing world was hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and was struggling for a recovery. With this in mind, RIS organised a webinar on "Priorities for Growth and Stability in Post-COVID World: Role of G20 Framework Working Group" on 9 April 2021. It was stressed that India was the only G20 country that has met the Paris climate change agreement commitments. Moreover, India's per capita emissions and historic cumulative missions were far lower than many G20 countries. The move in the G20 to push for new commitments beyond the Paris Agreement was totally unjustified while there was little progress on the promised USD 100 billion in climate finance for developing nations (by 2020 with a higher annual goal by 2025).

The unprecedented development challenges and emerging negative trends in development cooperation, particularly reduced assistance from the North and multilateral organisations had created a development crisis. There was a need for enhancing development cooperation in the wake of COVID-19 and increasing development finance in an environment of geopolitical tensions, the need for increased triangular cooperation. Also, there was the need for financing infrastructure development like healthcare, education etc in developing countries. The situation was worsened by inward looking trends in developed nations. To focus attention on these issues, RIS and its Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), organised a panel discussion, as on the topic: New Challenges to Development Cooperation in a Post-COVID World (24 September, 2021).

Tackling Climate Change

On the occasion of the launch of 'The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda,' a panel discussion was organised by NeST, RIS on 26 October 2021. A Panel Discussion on "Future Strategies for SIDS and Climate Change: Looking through the Lens of SouthSouth Cooperation Practices" was held virtually on 1 November, 2021 to analyse climate change vulnerability and potential use of South-South Cooperation practices and experiences to take care of the threats to SIDS existence. RIS and Vijnana Bharti (Vibha) jointly organized a webinar on 'Issues and Challenges during the Run-Up to and at COP 26 - Indian Perspectives' on 24 October 2021. The 41st STIP Forum Lecture was delivered online by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance, on 28 February 2022 on "Enabling the Global Energy Transition: India

in the World” on the energy transitions happening in the world and in India, and the important role of renewable energy and non-fossil electricity generation.

BRICS Chairmanship

India, as Chair of BRICS had to steer this group through a very challenging period. The BRICS Civil Forum provides the opportunity for establishing deeper partnerships among BRICS countries through people-to-people exchanges and highlights the important role played by civil society in facing the present difficult challenges. The theme for the Indian chair of the BRICS civil society forum led by RIS was “Intra-BRICS Cooperation with Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus”. The focus areas were - Reformed Multilateralism, Technological and Digital solutions for Sustainable Development Goals, Counter Terrorism Cooperation, and Enhancing P2P cooperation. RIS has been selected to serve as the nodal organisation for the BRICS Civil Society Forum.

RIS organized a series of activities during the year. The meetings organised were - Dialogue on Wellness, Health and Traditional Systems of Medicines in BRICS (24 May 2021), Dialogue on BRICS Economies and Women’s Participation: The Institutional Response (4 June 2021), Dialogue on Quality of Economic Growth and Inclusion: A Regional Development Perspective (10 June 2021), Dialogue on Future of Education and Skills: New Paradigm of Learning in BRICS (21 June 2021). A curtain raiser meeting for the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 was held on 16-17 April 2021.

The activities culminated with the BRICS Civil Forum final programme (28-29 July 2021), focused on themes such as “Inclusive Development and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Role of Technology”; “People’s Participation on Sustainability: The BRICS Experience”; and “Consolidating BRICS Civil Process”. The recommendations from this meeting included expediting reforms in multilateral institutions, an inclusive and participatory approach towards sustainable development, collective Action for Global Public Goods (GPGs) and SDGs, a ‘BRICS Framework on One Health’, forging alliances through ‘Women BRICS’, localization of development and partnerships, the role of technology in enabling the shift from entitlements to entrepreneurship/ social entrepreneurship, etc. It was also recommended to set up a Working Group to institutionalise BRICS Civil process and to enable lasting engagement among leading CSOs from all the BRICS member countries. All these activities were carried out despite the limitations arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, making full use of ICT tools. RIS, in collaboration with ORF, has organised the BRICS Academic Forum in 2021.

Preparing for India’s G20 Presidency

RIS was deeply engaged with the Think20 - one of the important Engagement Groups of the G20. It pressed for greater representation from developing country think-tanks, and taking cognizance of their policy recommendations. This assumes importance in the context of Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa assuming G20 Presidency in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively. The objective is to give greater focus on the development agenda in the G20 and its Engagement Groups. RIS held a virtual Brainstorming Session on ‘T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies’ (24 November 2021). RIS organised a special Panel Discussion on ‘Women’s Issues in G-20 and Way Forward’ on Women’s Day on 8 March 2022, on women’s issues in the G20 context. The target set by G20 for reducing the gender gap in labour force participation rate by 2025 still needs to be achieved in several G20 countries. RIS, in collaboration with the Global Solutions Initiative, Germany has organised a Virtual Seminar as part of the G20 Finance Track on ‘Post-Pandemic Infrastructure and Global Public Goods in the G20’ on 18 February 2022.

Celebrating 75 years of India's Development Cooperation

As part of the Special Week of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), RIS organised a week long (21-27 February 2022) Exhibition on 75 Years of Development Partnership – Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress RIS brought out a report on this subject. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated the exhibition at a special programme held on 21 February 2022. This exhibition was visited by Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, diplomats from Delhi, senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, other dignitaries and many students from across the country. The exhibition and the report highlighted India's world leadership on 'development cooperation' and the country's support to the Global South through technology transfer, capacity building, humanitarian aid as well as financial assistance is unconditional and in the spirit of the Vedantic mantra 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. The report highlighted that the quantum of development assistance provided by India from 1947 to 2022 is to the tune of \$127 billion; and that training had been provided to 350,000 people from other nations in the developing world through several initiatives, including the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). The Lines of Credit provided by India are close to \$31 billion, and about half of it was to the neighboring countries. After the COVID-19 outbreak, India has provided vaccines to over 90 countries and \$4 billion in aid and grant to around 100 countries. The exhibition showcased India's development cooperation initiatives in various countries across different regions by bringing on board national institutions of the Government of India, major public and private entities, civil society organizations and social entrepreneurs.

Boosting South-South and Regional Cooperation

To advance sharing of ideas, innovations, and solutions across developing countries and beyond, RIS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) through its specialized wing, Global Development Centre (GDC). GDC-RIS and BMGF will work together towards strengthening and building new partnerships for South-South cooperation in areas such as nutrition, health systems, pandemic preparedness, agriculture, digital financial inclusion, and women empowerment and other key development issues.

RIS-GDC's project, 'Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South' was selected as part of solutions. The project highlighted the pioneering achievements of Co-WIN as a best practice for suitable adoption in Asia and Africa. RIS-GDC participated as part of the Indian delegation in the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) (November 2021) in the wake of the global impact of COVID-19. The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC-RIS) organised a panel discussion, as part of its monthly seminar series, on the topic 'Pandemics and New Frontiers of South-South Cooperation' on 18th October 2021, to shed light on the status of Agenda 2030 and how the situation has worsened due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. RIS, jointly with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) organised an Indo-German 1.5 Track Dialogue, 2022, on 24 February 2022. As part of its work programme on Sustainable Development Goals, the institute organised its flagship capacity building programme on SDGs.

Cooperation with the Asian region

Following the 2021 publication of “Advancing South-South Cooperation: India’s Development Partnerships with Pacific Island Countries (PIC)” from the Asian Foundation and RIS and supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), a consultation webinar on ‘Advancing IndiaAustralia-Pacific Islands Development Cooperation’ was held on 31 March 2022. The discussion focused on and explored the history and prospects for India-PICs partnership and points of convergence between Australia’s and India’s interests in the PICs.

RIS and Tripura University jointly organized an international seminar on “Development Cooperation between India and Neighbouring Countries: Possibilities and Challenges” on 22-24 March 2022 at the Department of Economics, Tripura University, Agartala. The seminar provided an excellent platform for rfor sharing research studies on issues concerning ttthe North-eastern region, and development partnership with all neighbouring countries. Experts from India, Bangladesh and Nepal participated in this international seminar. A two week Research Capacity Building Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was conducted by RIS and North East Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA) for young north eastern research scholars during 14-18 March, 2022 at RIS, New Delhi. Fifteen research scholars joined the programme from eight different north eastern states. Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs interacted with the participants and stressed that the SDGs should be achieved by integrating the local knowledge and practices with modern knowledge without harming the originality of the region

To Celebrate Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations, a webinar was held on February 18, 2022 on the theme of ‘Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from India and ASEAN’. It focused on the recent academic and policy discourses and India’s foreign policy formulation, and recent initiatives in the Indo-Pacific for peaceful resolution of disputes and sustainabile development. A Panel Discussion on “Building Post COVID-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific”, was held on 29 July, 2021, on issues pertaining to resilient economic recovery, financing challenges and climate-related sovereign risk management in Asia and the Pacific in general and India in particular.

Recognition of RIS work programmes

Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, visited RIS on 30 December 2021 for an interactive session about the work programme of RIS. The Hon’ble Minister interacted with all faculty members and applauded the efforts of RIS in the above areas to serve as a think tank of developing countries.

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Responding to the COVID Pandemic

RIS Webinar Series on TRIPS Waiver

TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges

Webinar was co-hosted by RIS and the South Centre (the Geneva-based intergovernmental organisation of developing nations) on 'TRIPS waiver: Issues and Challenges' on 5 June 2021.

Issues and Challenges for Africa

The webinar on 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Africa' on 12 June 2021 was co-hosted by RIS and the Geneva-based South Centre.

Issues and Challenges for Latin America

The webinar on 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Latin America' organised by RIS and South Centre, on 19 June 2021.

Issues and Challenges for South East Asia

A webinar on 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for South East Asia' jointly organised by RIS and South Centre on 26 June 2021.

Development Cooperation between India & Neighbouring Countries: Possibilities & Challenges

RIS and Tripura University jointly organized an international seminar on "Development Cooperation between India and Neighbouring Countries: Possibilities and Challenges" on 22-24 March 2022 at Department of Economics, Tripura University, Agartala.

In his keynote address, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, emphasized on the regional connectivity and greater development cooperation with neighbouring countries. He

also highlighted the progress made by India and neighbouring countries in recent times. In the second keynote address, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, Deputy Minister of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh said: "The relation between Bangladesh and India important for the development of both the countries. The contribution of Tripura-India during the liberation war of Bangladesh is remarkable till the date". A large number of young scholars and Ph.D students participated in the seminar. ■

New Challenges to Development Cooperation in a Post-COVID World

The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), RIS organised a panel discussion, as part of its monthly seminar series, on the topic: New Challenges to Development Cooperation in a Post-COVID World on 24 September, 2021. The panel included Mr Tony Pipa, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings, Washington, DC; Dr

Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation, Kuala Lumpur; and Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The discussion was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Coping with COVID: Experiences of Developing Countries in Vaccine Platforms and Rollout



Prof Sachin Chaturvedi



Amb Amar Sinha



Dr Sandeep Bhalla



Dr Ram Sewak Sharma

Webinar organised by GDC at RIS on 'Coping with COVID: Experiences of Developing Countries in Vaccine Platforms and Rollout' on 19 May 2021. Significantly, Dr R. S. Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority, said privacy protection and prevention of cyberattacks were given utmost importance while developing the national portal and when it was decided to make available Co-WIN Public APIs (for appointments and vaccine certificate downloads) for use by third party applications.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the rise of 'ABCD' (Artificial intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud computing and Data analysis) was influencing and facilitating access to technology. "India's efforts have, in a way, created new platforms for sharing vaccines for their equitable distribution and facilitating access, equity and inclusion with this framework," he said.

Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory

Committee-GDC and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, pointed out that representatives from four important African countries – Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda – participated in the webinar to share their experiences and challenges relating to their vaccine programmes. He said, like in the case of water, where every drop is precious, regarding vaccines too every dose/jab is important to ensure that everyone gets access to stay healthy and safe.

Dr Sandeep Bhalla, Associate Vice President-Projects, ECHO India, moderated the discussion. Experts who also spoke on the occasion included Mr Hassan Sibomana, Director, Vaccination Unit, Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), Dr Abdullahi Bulama Garba, Director (Planning, Research and Statistics), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria and Dr Rose Jalang'o, Strategic Information Management and Communications Officer, National Vaccines and Immunisation Program (NVIP), Kenya. ■



Mr Hassan Sibomana (Rwanda)



Mr Aviral Gupta



Dr Rose Jalang'o (Kenya)



Dr Abdullahi Bulama Garba (Nigeria)

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Building economic recovery post-COVID**Priorities for Growth and Stability in Post-COVID World:
Role of G20 Framework Working Group**

India, a leader of the developing world, strongly opposed attempts from developed countries to prioritise climate change-related issues at the G20 discussions without a consensus within the influential bloc comprising 20 major global economies. New Delhi described such attempts pushing for a 'green recovery' with stringent conditionalities as one that will amount to a form of 'green colonisation' at a time when the developing world was vulnerable on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and was looking at somehow recovering from the aftermath of the global health crisis.

"We do have the Paris agreement (on climate change mitigation) and we need to adhere to that. The great danger of putting it in G20 and that too without a consensus (among G20 members), is actually diluting it. Far from helping the cause, it would instead be a diversion from what was agreed by everybody (in the Paris agreement) and would end up in a parallel track," said Dr Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, India. He was speaking at a webinar organised by RIS on "Priorities for Growth and Stability in Post-COVID World: Role of G20 Framework Working Group" on 9 April 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, Amb. P. Harish, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, India, said India was the only G20 country that has met the Paris climate change agreement commitments. Referring to the move to establish a new goal post outside the Paris framework in the G20 or in some other framework, he said there was a developmental cost to taking on such new commitments outside the Paris framework.



Screenshot of the event in progress

There was nothing on the table regarding what all would constitute the USD 100 billion climate finance for developing nations (by 2020 and set a higher annual goal by 2025), and whether every Official Development Assistance would be added to this number, as well as regarding technology transfer commitments, he said. Even if carbon emissions peak in 2050, the net total of emissions of India will be less than that of China, the US and the European Union, he said. "It would not be correct to ignore the historic case load and the developmental situation, where India's per capita GDP is 5 per cent of that of the G7 countries, and a fraction of the overall G20 per capita, and that India's low per capita energy consumption," he pointed out. Constraining India's options at this point through other extra conditionalities will impose a huge financial and developmental cost, Amb. P. Harish said.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, chaired the session, while Professor Kevin Gallagher, Professor of Global Development Policy, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, Mr Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre, Paris and Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, also spoke on the occasion. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Tackling Climate Change

The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

On the occasion of launch of '*The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda*,' a panel discussion was organised by NeST, RIS on 26 October 2021. The panel included editors of the handbook Professor Li Xiaoyun, CAU; Dr Stephan Klingebiel, DIE; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS. Dr Jurgen Karl Zattler, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Dr Haley Swedlund, Radboud University. The panel was moderated by Mr Artemy Izmetiev, UNOSSC, Istanbul, with concluding remarks by Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS.

The editors of the handbook highlighted the importance and relevance of the book for practitioners in developing countries. Development cooperation needs to be taken ahead to collectively achieve the Agenda 2030. The discussants pointed out the importance of contestation and the need for developing countries to learn from each other in advancing mutual goals. ■

Women's Issues in G-20 and Way Forward

RIS organised a special Panel Discussion on 'Women's Issues in G-20 and Way Forward' on Women's Day on 8 March 2022 in virtual mode. Dr Namrata Pathak, Consultant, RIS, gave the welcome remarks and Dr Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, moderated the panel discussion. Professor Pam Rajput, Department cum Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Panjab University; Professor Lekha S. Chakraborty, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP); and Dr Beena Pandey, Assistant Professor, RIS were the main panelists during the discussion. Professor Pam Rajput, in her presentation gave an overview of women's issues in G20 and

highlighted that W20 urged all the countries to advance member states policies towards the '25 by 25' target set by G20 for reducing the gender gap in labour force participation rate by 2025 by putting forward a national plan of actions. She mentioned that this is one of the commitments that still needs to be achieved in several G20 countries. She further emphasized the issues of labour, finance, gender budgeting and technology and stressed on the commitments of the G20 national and international mechanisms. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

BRICS Chairmanship

BRICS Civil Forum 2021

The BRICS Civil Forum final programme, held on 28-29 July 2021 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and in his address, he emphasised that the platform of Civil Forum is a tool providing an opportunity for establishing deeper partnerships among BRICS countries through people-to-people exchanges. The important role played by civil society in representing the collective voice of the people and in responding to local needs, was also highlighted in his Inaugural Address.

Distinguished participants from the BRICS countries included, Dr Paulo Esteves, Former Director, BRICS Policy Center, Brazil; Ms Zhu Jingfang, Research Fellow, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), China; Mr Reon van der Merwe, Deputy Director for International Relations, Stakeholder Relations, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa; and Ms Valeriia Gorbacheva, GR-Director, National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia.

The Forum consisted of two plenary sessions and one roundtable discussion that covered themes of: "Inclusive Development and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Role of Technology"; "People's Participation on Sustainability: The BRICS Experience"; and "Consolidating BRICS Civil Process".

The Plenary Session on Inclusive Development and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Role of Technology was chaired by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India and Keynote Address was delivered by Dr S. K. Varshney, Adviser & Head, International Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. The other panelists of the session included: Dr Mauro Oddo Nogueira, Researcher, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA), Brazil; Mr Igor Lavrovski, Director of the Institute of Futurology, Stolypin Club; Chairman of the Committee on Financial and Monetary Policy, All-Russia Public Organization "Business Russia", Russia; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; and Mr Alex Wang, Secretary-General, Youthink Center, China.

The second Plenary Session on 'People's Participation on Sustainability: The BRICS Experience' was Chaired



*Dr Rajkumar
Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble
Minister of State for
External Affairs*

by Mr Shyam Parande, Secretary, Sewa International & Secretary General, Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, India and Keynote Address was delivered by Mr R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, The Energy and Resources Institute, India. The other distinguished panelists included: Dr Ana Toni, Executive Director, Instituto Clima e Sociedade (iCS) and Founding Partner of Public Interest Management (GIP), Brazil; Mr Vladimir Chuprov, Head of the Greenpeace Russia's Energy Program, Russia, Professor Pam Rajput, Emeritus Professor, Panjab University, India; Mr Daqian Zhang, International Coordinator of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, China; and Mr Yared Tsegay, Programmes Head, African Monitor, South Africa.

A Roundtable Discussion on Consolidating BRICS Civil Process was also organised. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, chaired the Roundtable discussion and Ambassador P. Harish, India's BRICS Sous Sherpa and Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the special remarks. The panelists from the BRICS countries included: Dr André de Mello e Souza, Senior Research Fellow at Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA), Brazil; Professor Vladimir Davydov, Scientific Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) Institute of Latin America, RAS Corresponding Member, and Chair of the Scientific Council of the Russian National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia; Dr Rajesh Tandon, President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and Chairman, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), India; Ms Zhu Jingfang, Research Fellow, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), China; Mr Reon van der Merwe, Deputy Director for International Relations, Stakeholder Relations, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa; and Dr Victoria Panova, Managing Director, Russian National Committee on BRICS Research and Vice President for International Relations, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia. ■



BRICS CIVIL FORUM 2021

During the current India's Chairship of BRICS, RIS has been entrusted by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to host the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 again (RIS hosted the BRICS Civil Forum in 2016 as well). The BRICS Civil 2021 process commenced with the Curtain Raiser on 16-17 April, 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, delivered the Welcome remarks, followed by remarks by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Dr Victoria Panova, Managing Director, Russian National Committee on BRICS Research and Vice President for International Relations, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia presented the report on last year's BRICS Civil Forum that was held in Russia.

Amb. Pavel Knyazev, Russia's BRICS Sous-Sherpa and Amb. Ben Joubert, South Africa's BRICS Sous-Sherpa delivered the Special remarks; wherein they appreciated the theme of "Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus" under India's BRICS Chairship this year and extended their full support in making BRICS Civil Forum successful.

The Inaugural address was delivered by India's BRICS Sherpa Amb. Sanjay Bhattacharyya. He

acknowledged the importance of civil societies as they represent the collective conscience of our people. He stated that the Civil Forum also serves as an ideas bank for BRICS and offers essential inputs on relevant international economic issues. Amb. Bhattacharyya further expressed that since its inception, the Forum has helped BRICS to arrive at concrete policy measures and commended it for the significant contributions over the years.

Following the Inaugural event, various thematic dialogues were organised by RIS as part of the BRICS Civil 2021 process in the months of May and June. Leading scholars/experts/practitioners from leading CSOs, think-tanks and academics from all the five BRICS member countries participated in these dialogues and shared their valuable insights on the topic.

Building on the outcomes of the thematic dialogues, RIS is going to host the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 on 28-29 July 2021 (in virtual format) to discuss the outcomes and draw a roadmap on the institutionalization of BRICS Civil Forum with due leadership coming from India.

BRICS ACADEMIC FORUM 2021

During the current India's Chairship of BRICS, RIS and ORF have been entrusted by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to host the BRICS Academic Forum 2021 again (RIS and ORF hosted the BRICS Academic Forum in 2016 as well). Number of Dialogues have been organised under the BRICS Academic Forum 2021 so far. RIS has taken lead in organising some of the Dialogues on the following topics so far:

- Traditional Medicine Cooperation (12 May 2021)
- SDGs and Strengthening the Means of Implementation (20-21 May 2021)

Dr Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India delivered the Inaugural address during the Dialogue on Traditional Medicine Cooperation on 12 May 2021. Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of

India delivered the Inaugural address during the Dialogue on SDGs and Strengthening the Means of Implementation on 20 May 2021. Eminent speakers from leading academics and think-tanks from all the five BRICS countries participated and shared their valuable insights.

As part of the BRICS Academic 2021 process, more Dialogues are planned in the months of July and August 2021.

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BRICS Civil Thematic Dialogues	Dates
BRICS Civil Forum Curtain Raiser Dialogues on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reformed Multilateralism ■ Development Finance and Global Public Goods ■ Pandemic Response, Partnership and Role of Civil Society 	16-17 April
Dialogue on Wellness, Health and Traditional Systems of Medicines in BRICS	24 May
Dialogue on BRICS Economies and Women's Participation: The Institutional Response	4 June
Dialogue on Quality of Economic Growth and Inclusion: A Regional Development Perspective	10 June
Dialogue on Future of Education and Skills: New Paradigm of Learning in BRICS	21 June

BRICS Academic Forum 2021

RIS and ORF jointly organised the BRICS Academic Forum on August 3-6, 2021, under India's presidency of the BRICS in 2021. The BRICS Academic Forum convened academics, experts, researchers and analysts on a range of international policy issues affecting the five BRICS nations and the world in the run up to the BRICS Leaders Summit.

The forum started with the inaugural opening plenary session on Post-Pandemic World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for BRICS. Dr Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation delivered the opening remarks; inaugural address was given by Dr S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble Union Minister for External Affairs, Government of India. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, also addressed the inaugural session and at the end extended the vote of thanks.

Day II started with the session on Road to COP26: BRICS Climate Agenda. The panel focused on exploring the global progress on the Paris Agreement and took stock of how the developed and developing nations have fared in their commitments. The session also looked to outline a BRICS proposition on climate negotiations, targets and partnerships, which can ensure climate action in conjunction with developmental goals.

Day III discussed the BRICS agenda for trade and resilient supply chains. This panel explored how



the BRICS grouping can formulate a 21st-century international trading framework, which can serve the needs of developing and emerging nations. The session looked to put forth a BRICS-led international trading regime that reduces disruptions and streamlines regulations to promote a greater flow in goods and services.

The last day session was on Building a post-pandemic workforce: An agenda for jobs. The panel explored the new models of education and skilling that are required to equip the present and future workforces and look to best practices among the BRICS nations that can be further adapted and adopted. The session also laid emphasis on how the future of work can be made more inclusive, ensuring 20th-century inequities are not replicated in the 21st century. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Preparing for India's G20 Presidency

T20 Should have Greater Representation from the Developing World: Researchers

The Think20 - one of the important Engagement Groups of the G20 comprising the 20 leading global economies - should have greater representation from developing country think-tanks, and must bring out their policy recommendations on global governance issues well in time for the G20 leaders to analyse and incorporate them in their final Declaration, according to researchers from across the world. This assumes importance as major developing countries Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa are slated to assume G20 Presidency in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively. The expectation is that the development agenda will now be at the front and centre of the discussions by G20 and its Engagement Groups, including Business 20, Think 20, Women 20, Youth20, Labour 20, Urban 20, Civil 20 and Science 20. There are now calls for greater representation and voice from developing economies to make the processes more inclusive.

Speaking at a virtual Brainstorming Session on 'T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies' organized by the RIS on 24 November 2021, Professor Bambang Brodjonegoro, lead Co-Chair, T20 Indonesia and former Minister of Finance of Indonesia, said Indonesia is looking to ensure proportionate representation from all the continent and countries of all income groups. He added that issues such as cooperation in international taxation, infrastructure financing, SDGs, digitalization and revival of multilateralism are of great importance to developing and developed countries, and therefore should be accorded continuity in the T20 process for their effective implementation by the G20 Members. He said issues such as poverty and income inequality as well as sustainable financing of the Sustainable Development Agenda will be given priority during the Indonesian G20 Presidency.

Professor Djisman Simandjuntak, lead Co-Chair, T20 Indonesia, said with a view to get innovative policy ideas,

Indonesia will be reaching out to African think-tanks and will consider Policy Briefs from think-tanks and researchers who have not had the chance to participate in the T20 process so far. Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, the South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa, mentioned about 'T20 Africa Standing Group' as important interlocutor and part of the T20 process from now on. Ms Anita Prakash, Senior Policy Advisor (Int. Economic Relations), ERIA, Jakarta, briefed the participants about the newly launched the G20 Research Forum by ERIA, RIS and 'LPEM-FEB IU' of Indonesia to collate ideas from various think-tanks and researchers on global governance issues. Dr Imme Scholz, Deputy Director, German Development Institute (DIE), Germany, referred to the way T20 Germany was organised and some tips to Indonesia and India. She also mentioned that Germany going to hold the G7 Presidency in 2022 and sought a mechanism for close collaboration with Indonesia (G20 Presidency for 2022) on various issues. She said this G7-G20 (and their Engagement Groups) coordination mechanism should be made applicable to all G20 events.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, Professor Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor Emeritus (Economics), Keio University, Japan, Ms Gala Díaz Langou, Executive Director, CIPPEC, Argentina, Dr Antonio Villafranca, Research Director, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy, Dr Riatu Mariatul Qibthiyyah, Director, LPEM, University of Indonesia, Dr Yose Rizal Damuri, Head, Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, Dr Nicolas Buchoud, Grand Alliance, Paris, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, and Mr Augustine Peter, Visiting Fellow, RIS. ■

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Post-Pandemic Infrastructure and Global Public Goods in the G20

RIS, in collaboration with the Global Solutions Initiative, Germany, has organised a Virtual Seminar as part of the G20 Finance Track on 'Post-Pandemic Infrastructure and Global Public Goods in the G20' on 18 February 2022. H.E. Mr Febrio Nathan Kacaribu, Chairman of the Fiscal Policy Agency, Ministry of Finance of Indonesia delivered the opening remarks. In the first plenary session, special remarks were given by Ambassador Abhay Thakur, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs & G20 Sour-Sherpa. There were two speakers: Dr Raja Al Marzogi, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia and Ridha Wirakusumah, Chair, B20 Indonesia, Finance and Infrastructure Taskforce and the following were the discussants: Dr Irina Karapetyants, Director of Institute of International Transport Communications, Russian University of

Transport and Christian Wertli, Infrastructure Solutions and Director, Public Sector Solutions, SwissRe.

The second plenary was moderated by Dr Nicolas J.A. Buchoud, Co-Chair T20 Indonesia infrastructure Task Force. Following were the speakers: Dr Francesco Profumo, President, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and former lead co-chair, T20 Italy Infrastructure taskforce; Dr Raffaele de la Croce, Senior Economist at the OECD and Co-Chair of the T20 Indonesia TF8 Resilient Infrastructure and Financing and Dr Sebastian Wienges, Project Lead of Multilateral Development Banks For Global Public Goods, GIZ. Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Research Fellow, RIS; Dr Yannick Autret, Sustainable Infrastructure Expert, French Ministry For Ecological Transition were discussants. Closing Remarks were delivered by Mr Sudarto, Ministry of Finance of Indonesia. ■

Celebrating 75 years of India's Development Cooperation

Special Week of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) at RIS

Exhibition on 75 Years of Development Partnership – Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress

India is a world leader in 'development cooperation' as the country's support to the Global South through technology transfer, capacity building, humanitarian aid as well as financial assistance is unconditional and in the spirit of the Vedantic mantra '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' ('the world is one family'), according to the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi speaking at a special programme held on 21 February 2022 to mark the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).

RIS brought out a report as part of the AKAM programme of MEA on India's development cooperation initiatives during the last 75 years. A week-long exhibition on the same theme began after the event held to commemorate 75 years of Independence and befittingly celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The Minister said at the launch of the report that "We (India) are a (global) leader in that sense (in development cooperation), but we are reluctant

in claiming that space. The goodness (of India) and the help that we have provided including during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccination and medical support, and which is being celebrated through this exhibition, can never be monetized," the Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, said India's development cooperation is based on the priorities of the recipient countries and is completely demand driven. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the RIS painstakingly compiled information from 1947 to 2022 from the annual reports of all the ministries, adding that India's assistance was not only in terms of money, but also in the form of concepts such as 'Southern Collective', 'Climate Justice', 'illicit financial flows', 'Technology Facilitation Mechanism', 'Peace Keeping Forces' and 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for the Environment) as stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help the world attain net-zero status to combat climate change. Prof Chaturvedi also said

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India helped set up international institutions such as the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The country also set up the India Aid Mission in Nepal in 1952 and then decided to rename it Indian Cooperation Mission as it was felt that the principle of giving should be based on development cooperation instead of using the approach of aid.

According to the RIS report, the duty foregone by India for granting the poor countries access to Indian markets was to the tune of \$7 billion. The in-kind assistance provided by India, including through the distribution of farm equipment, during the period under review was also found to be \$7 billion. Incidentally, the RIS houses the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), which is a dedicated forum for exploring various facets of development cooperation, seeking to draw upon India's own experience in the backdrop of the international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration of the MEA, academia and civil society organisations.

At the outset, Minister emphasised that report would be useful during India's official engagements with other countries. There is a need to make all these information available in the public domain to help ensure that transparency in the process. ■



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi speaking on the occasion of AKAM celebrated at RIS.

Highlights of the Report

- The quantum of development assistance provided by India from 1947 to 2022 is to the tune of \$127 billion.
- Trained 350,000 people from other nations in the developing world through several initiatives including the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).
- The Lines of Credit provided by India is close to \$31 billion, and about half of it was to the neighboring countries.
- After the COVID-19 outbreak, India has provided vaccines to over 90 countries and \$4 billion in aid and grant to around 100 countries.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi lighting the inaugural lamp.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Dr Raj Kumar Ranjan Singh meeting the participants at the exhibition.

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Tracing 75 Years of India's Development Partnership: Exploring New Horizons and Meeting Emerging Challenges

To commemorate 75 years of Independence and befittingly celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), RIS organised an exhibition during 21-27 February 2022, showcasing India's development cooperation initiatives in various countries across different regions by bringing on board national institutions of the Government of India, major public and private entities, civil society organizations and social entrepreneurs.

On this occasion, RIS also organised a panel discussion on "Tracing 75 Years of India's Development Partnership: Exploring New Horizons and Meeting Emerging Challenges" on 25 February 2022. Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS delivered the welcome remarks and Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired.

Following were the panelists: Shri Prabhat Kumar, Additional Secretary (DPA), Ministry of External Affairs; Dr Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, Shri David Rasquinha, former Managing Director, EXIM Bank; Dr Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA); Dr S. K. Varshney, Adviser / Scientist G, Department of Science and Technology; Shri S. Kuppuswamy, Advisor-Group Finance and Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Pvt. Ltd. And Mr Chandra Bhushan, President and CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST). Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, gave the vote of thanks. ■



From left to right: Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Mr Chandra Bhushan, Shri David Rasquinha, Shri Prabhat Kumar, Amb. Amar Sinha, Dr Sachidanand Joshi, Dr Ruchita Beri and Shri S. Kuppuswamy

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New Partnerships for South-South Cooperation

Promoting South-South Collaboration



Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RIS and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

RIS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to advance the cross-sharing of ideas, innovations, and solutions across developing countries and beyond through its specialized wing, Global Development Centre (GDC). GDC-RIS and BMGF will work together towards strengthening and building new partnerships for South-South cooperation in areas such as nutrition, health systems, pandemic preparedness, agriculture, digital financial inclusion, and women empowerment, among other key development issues.

This partnership will facilitate knowledge sharing of development innovations and best practices among the Global South, with a vision towards building a vibrant, constructive, and continued engagement for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This engagement will encompass horizontally and vertically integrated partnership to

identify and document innovations and best practices across development solutions, and outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, including national/state governments, private sector, think tanks, civil society and academia. It aims to facilitate thought partnerships to boost knowledge exchange programs, capacity building and implementation support efforts. The association will enable a platform for engaging with various stakeholders in addressing developmental challenges in India and the Global South by providing comprehensive holistic support to curate best practices locally and globally to strengthen the overarching goals of South-South Cooperation.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said that "At the outset our idea of the Global Development Center is to promote several major programs started by Hon'ble Prime Minister which have contributed immensely in terms



Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs

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Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Minister said "India is perceived as a first responder in the region in times of crisis, a climate action leader, the pharmacy of the world, a reservoir of talent and a reliable development partner. I am extremely glad to note that RIS has established a specialised center at its premises, the Global Development Center, GDC for taking Hon'ble Prime Minister's ideas forward to other developing countries, within the framework of South-South Cooperation. "This partnership between RIS and BMGF would pave the way for institutionalized transfer of knowledge, promotion of policy research and outreach for knowledge exchange, capacity building and skills development among their interested partners countries and institutions as part of India's policy to promote global goods. I'd very much like to congratulate the GDC team at RIS and our friends from BMGF for this very constructive initiative for a better world."

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of both bringing in inclusion in our economic development initiatives and also trying to bring in sustainability. These two dimensions have been the core strength of almost all programs that we have launched, such as Aadhar enabled e-payment services or UPI or BHIM or even the National Payment Systems, etc. These programs have been trying to contribute towards the idea of sustainability and inclusion, and to bring efficiency in governance by stopping the leakages, identifying beneficiaries targeting benefits to the most desired communities of India.”

On this occasion, Gargee Ghosh, President, Global Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation stated that “India’s leadership on the global stage – from vaccine manufacturing and digital health to digital financial inclusion and beyond – are great examples of innovation and scale that offer enormous potential for cross-learning and collaboration. We are excited about this engagement with the Research and Information

System for Developing Countries and optimistic that this platform will offer opportunities for expanded partnerships across the Global South and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Talking about the importance of the collaboration, Mr Hari Menon, India Country Director, BMGF, stated, “Collaboration and partnerships are critical now more than ever, to accelerate research, develop new tools, and drive continued progress in health and development. Given the Government of India’s deep commitment to global partnerships, the BMGF is honoured to work with the Ministry of External Affairs and the RIS to support strong collaboration between governments, multilateral institutions, academia, and voluntary and private sectors, to enable joint commitment and shared learning that address the biggest challenges in health and development in the Global South.” ■

RIS work programme

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Applauds RIS Work Programme and Calls for Deeper Policy Connect



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, visited RIS on 30 December 2021 for an interactive session with faculty about the work programme of RIS. In the intensive session, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the history and organisational structure of the institution, thrust areas, research pillars, partnership platforms, global networks, publications and capacity building programmes. Faculty members briefed the Hon'ble Minister about their research profiles and activities covering international trade; India's economic relations with Latin America; narrative for rule-based Indo-Pacific, India-EU connectivity

partnership and development; Blue Economy prospects in the Indian Ocean; multilateralism with special focus on UN SDGs, South-South and Triangular Cooperation; Science Policy and Science Diplomacy and India and Central Asia partnership for regional development. The Hon'ble Minister interacted with all faculty members and applauded the efforts of RIS in the above areas to serve as a think tank of developing countries. She encouraged all faculty members to engage in evidence based and policy relevant research, to undertake rigorous analysis and to embed national interest as well as connect with Indian thought and culture in our collective intellectual endeavours. ■

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Cooperation with the Asian region

Advancing India-Australia-Pacific Islands Development Cooperation

Following the 2021 publication of “Advancing South-South Cooperation: India’s Development Partnerships with Pacific Island Countries” from the Asian Foundation and RIS and supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), a consultation webinar on ‘Advancing India-Australia-Pacific Islands Development Cooperation’ was held on 31 March 2022. Speakers from India, Australia, and the

PICs discussed and explored the history and prospects for India-PICs partnership and points of convergence between Australia's and India's interests in the PICs. The webinar provided an opportunity for articulating priorities. It was underlined that more studies should be conducted to analyze the prospects for triangular cooperation in different areas. ■

Research Capacity Building Programme on Sustainable Development Goals

Effective implementation of Agenda 2030, for realisation of Sustainable Development Goals, is an integral part of RIS work programme. As part of this, the first phase of two week Research Capacity Building Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was conducted under the flagship of RIS and North East Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA) for young north eastern research scholars during 14-18 March, 2022 at RIS, New Delhi. Total 15 research scholars joined the programme from eight different north eastern states.

Dr Rajesh Tandon, Chairman of FIDC and President of PRIA, in his inaugural speech, discussed about the Localization of SDGs: Perspectives from North Eastern States of India. He emphasized that the vision of SDG can be fulfilled when one can connect with the indigenous people and work with them to amalgamate the indigenous knowledge and the modern technique by keeping originality and nature safe to become compatible with each other. He urged the participants to contribute their research work to the people or to the community they belong.

Professor Milindo Chakraborty, Visiting Fellow, RIS commenced the programme by a short addressing speech on Sustainable Development Goals and by pronouncing the significance of two Weeks Research Capacity Building Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also mentioned the importance of collaboration of RIS and NETRA and how they will work hand in hand to bring or to achieve all the 17 SDGs in north eastern states of India. In his presentation, Professor Chakraborty also raised the issues of localizing SDGs in North East India.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Dr Raj Kumar Ranjan Singh, interacting with the research scholars from north-eastern states of India.

Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs also interacted with the participants. He listened to the queries and suggestions provided by the participants to attain SDGs in north east India. While addressing he pointed out that SDGs should be achieved by integrating the local knowledge and practices with modern knowledge without harming the originality of the region. Professor S. K Mohanty, Senior Professor, RIS and Dr Sumit Seth, Joint Secretary, Policy Planning and Research, Ministry of External Affairs, also joined during the interaction.

While interacting with SDG-research scholars, Dr Rajeev Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog urged all the participants to go to the ground level and find out the real facts and data about the north east region of the country. He also asked to connect with the local people and try to understand the need of the local people which will help different policymakers to frame suitable policies for the local people.

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Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, discussed the India's Development Cooperation: A Cross Border Spectrum by in relation to 17 SDGs. He pointed out that a researcher needs to find basic problems that are existed in their region and try to find out the best possible alternatives which suited them. He emphasised the need of investigating potential solutions to local community issues and more importantly, determining the root causes of such issues.

Among the speakers, Mr Shubomoy Bhattacharya, Fellow RIS, discussed on Energy Security (SDG-7) and the essentiality to understand the risk and benefit factor of the energy transition from conventional to renewable energy sources. He further pointed out the need for identification of the alternatives specific to North eastern region.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, enlightened the participants about different aspects of the Financing SDGs. The importance of effectively mobilizing domestic and foreign resources was further stressed upon by him.

By addressing the issues in sustainable health for all (SDG-3), Professor T.C. James, RIS and President of NIPO, very well explained about the terms health, health for all and sustainable healthcare. In his presentation, he emphasized that the political commitment, community participation and support of health related sectors are the requisites of sustainable health for all.

Dr Purva, Sr. Researcher, NIUA, in her delivery, pointed out that it is not simple to align all the goals and objectives to the global framework therefore, we need to get down at the city level (SDG-11) and develop these indicators and understand what are those indicators.

Professor Amitabh Kundu, RIS, brought out how SDG11 questions the present structure of urbanization, as in the present settlement hierarchy, everything is concentrated in big cities, which is one major issue discussed in the framework. He emphasized on the need to have an urban migration strategy and settlement strategy that we have to have a settlement structure that can integrate the whole region.



Dr Rajeev Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog with the SDG-research scholars.

Expatriating on Gender Equality, SDG5, Dr Beena Pandey, RIS, asserted that the women empowerment is the precondition to achieve the targets of several other SDGs like poverty eradication, inequality, access to good health and education for all, decent work and economic growth among others.

Dr Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay, Director of PRIA, highlighted the roles played by a Civil Society organization in a community or a nation. The CSOs help reach the services meant for the marginalized and underprivileged. He underlined the reason for having partnerships and the factors contributing to a successful partnership, including having relatively equivalent power organizations, clearly defined organizational structure, and capacity enhancement of all the partners to work with each other.

Dr Jayanta Choudhury, Asst. Professor, Tripura University, Founder of NETRA, discussed how to localize SDGs in North East India. Dr Choudhury emphasized on importance of capacity building of different stakeholders, strengthening of existing local level institutes in the North East India. He also put the importance of CSOs at different levels to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

All the participants also participated in International discussion on Indigenous People and India organized by RIS. At the end of the programme, participants presented their thoughts on issues related to north East India under the mentorship of Professor Kesang Degi, Board Member of NETRA and Professor, Department of Education, RGU, Arunachal Pradesh. The next phase of programme will be conducted in the month of April at Regional Centre, IGNTU, Manipur. ■

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Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from India and ASEAN

Webinar- I to Celebrate Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations was held on February 18, 2022, on the theme of 'Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from India and ASEAN' on virtual format. Special remarks were given by H.E. Mr Ung Sean, Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Cambodia, New Delhi and Amb. Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Indian Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, New Delhi, extended the opening remarks. India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific are two

important guiding principles for the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. Indo-Pacific is much discussed in the recent academic and policy discourses and that explains its relevance for India's foreign policy formulation. India's recent initiatives in the Indo-Pacific exemplify its position for peaceful resolution of disputes and sustainability of development. Indo-Pacific is also important in international affairs as it symbolizes post-Cold war era features and demonstrates the relevance of plurilateral constructivism. Dr Prabir De delivered the vote of thanks. ■

Building Post COVID-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific

Panel Discussion on "Building Post COVID-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific", was held on 29 July, 2021. The programme started with the welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. The panelists were: Dr Sweta Sexena, Chief, Macroeconomics Policy and Analysis, UNESCAP; Professor Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade and Mr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA. The discussion featured policy dialogue on

promoting economic resilience and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region during the post-COVID-19 recovery. The panelists addressed issues pertaining to resilient economic recovery, financing challenges and climate-related sovereign risk management in Asia and the Pacific in general and India in particular. There was also a Q&A session. Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS, extended the vote of thanks. ■

Celebrating Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations – 'Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from India and ASEAN'

The year 2022 is marked as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year to commemorate the 30 years of dialogue relations that began in the early 1990s. To commemorate the 30 years of ASEAN-India dialogue relations, RIS is organising webinars in virtual mode to focus on the persistent challenges and emerging opportunities in ASEAN-India relations. RIS will organise five webinars on five thematic areas of the ASEAN-India relations throughout the year. To start with, the first webinar on strategic pillar of the ASEAN-India relations was organised virtually on Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from India and ASEAN on 18 February 2022. Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS gave the welcome remarks. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, delivered the opening remarks. H.E. Mr Ung Sean, Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Cambodia and Amb. Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Indian Mission to ASEAN,

Jakarta delivered the special remarks. The panel discussion was chaired by Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai, and the following were the speakers:

Ms Joanne Lin, Lead Researcher, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS Yusof-Ishak Institute, Singapore; Professor Rajaram Panda, Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi; Mr Waffa Kharisma, Researcher, Department of International Relations Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta and Dr Lawrence Prabhakar Williams, Professor, International Relations, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai. Dr Sampa Kundu, Consultant, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS gave the vote of thanks. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

Enabling the Global Energy Transition: India in the World

The 41st STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance, on 28 February 2022 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Enabling the Global Energy Transition: India in the World”. The event was chaired by Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI. Welcome remark was delivered by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy, RIS, followed by brief remarks by Mr Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

In his very insightful address, Dr Ajay Mathur provided an overview of the energy transitions happening in the world and in India. He began his lecture by highlighting that the renewable energy and non-fossil fuels have taken up a substantial share of the electricity generation mix. Globally, the share of renewable energy stands at 31 per cent, while in India, it's at 36 per cent. For India, it's almost like achieving the related Paris Agreement target well in advance. Dr Mathur elaborated on the key driving factors behind such significant transitions in the short period of time. One of the key drivers has been the significant decline in the prices of renewable energy. Other key driver has been the decline in the cost of the battery energy storage. He also highlighted that the global investments in renewable energy have increased substantially and so have the installed capacities.

Dr Mathur enumerated two key public policy interventions that helped India scale up its Solar energy installation till date viz. Price reduction and demand

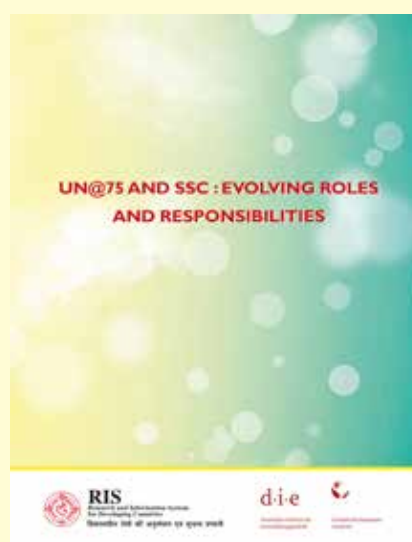


STIP Forum Lecture in progress.

creation. Price reduction has been achieved through a two-stage process comprising of Feed-in Tariffs and Reverse Auctions, whereas demand creation was achieved through the system of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs). These policy instruments have made renewable energy cost effective and competitive, thus spurring their high intake. However, as mentioned by Dr Mathur, India's trade balance in terms of solar cells and solar modules is extremely skewed at this moment, wherein only 36 per cent of the solar panels installed in India during the FY 2021 were supplied by the domestic manufactures. Another challenge, as pointed by Dr Mathur, is in terms of the cost of capital for solar energy projects, which is quite high in India as compared to many other countries such as US, China and Europe. He placed high hopes on the recently launched PLI scheme to change this scenario in near future. ■

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

RIS Publications



REPORTS

■ **FIDC Annual Symposium 2021: Development Cooperation Dialogue – Key Points in Brief**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

■ **FIDC Annual Symposium 2021: Development Cooperation Dialogue- Key Takeaways**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

■ **UN@75 AND SSC : Evolving Roles and Responsibilities**, RIS, DIE and German Development Institute, 2021

■ **Building a More Resilient Financial System in India through Governance Improvements**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

■ **75 Years of Development Partnership - Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress** RIS, New Delhi, 2022

■ **Virtual Brainstorming Session T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies**, RIS, New Delhi, 2022

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

#272: **हज़ारों वर्षों की विकास की यात्रा**
वर्क रफ़्तार के लिए
द्वारा टी सी जेम्स

#272: **International Discussions on Indigenous People and India** by T.C. James

#270: **COVID - 19 : A n Opportunity to Revamp Pharmacovigilance System**
by Sumya Pathak, Rajeshwari Singh and Shubhini A. Saraf

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

#107 **Time to Reform Lines of Credit Striving for Efficiency & Effectiveness** by RIS Team

G20 DIGEST

- Volume: 1 No: 2, April, 2021
- Volume: 1 No: 3, October, 2021



Chapter 2

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation



Professor S. K. Mohanty



Dr Pankhuri Gaur
Assistant Professor

Resource of Multilateralism

Multilateralism received a new lease of life, particularly WTO, following a change in the political regime in the US administration assuming the office of President Biden in 2021. The continued impasse in the WTO started moving towards a vibrant institution again to meet the growing aspirations of its member countries with the appointment of new leadership in the WTO. Recent practices of plurilateralism and the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) have stranded the age-old practices of arriving at a consensus on different issues in the WTO. Persistent opposition to certain agreements or narrowing down of the scope of some Agreements in the WTO, such as food stockholding, TRIPS waiver for public health, etc. has weakened the trust of member countries in WTO as a credible, efficient and transparent rulemaking multilateral body. This has led to the proliferation of regionalism in various forms in different parts of the world. The world economy witnessed a wide area of regional grouping ranging from 20th-century RTAs to 21st-century regional eases. The rapid proliferation of regional groupings is not only observed in the global economy but also in India, which is currently witnessing its 'second wave' of regionalism since 2021.

To commemorate the launching of the WTO Ministerial Conference MC12, RIS brought out its flagship report of the 'World Trade and Development Report' in a programme on issues before WTO MC-12: Launch of WTDR (WTDR) on 25 November 2021 at New Delhi. The report presented a critical overview of the global regime, which focused on the intricacies between technology and development nexus existing in the global trade order. Several other issues, such as digitisation of trade, the resurgence of production activities in health equipment during the period of COVID-19, multilateral discussion on TRIPS in the context of COVID-19 Vaccines, fishery subsidy, SNTD provisions for developing countries, LDCs and SIDS, global trade in merchandise goods and services, WTO reforms and required changes in the global governance architecture to reform WTO, etc. are discussed from the perspective of developing countries. The WTDR launching was followed by a panel discussion. The participants were Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS; Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Former Indian Ambassador to WTO; Shri Shyamal Mishra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce; Professor Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convener, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch; Professor Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; Professor Nisha Taneja, ICRIES; Professor S K Mohanty, RIS; Dr Priyadarshi Das, Associate Professor, RIS; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS and Dr Pankhuri

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Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS. The discussion panel expressed a successful conclusion of the fishery subsidy issue, which was pending before the DDA in 2001.

WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-12) was scheduled to be held on 30 November-3 December 2021 but was rescheduled to take place from 12 to 17 June 2022 due to the spread of Omicron across the globe. RIS organised an online panel discussion to consolidate and protect the economic interest of developing countries by staying united and adhering to common principles while negotiating in the WTO on various issues, having interest for developing countries. In the discussion, the participating panellists were Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Nagesh Kumar and Dr Pankhuri Gaur. The discussion was broadly on strengthening the positions of developing countries in certain critical issues such as fishery subsidy (FS), agricultural subsidy, TRIPS waiver, and SNTD.

Long Pending Issue on Fishery Subsidy

The stalemate continued to prevail in the multilateral discussions for the last two decades on the Fishery Subsidy Agreement. Since asymmetric practices of fishery subsidy continued between resource-poor and resource-rich countries, a balanced and just Fishery Subsidy Agreement is warranted for supporting the livelihood security issues of developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS. On the run-up to WTO Ministerial Conference, MC-12, initially scheduled from 30 November to 3 December 2021, a panel discussion on 'Fishery Subsidy and the Discussion at WTO: Issues, Prospects and Way Forward', was organised on 29 May 2021. The welcome remarks were delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi and the session was chaired by Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguish Fellow, RIS. Various aspects of fishery subsidy including India's official position on the issue, technical interpretation of the 'May Draft', the socio-economic impact of fishery subsidy and positions taken by fishery workers in India, were discussed by a panel comprised Dr Tarun Sridran, Mr Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor S.K. Mohanty, Ms Ranja Sengupta and Mr Jayaprakash. The discussion also covered a wide range of micro-management issues, which included appropriate provisions in the Special Differential Treatment (SNTD) mechanism for LDCs and SIDS, subsidy-related issues to IUU fishing, subsidy within the 12 nautical territorial water, etc. After the conclusion of WTO MC-12 in June 2022, the fishery subsidy issue remained inconclusive. The matter is further shifted to the next ministerial conference of WTO.

Dealing with Regionalism

In the regional approach to regionalism, India has been accorded priority on regionalism/bilateralism over the last two decades. In the recent free trade Agreements, the negotiating countries have been consistently making efforts to include new provisions in the agreement, which are almost consistent with the 21st-century Agreements. India's regionalism approach has been to sign new Agreements and upgrade the existing Agreements through the review process. RIS has opened up such dialogues with some countries to consolidate bilateral economic relations. RIS, in collaboration with ICWA and KNDA (Korean National Diplomatic Academy and Korean Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) organised the first "India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on 'Reimagining India-Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: For synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy',

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a webinar was organised on 27 October 2021. Resource persons from think tanks participated in the day-long discussion from both countries. Discussions were focused on various issues, including bilateral economic relations in the changing global order, response to the post-COVID situation, and strategic dimensions in the Indo-Pacific region among others.

RIS organised another webinar with Chung-Hua Institute for Economic Research (CIER) on “Developing GVCs in India: Scaling up Taiwan’s Investment to India”, on 9th December 2021. Participating resource persons from both think tanks discussed wide-ranging issues, including bilateral engagement in semi-conductor production and value chains sectors, India’s vision on ICT as well as semi-conductor sectors, India-Taiwan cooperation in the technology industry, the role of G2G engagement in promoting the technology industry, response to COVID-19 in a state of global economic crisis and developing close economic partnership in trade and investment.

In collaboration with the Nigerian Army Resource Centre (NARC), RIS also hosted a webinar on “Promoting MSME to Enhance Industrialisation: Challenges and Prospects” on 14th July 2021. The webinar was addressed by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, HE Mr Abhay Thakur, Major General (Retired) Mr Garba Ayodeji Wahab, Director General, NARC, Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS, Professor M.H. Bala Subramanya, IIS, Mr Joseph Olatayo Omidiji, NEXIM Bank, Mr Adeyemi Folorunsho, Manufacturing Association of Nigeria and Dr Pankaj Vashisht, RIS. The webinar deliberated on the state of MSME in both countries and the need for cooperation to develop the sector.



Dr Priyadarshi Dash
Associate Professor,

Time to Revisit Mechanisms for Financial Cooperation

The COVID-19 pandemic, followed by Russia-Ukraine conflict, has changed the global financial landscape in the last three years. It was marked by an abrupt reversal of capital flows, drying of new investments due to 'save home first' preoccupations, squeezed fiscal space, mounting debt service burden, higher demand for social safety programmes, rising prices, and reluctance among the private investors. Falling tax revenues due to low economic activity as a result of prolonged lock-downs and higher spending on the health sector. Developing countries and LDCs faced the worst as budgetary constraints narrowed the scale of their policy interventions to deal with growing poverty, job losses and reverse migration. Although the size of fiscal stimulus differed across economies, it was the only option before countries to support the economy in transition from COVID-19. Job losses in informal sectors worsened socio-economic conditions and put pressure on the exchequer for comprehensive social safety arrangements.

Banks and financial institutions played a key role during the pandemic by sustaining credit flows to the productive sectors as well as household consumption. Loan moratorium and restructuring of debt were opted as a relief to the affected population. Digital platforms and Fintech solutions were instrumental in facilitating numerous retail transactions during lock-downs, and enabling governments to make faster and transparent direct benefit transfers to millions of beneficiaries. The Government of India successfully leveraged digital platforms in a seamless way to transfer the COVID package to all Jan Dhan account holders.

While fiscal space eroded significantly during the pandemic, the debt servicing burden for many countries led to substantial deterioration of their balance of payments situation. IMF crisis financing appeared the only option for them, whereas Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) offered some relief temporarily. As it is going on for some time, IMF also tries to raise its crisis finding window. In fact, two days back, IMF announced the Resilience and Sustainability Trust, which would very soon operationalise the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) for the eligible countries. Besides the IMF as the lender of last resort time has come to strengthen financial cooperation through regional financial arrangements or similar arrangements between countries.

Having demonstrated its contribution to the field of trade, investment, technology and regional economic integration, RIS has a dedicated pillar for research and policy advice on financial cooperation, infrastructure finance, SDG financing and development finance. The finance team at RIS has recently contributed a number of policy briefs to Think 20 (T20) in the areas of innovative financing for infrastructure, blended finance for SDGs, debt management frameworks, among others.

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For comprehensive debate on banks, financial institutions and financial systems, RIS, in collaboration with India International Centre (IIC) launched a webinar series in 2021. In total, six webinars (three in the financial year 2020-21 and three in financial year 2021-22) were organised on different topics as part of this series. Several notable experts deliberated on contemporary issues at length. The webinar on “Banks, Finance and Changing Forms of Technology: New Options with Fintech” held on April 23, 2021, covered the application of a range of fintech solutions in digital banking, digital lending, retail payments, etc. The webinar identified several promising areas of fintech applications such as financial inclusion, SME lending, etc. A dedicated session on “Role of Banking and Financial Sector: Overcoming Pandemic Challenges” chaired by Ms Usha Thorat, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India delved into the timely action taken by the banks during the pandemic in the form of credit, deferment of loan repayments, and working capital support to MSME sectors. The last in the series focused on a lecture on “Resilient Financial System and Governance” by Mr Mahesh Kumar Jain, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India. The seminar focused on emerging technologies, risk management frameworks and evolving governance structures. Dr Rakesh Mohan, Former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India and President, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) chaired and shared his insights on the subject. The deliberations of the webinar series have appeared in the form of outcome documents.

Besides the above mentioned activities undertaken last year, a number of research studies relating to the finance domain are current at different stages. RIS is undertaking a study on fintech in collaboration with University of Essex, UK, along with ISID, New Delhi and GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram. Research papers in the pipeline include fintech corridors, green finance, etc.

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation

Fishery Subsidy and the Discussions at WTO: Issues, Prospects and Way Forward

Ahead of the WTO's July 15 deadline for its member countries to come up with a 'clean and complete' fisheries negotiation text to be presented to trade ministers to help them reach an agreement, experts asked developing countries, including India, to ensure that the interests of low-income and resource-poor fisherfolk are protected.

Speaking at a webinar on 'Fishery Subsidy and the Discussions at the WTO: Issues, Prospects and Way Forward' held on 29 May 2021, Dr Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, said India is aiming to use the Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) mechanism to make sure that low income, resource-poor fishers, or livelihood fishing, as well as fishing-related activities of developing countries in their respective territorial waters (12 nautical miles from the shores of the coastal state) are protected through an exemption from the ban on subsidies for unreported and unregulated fishing.

A recent draft text put out by the WTO Chair of the negotiations, has proposed a two-year time period (from the date when the final agreement enters into force) for developing countries, including LDCs, to do away with the exemption from subsidies for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (for fishing-related activities of their poor fishers) within 12 nautical miles from the baseline.

According to the draft text, two years as the applicable time period can be a starting point for discussing this provision. However, experts said there are many points (including those related to this timeline for exemption from the ban on subsidies as well as the definition of what constitutes 'artisanal fishing') in the draft text that are yet to be agreed upon by the members. As per the WTO, "under the mandate from the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference held in Buenos Aires in 2017 and the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 14.6, negotiators have been given the task of securing agreement on disciplines to eliminate subsidies for IUU fishing and to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, with SDT being an integral part of the negotiations."

Mr Tarun Sridhar, former Secretary, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, said it is questionable whether the WTO was the appropriate

body for fisheries negotiation, especially on issues like what constitutes 'overfishing', when there are other specialised agencies for that purpose such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. WTO primarily looks at the issue of tariffs, he added. He also said developing countries, including India have capacity constraints in complying with various notifications and in taking part in the negotiations effectively. There are the practical difficulties in implementation of norms, such as determining whether a small fishing boat has crossed the 12 nautical mile distance limit for fishing.

Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, proposed certain alternatives with greater flexibilities for developing countries. For instance, he said there could be a complete exemption for LDCs from the ban on providing subsidies for small scale fishing within the 12 nautical mile distance limit, and a longer time period for developing countries (say 7-10 years) to end such subsidies. Ms Ranja Sengupta, Senior Researcher, Third World Network, said there are attempts by developed countries to cripple the SDT mechanism meant for developing countries, even though the UN SDG Target 14.6 comes with a SDT mandate (it specifies that 'by 2020, members should prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing; eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective SDT for developing countries and LDCs should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation).

Mr P. Jayaprakash, Akhil Bharatiya Matsya Mazdoor Mahasangh, termed as "undemocratic" the "hasty" manner in which the WTO was conducting negotiations in a virtual format "without adequate transparency", and "pushing" countries to conclude the negotiations soon, especially at a time when developing countries are finding it difficult to overcome the health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the fisheries negotiations are important from the perspective of the usage of SDT provisions and the WTO's governance of subsidies. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS and former Commerce Secretary of India, said the fisheries negotiation gives the WTO an opportunity to revive multilateralism. ■

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation

Role of Banking and Financial Sector: Overcoming Pandemic Challenges

The RBI in its upcoming June monetary policy will be faced with a “huge challenge” of doing a tightrope balancing act between growth and inflation, especially in view of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation and core WPI inflation inching up as well as due to the need to maintain price stability with an eye on growth, according to former RBI Deputy Governor, Ms Usha Thorat.

Speaking at a webinar on the ‘Role of Banking and Financial Sector: Overcoming Pandemic Challenges’ organised by RIS and India International Centre on 21 May 2021, Ms Thorat said, “We are finding commodity prices pressure building up. We are finding that WPI and core inflation are inching up. We are also quite concerned about the impact of the (COVID-19) second wave and the supply and demand constraints that are being faced. So, I think this kind of a tight rope balancing will clearly come out in the next monetary policy deliberations (of the RBI).” In April, the WPI-based inflation had touched an 11-year high of 10.5 per cent as against 7.4 per cent in the previous month on account of the price rise of certain food products, fuels, minerals and manufactured items. However, the retail inflation had dropped to a three-month low of 4.3 per cent in April.

She pointed out that earlier there was a stance towards going back from the accommodative stance to start withdrawing the excess liquidity in the system. But the last monetary policy talked about the concerns regarding growth, she said. Both GDP outlook and Consumer Price Index (CPI) come out in every monetary policy and will be looked upon very closely with the kind of information that RBI has. She said there is a need to have a relook at

the fiscal space both at the Centre and the state government levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and member, the Board of Governors, RBI, said the inflation target (of 4 per cent, with a leeway of +/- 2 percentage points) “would be a means towards the end, which is growth and development.” He also referred to the RBI’s recent announcement of a Rs 50,000 crore liquidity package to help boost the country’s healthcare infrastructure and the efforts that the Ministry of Finance is making to bring down inflationary tendencies.

Mr Manish Sabharwal, Chairman, Board of Directors, Team Lease Services Ltd, said availability of credit is more important than the cost of credit. “There is really less dispute between the government and RBI (on addressing inflation). Inflation is a really important election issue in the long run. It is the biggest tax on the poor. This fight (between the government and the RBI) is overdone, that somebody likes inflation and somebody doesn’t. Nobody likes inflation. It is only people who live in the weather of the moment who obsess about this,” he said. Ms Dakshita Das, Additional Member, Railway Board and former, Managing Director, National Housing Bank and Mr Sangram Singh, EVP & Head (Commercial Banking Coverage Group), Axis Bank, touched upon the critical role that credit would play in the post-pandemic recovery, especially to the MSME sector and desired path of lending, the banks and NBFCs are expected to embark on. ■

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation

Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads

The ASEAN Studies Center (Chulalongkorn University), Bangkok; the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS) in Bangkok, and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in New Delhi organised an international conference on "Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads" on 8 - 9 July 2021 in virtual mode. The two-day conference had six technical sessions which covered - Southeast Asia between India and China

Reimagining Asia and Regional Indo-Pacific Order; The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives; Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times; Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: The Interesting Interests of Other Major Powers; Asia's Post-Pandemic Integration: What the Indo-Pacific Should Stand for?; ASEAN amidst Competing Connectivity Strategic and Integration Challenges; Security Issues and Strategic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific. ■

Resilient Financial System and Governance

Unless traditional financial firms adapt to the newer ways of doing business by adopting the latest technologies and showing technological resilience, they may be marginalised soon by the Big Tech and innovative FinTech players that are revolutionising financial transactions, according to Mr Mahesh Kumar Jain, Deputy Governor, RBI.



Mr Mahesh Kumar Jain, Deputy Governor, RBI

Speaking at a webinar on 'Resilient Financial System and Governance' jointly organised by RIS and India International Centre on 18 June 2021, Mr Jain said, "Technology is revolutionising the competitive landscape of the financial system." He added that there is a "growing reliance of financial institutions on technology and technology resilience is now regarded as important as financial resilience, if not more important." However, Mr Jain underlined the importance of preserving heterogeneity in the financial system with entities following different business models, even while they adapt to the newer ways of doing business. "A homogenous financial system will be less resilient and prone to a systemic crisis if the underlying economic conditions change," he said.

Referring to the growing importance of climate risks, he said while insurance companies directly face such risks, banks are also required to take them more seriously. Mr Jain said the financial system needs to move towards green financing, even while taking into account the country's developmental requirements. RBI is discussing with central banks of other countries for developing guidelines on green finance.

Citing good governance framework as a major factor that enhances the resilience of an entity, he said governance quality depends on governance structures and culture. Mr Jain also highlighted the importance of compensation policies in the context of governance framework.

On the role of moral hazard, or its absence, in building a resilient financial system, Mr Jain said banks will not have any incentive to invest in building a robust risk management system if they know that taxpayers' money would be used to rescue them.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rakesh Mohan, former Deputy Governor, RBI and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, stressed on the need for RBI to keep a close watch on the actual level of bad loans or the likely NPAs even as the current pandemic-triggered crisis has necessitated regulatory forbearance/loan moratorium. This will help in contingency planning for any situation once the regulatory forbearance/debt moratorium is lifted, he said. Dr Mohan also expressed concern over a likelihood of a flood of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code-related cases in the near future.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Governing Board member, RBI, said the RBI has launched a programme called 'Utkarsh' to bring in new initiatives on the regulatory side, and adopt new technologies. However, the challenges include the multiplicity of financial firms and FinTech, as well as the need to ensure a green recovery through greater access to green finance.

Ashok Bhattacharya, Executive Director, *Business Standard* Group, spoke about the need for greater clarity on the relationship between the government and the financial system as well as the importance of strengthening the apex level Financial Stability and Development Council to address interconnected issues in the financial sector. Mr N.N. Vohra, President, IIC, also spoke on the occasion. ■

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation

Reviving Trade and Investment for Recovery: Focus on Resilience, Inclusion and Sustainability

The third dialogue in the series was on Reviving Trade and Investment for Recovery: Focus on Resilience, Inclusion and Sustainability was held on 20 July 2021. Professor S K Mohanty, RIS, gave the welcome remarks. Professor Manoj Pant, Director, IIFT, chaired and the panel discussion included the following: Dr Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre (tralac). South Africa; Ms Olga Ponomareva, Research Fellow, Institute of International Economics and Finance, Russian Foreign Trade Academy

of the Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Russia; Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER, India and Dr (Ms) Zhang Chuanhong (Diana), Associate Professor, College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, China. Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India, gave the vote of thanks. ■

India-Nigeria Webinar on Promoting MSME to Enhance Industrialization: Challenges and Prospects

India-Nigeria Webinar on Promoting MSME to Enhance Industrialization: Challenges and Prospects, was jointly organised by RIS, the Nigerian Army Resource Centre and the High Commission of India in Nigeria on 14 July 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS gave the welcome remarks. H.E. Mr Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria made opening remarks. Major General (Retired) Mr Garba Ayodeji Wahab, Director General, Nigerian Army Resource Center, Nigeria gave special remarks. Session I was on MSME in India: Status,

Challenges and Way forward and Session II was on MSME Sector in Nigeria. Eminent speakers included: Professor M. H. Bala Subrahmanya, Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Mr Joseph Olatayo Omidiji, Deputy General Manager and Head of the Strategic Planning Department at NEXIM Bank and Mr Adeyemi Folorunsho, Manufacturing Association of Nigeria. Dr Pankaj Vashisht, RIS gave the vote of thanks. ■

Agriculture and Food Systems in South Asia Demonstrated Unexpected Resilience

The programme was co-organized by IFPRI South Asia, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and RIS on 8 July 2021, to present the highlights of the *Global Food Policy Report, 2021*, in the South Asian context. Policy makers and thought leaders shared their perspectives on COVID-19's impacts on our food systems and discussed the lessons. The report draws from the current crisis to help transform food systems to reduce the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, better prepare for future shocks, and address longstanding weaknesses and inequalities.

"We have known for a while now that there are major problems with our food systems, that they are unequal and unsustainable," said Dr Johan Swinnen, Director General of IFPRI. "This crisis has revealed these problems in a way that none of us can ignore, but it has also demonstrated that we have effective ways to address these problems".

Dr P. K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, stated that UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (pertaining to ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030) is a critical area that needs to be addressed. In the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest contribution from India was that there were no starvation deaths despite the closure of borders, disruption of value chains and locust attacks. The record wheat procurement speaks volumes about our food system. He said important aspects that require great attention include reduction of carbon footprint, ensuring climate resilience, financing mechanisms, localization of efforts to provide nutritious food to people, and making sure that there are sufficient stocks of a variety of food items, including those like millets that can address issues of co-morbidities.

"The *Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2021* highlights that the countries in the region did much better than the expert predictions in terms of economic performance, food price stabilization, and protecting livelihoods. However, the report also cautioned that there's no room for complacency, which unfortunately turned out to be true during the second wave that overwhelmed health

systems and significantly disrupted livelihoods", said Dr Shahidur Rashid, Director- IFPRI, South Asia.

The report underscores that the pandemic has revealed both resilience and vulnerabilities in South Asian food systems. Across the region, the agriculture sector grew, food prices remained relatively stable, and no food security crisis was reported during the first wave. This resilience can largely be attributed to the region's decades investments in infrastructure and institutions for social transfers and safety nets programmes, as well as the expansion of many of these programmes.

Surveys conducted by IFPRI found that public transfer systems for food, security, health, and nutrition have largely performed well in the region.

One of the key vulnerabilities that the pandemic illuminated is the fragility of many South Asian labor markets, especially in the non-farm and informal sectors, which are vital for both economic and food systems transformation. The strict lockdowns led to the return of many migrant laborers to their hometowns, creating a scarcity of labor in the agricultural sector and threatening nutrition and food security.

The report finds that South Asia's international remittance inflows also proved vulnerable. While the pandemic has raised new challenges, researchers stressed that we could not lose sight of old challenges standing in the way of an inclusive and sustainable food system transformation for the region.

Dr Rashid stated that agriculture and food systems in South Asia had demonstrated unexpected resilience in the face of the pandemic. However, the region cannot afford to be complacent because growth in the non-farm and service sectors is an essential pre-condition for economic and food system transformation and COVID-19 has reminded South Asia how vulnerable these sectors are. The eminent participants included Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Dr Swarnim Waglé and Dr Binayak Sen among others. ■

Trade, Investment, Finance and Economic Cooperation

Postponement of MC12 Leaves Scope for More Work

By the time this webinar took off, the postponement of MC12 due to Omicron spread was already announced. But speakers stressed that India should use postponement of WTO Ministerial to connect with South. Developing countries should analyse the impact of the postponement of the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) on the outcome of the event and use the time till it is convened again to protect their interests by staying united and consolidating their positions, according to international trade experts from the Global South. The decision on the postponement of the MC12 (slated for November 30-December 3, 2021) was taken late Friday by the WTO General Council “after an outbreak of a particularly transmissible strain of the COVID-19 virus.”

Speaking at the webinar, Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Geneva, said the developing country think tanks like the South Centre and RIS should analyse all the proposals and ensure that the postponement of the MC12 will help consolidate developing country positions on various issues including fisheries subsidies, agriculture, TRIPS waiver and Special and Differential Treatment.

Referring to the WTDR’s focus on how technology and trade are impacting each other, Prof Correa said this issue, though very important, especially in the post-COVID scenario that saw an acceleration of digitalization, has not been dealt with seriously at the WTO.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, said developing countries need to get their act together by looking at the opportunities and challenges that have emerged due to the postponement of MC12. Ensuring ‘success of the MC12 at any cost’ should not mean that ‘success’ is cornered by the developed world and developing countries are left to bear the ‘costs’, he said.

Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, formerly India’s Ambassador to WTO, said the postponement of the MC12 gives an opportunity to developing countries to prepare strongly to counter some proposals which are against their interests. He said developed countries will have to



Prominent speakers at a webinar organised by the RIS on 27 November 2021 following launch of 'World Trade and Development Report' (WTDR), 2021.

come clean on issues such as sustainability and gender, through which they have been indirectly trying to gain market access in the developing world.

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), referred to the importance of the proposal on TRIPS waiver by India and South Africa and said that the WTO should demonstrate that protection of the lives of billions of poor people in the developing world is more important than the protection of the bottom line of a few MNCs that have developed COVID vaccines, diagnostic kits and drugs. He said the discussion on investment facilitation for development should ensure a balance in the rights and responsibilities of investors, home country and host country. He said major developing countries like India should be a part of the plurilaterals including on investment facilitation so that they can ensure that their outcome is not against developing country interests.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said it is all the more important to strengthen developing country coalitions and ensure that the Global South remains as a cohesive unit on various MC12 issues, including on the Joint Statement Initiatives to ensure that they do not take away the policy space of developing country governments in taking decisions in the national interest. He said trade should be a catalyst for domestic production and domestic growth and not just for greater imports. India should use postponement of the WTO Ministerial to connect with the South.

Prof S. K. Mohanty and Dr Pankhuri Gaur of RIS presented the details of the WTDR, and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, RIS, also spoke on the occasion. ■

Bilateral Dialogues



First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue

RIS, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea organised the First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on Reimagining India- Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy' on 27 October 2021 virtually.

Programme began with Inaugural Session. Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Dr Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Ambassador Chang Jae-bok, South Korean Ambassador to India; and Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea addressed the dialogue.

Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group, chaired the Session on India-Korea Relations in a Changing Global and Regional Context: Strategic Perspectives. Speakers included, Dr Cho Wondeuk, Research Professor, KNDA); and Dr Jagannath Panda, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi (MP-IDSA).

Dr Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, ICWA; and Dr Paik Wooyeal, Associate Professor, Yonsei University were discussant.

The session on Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order was chaired by Dr Cho Choongjae, Deputy President of the Center for Area Studies, KIEP. Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS; and Dr Han Hyoungmin, Associate Research Fellow, KIEP were the speakers. Discussants were: Dr Lee Soon-Chul, Professor, Busan University of Foreign Studies; and Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS.

Ambassador Skand Tayal, Former Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, chaired the session on Way Forward: India-Korea Bilateral Relations. Speakers were: Dr Kim Chanwan, Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies; and Dr Jitendra Uttam, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Concluding Session had the following speakers: Dr Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Dr Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA. ■

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Roundtable on India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World



The roundtable discussion is underway in hybrid mode.

RIS, in collaboration with University of Oslo, Norway organised a roundtable discussion on “India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World” in hybrid mode on 9 December 2021. The purpose of the roundtable was to examine the future of India-Africa relations spread across two sessions on overall foreign policy orientations and sectoral cooperation in the areas of health, IT, renewable energy, capacity building, traditional medicine, etc.

In his welcome remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS highlighted the major milestones in India-Africa relations as well as recent trends in their development partnership. He noted that India is today more keen on timely implementation of development and infrastructure projects. Prime Minister Modi has taken initiative to monitoring the progress. He also suggested to set up India’s development agency for facilitating development cooperation in Africa and other regions. Professor Dan Banik, University of Oslo, Norway, said that there is a big departure from India’s past policy towards Africa. There are more high profile visits in recent times. Defence cooperation between India and Africa is also evolving. He noted that there is an element of shift from idealism to pragmatism in the Indian foreign policy.

In his special remarks, Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, India noted that

cooperation with Africa is always important for India. Underlining India’s historical relations with Africa, Shri Ravi noted that currently New Delhi is widening its cooperation in health, renewable and IT- financial technology sectors. Apart from COVID vaccines, India provided medical assistance to African nations and is also ready to support them in the future as well. He opined that there is also scope for deepening India’s relations with Africa in telemedicine. Trade is not up to mark with Africa. Today, Africa wants to make manufactured goods not just only export of the raw materials. Therefore, India would like to set up manufacturing zones there with support of African nations. Shri Ravi said that India is exploring prospects for tri-angular cooperation with France and Britain in Africa.

India-Africa cooperation in areas of health and fintech has been extensively explored in the roundtable discussion. Panellists also noted that agriculture sector also offers opportunities for cooperation between India and Africa.

It was also suggested that India should be cautious in developing cooperation with European nations in Africa because of their colonial rule. Panelists also noted that India’s Africa policy should be de-continentalised because of the diversity in Africa. ■

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World Trade and Development Report 2021

RIS organized programme on “Issues before WTO MC-12: Launch of the *World Trade and Development Report*” (WTDR) on 25 November 2021 in New Delhi. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired. Shri Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address.

Presentation of Key Findings of WTDR was made by Professor S. K. Mohanty, Professor; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor; and Dr Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS. In the panel discussion that followed, Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Former Ambassador to WTO; Shri Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convener, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Professor Abhijit



Launching of the “World Trade and Development Report” on 25 November 2021 at New Delhi.

Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; and Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER shared their valuable insights. Vote of thanks was extended by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS. ■

“Developing GVCs in India: Scaling up Taiwan’s Investment to India”

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerability of global value chains (GVC) that compel the high labour force needs of industries, such as manufacturing industries to cease production. The effect of the epidemic was aggravated during phases of lockdown which induced recession across industrial sectors. This is even more harmful to developing countries, such as India whose GDP contracted by 7.3 per cent in 2020-21 as per the government estimates while the world grew by -3.41 per cent. Therefore, it is a considerable issue to further identify the sectors and possible physical zones of GVCs along with the increase of vaccine coverage and economic recovery.

Based on the long Supply Chains Collaboration of India and Taiwan on electronic components and products, the webinar on “Developing GVCs in India: Scaling up Taiwan’s Investment to India,” that took place on 9 December 2021 focussed primarily on the issue of Electronics, ICTs, and Semi-conductor sectors. The topics included (1) Taiwan’s Experiences in Developing electronics and semi-conductors supply chains; (2) India’s Visions and Current Developments of Electronics, ICT sectors, and Semi-Conductors industries; (3) India-Taiwan collaboration in technology industry supply chains – governments’ roles and business perspectives. This will deepen the understanding between India and Taiwan

on the technology and supply chain cooperation to deal with the U.S.-China trade war, COVID-19 pandemic and global economic turmoil. The increase in interaction between India and Taiwan, and the two countries becoming close trade partners in the future, would be beneficial for both sides.

The participants were Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Chuang-Chang Chang, President, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER), Taiwan; Dr Kristy Tsun Tzu, Hsu, Director, CIER; Dr Shin-Horng, Chen, Research Fellow, Director, The Second Research Division, Chung Hua Institution for Economic Research, Taiwan; Ashwini K Aggarwal, Director, Applied Materials, India; Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Former Indian Ambassador and Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF); Dr Sanjeev K Varshney, Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi; Dr Chuen-Huei, Hung, Deputy General Director, Market Intelligence & Consulting Institute (MIC), Institute for Information Industry, Taiwan. (Recorded Presentation); Mr Sunil Acharya, Vice President, India Electronics & Semiconductor Association; Mr Grant Kuo, CEO & Founder, Digital Doctor Private Limited, India. ■

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Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Australian Government and National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at (RIS), New Delhi, and Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K) organised the fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation held at Kolkata on 23-24 November 2021 in hybrid mode. On behalf of the organisers, Dr Prabir De, Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar and Major General Arun Roye welcomed the participants. Special remarks were delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and Former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, President, Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K). Ms Megan Jones, Director, Regional Maritime Engagement and Programs, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canberra delivered the Special Address. Keynote

Address was delivered by Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, New Delhi.

The two-day conference had five Plenary Sessions: (1) Maritime Security (2) Resource Sharing, (3) Science and Technology Cooperation, Pandemic and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (4). The 5th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation discussed issues related to maritime security, information and resources sharing in the maritime domain, science and technology cooperation, disaster risk reduction and pandemic management and a panel discussion on way forward. Discussions reflected upon the importance of Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) and its seven pillars that has the potential to strengthen India's pragmatic diplomacy in the region. IPOI is focused on better management of shared interests of the participating countries. There is an urgent need to facilitate convergences of national and regional interests in the Indo-Pacific and IPOI is suited for such a scenario. ■

Food and Agricultural Trade in BIMSTEC

RIS-IFPRI National Partners' Meeting took place on 30 March 2022. The meeting addressed the significant problems raised by BIMSTEC in relation to regional competition, with a focus on agriculture. BIMSTEC has been and will continue to be a significant platform for encouraging regional cooperation among South Asian and South East Asian countries, however most BIMSTEC countries' agriculture sectors remain untapped. Food and agriculture trade has doubled

in real terms since 1995, reaching 1.5 trillion in 2018. Surprisingly, emerging and developing countries account for a third of global trade. BIMSTEC will debate on the need for investment in infrastructure, particularly food processing, testing standards, marketing and logistical infrastructure. Food exports from BIMSTEC countries have risen. In 2019, it was 45.3 per cent of total merchandise exports in Nepal, reversing the previous trend. It will be the greatest

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achievement if this trend continues. BIMSTEC is pushing agriculture as a priority sector and working hard to see it grow. Trade facilitation, trade financing, cross-border payment settlement, and other variables can assist the food and agriculture sectors to flourish.

The participants deliberated on BIMSTEC linkages, partnerships and cooperation conceptual framework. Poverty and food insecurity due to economic shocks, climate change and interstate conflicts; rising poverty headcount ratio; unemployment and lower earnings due to economic recession are some of the challenges in BIMSTEC whereas natural resource abundance and trade and investment advantages are some of its strengths. Myanmar is the only BIMSTEC country leading in agriculture. India leads in tourism, transportation, disaster management, and counterterrorism. Similarly, each BIMSTEC country has leading sectors in Economic, Social, and Environmental Linkages (Integrated framework). Some of the areas of cooperation between BIMSTEC countries are - Implementation of a climate-friendly FTA and international collaboration on climate change goals, limitation of fossil fuel subsidies, reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods and services, domestic policy required for trade and

investment gains, etc. The ultimate goal is to make evidence-based policy insights.

Although BIMSTEC's sectoral model differs from other regional agreements, it has been compared to ASEAN and SAARC. SAARC countries are also BIMSTEC members, therefore lessons from SAARC can be learned. Unlike in Nepal, where farmers are terribly disadvantaged and unheard, India's policies are centred on farmers. India offers interest-free loans to farmers. An agricultural trade deficit is alarming for a country that used to be a big rice exporter in the early 1970s. Bangladesh has made great strides in agriculture and is now food self-sufficient. Agriculture is a diverse industry with unique challenges. Value addition in agriculture is difficult. Also, agriculture cannot develop in isolation from trade and industry. The abolition of NTBs has been shown to enhance GDP by 1.6 per cent in some circumstances. Tariff liberalization is not complete without looking at other nations' tariff regimes. BIMSTEC countries can create an enabling environment by removing trade barriers and improving connectivity. BIMSTEC can contribute to food and nutrition security, farmer prosperity, employment creation, and poverty alleviation. ■

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RIS Publications



REPORTS

- **Public Policy and Economic Development Case Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2021*
- **Report on Fifth Meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT)**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2021*
- **New-Generation DFI in India: Opportunities and Challenges**, *RIS and IIC, New Delhi, 2021*
- **Declining Savings Rate in India: New Policy Options**, *RIS and IIC, New Delhi, 2021*
- **World Trade and Development Report 2021**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2021*
- **Revisiting Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC in Post-COVID-19**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2021*

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

- #266: **Intra-Industry Trade in Manufactured Goods: A Case of India** by *Manmohan Agarwal & Neha Betai*
- #264: **Fisheries Subsidy Issues before the MC12 Lessons from the May Text for the July Meeting** by *S. K. Mohanty & Pankhuri Gaur*
- #268: **India's Import Dependence on China in Pharmaceuticals: Status, Issues and Policy Options** by *Amit Kumar*
- #267: **Liberating Indian Agriculture Markets** by *Dammu Ravi*

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

- #105 **India-EBRD Partnership: Current Status and the Way Forward** by *Dr Prasanna V. Salian & Mr Subhasis Dhal*

- #108 **Accessing Rare Earth Elements and Prospects for Manufacturing** by *Pankaj Vashisht*
- #106 **New Approach on Tax Policies and Imperatives for FTAs and FDI: International Trade and Investment Partnerships** by *Subhomoy Bhattacharjee*

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation



Dr Prabir De

Professor/Coordinator,
ASEAN-India Centre at
RIS

Resource of Multilateralism

The balance of power is having a transformation in the world. The emerging trend indicates a multipolar world with high geopolitical and economic influence of developing countries including India. To adjust with the new world order, countries in the South and the organisations such as the RIS have been repositioning through their work programmes on continuous basis. Improved connectivity promotes trade, production networks and people to people contacts. Connectivity matters for growth, supply chain efficiency and resilience. Trade facilitation, connectivity and regional cooperation is one such vertical in RIS that has been contributing to strengthen regional integration while promoting global and regional development strategies.

In view of the post-pandemic scenario, RIS work programmes had covered wide spectrum of trade facilitation, connectivity and regional cooperation. Countries across the world have faced supply chain disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for resiliency in connectivity and regional cooperation has therefore gained high importance. Today, countries witness enhanced global and regional economic integration driven by multitude of FTAs, improved digital connectivity and supply chain resiliency. RIS has been supporting the countries in the immediate and extended neighbourhood to cope up with the challenges posed by the pandemic through cooperation.

In sync with our global and regional priorities, we at the RIS look at connectivity as an important facilitator of development, within and beyond borders. Despite constraints in the pandemic time, the RIS continued to excel in 2021-22 in connectivity related activities through studies, conferences, dialogues, seminars, webinars, etc. and raised the voice and importance by writings and dissemination of cross-cutting global and regional issues. RIS research programmes cover a series of topics starting from trade and connectivity to culture and civilization to integration and cooperation. These can be clubbed into following types: first, high impact studies and specialized research inputs; second, conferences, seminars, dialogues and lecture series; and third, training and capacity building.

Flagship Studies

In 2021-22, the RIS came out with two flagship studies on connectivity and regional cooperation: (i) India-EU Connectivity Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy; and (ii) Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India. These studies serve as valuable inputs for policy makers, academics and practitioners.

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Connectivity Cooperation in Indo-Pacific

Indo-Pacific is reshaping the regional and global cooperation agenda. India came out with the Indo-Pacific vision, namely, Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI), in 2019. The IPOI focuses on seven pillars: (i) Maritime Security; (ii) Maritime Ecology; (iii) Maritime Resources; (iv) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; (v) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; (vi) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; and (viii) Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport. RIS has been appointed as a knowledge partner for the Pillar 7 of the IPOI. Japan is the lead connectivity partner in the Pillar 7. RIS shared the knowledge product of the Pillar 7 of the IPOI with the MEA. This study, among others, identified a strategy to promote trade, connectivity and maritime cooperation in Indo-Pacific.

Both India and Japan believe that their development cooperation in the Indo-Pacific can contribute to unlocking the potential for an equitable, positive and forward-looking change in the region, and contribute to the socio-economic development of Southeast Asia, Africa and Island states in the Indian and Pacific oceans. With industrial development along connectivity corridors, we find convergences of the India's IPOI and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). The RIS in partnership with the Embassy of Japan (EoJ) in New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India started seminar series on 'Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific' in virtual mode since March 2021. The ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS) in Bangkok, and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised an international conference on "Asia's Post- Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads" on 8 - 9 July 2021 in virtual mode. The two-day conference had six technical sessions which covered various facets of Indo-Pacific relations. RIS also came out with a special issue of the Journal of Asian Integration devoted on the Indo-Pacific (Indo-Pacific: A New Paradigm).

Maritime Security: Key Pillar in the Indo-Pacific

Indo-Pacific has been evolving around common challenges of the maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. The RIS in partnership with the MEA, Australian Government, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), and Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K) organised the 5th edition of the East Asia Summit (EAS) conference on maritime security cooperation, held at Kolkata on 23-24 November 2021 in hybrid mode. The 5th EAS conference discussed issues related to maritime security, information and resources sharing on the maritime domain, science and technology cooperation, disaster risk reduction and pandemic management and a panel discussion on way forward. Discussions reflected upon the importance of the IPOI and its seven pillars that has the potential to strengthen its India's pragmatic diplomacy in the region.

India-EU Connectivity Partnership

The India-European Union (EU) connectivity partnership is a vital component of the EU's Global Gateway initiative that aims to create 'links and not dependencies' through investments in quality infrastructure in order to connect goods, services, institutions, banks, businesses and people across the world. India-EU connectivity aims to promote transparent, inclusive, and rules-based connectivity between EU and India and with third countries and region, including Africa, Central Asia, Indo-Pacific. It also identifies new opportunities via quality infrastructure while upholding socio-economic benefits from sustainable growth,

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shared norms and values. RIS launched a report entitled 'India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy' on 28 October 2021. While launching the Report, EU Ambassador to India, H.E. Astuto said that leveraging the strengths of the European Investment Bank and the private sector will be the key to effective implementation of the India-EU connectivity partnership.

ASEAN-India Connectivity Cooperation

Connectivity of India's Northeast region is a key building block of realizing the vision of India's Act East Policy (AEP). To strengthen the connectivity between India and ASEAN, the Trilateral Highway (TH) between India, Myanmar, and Thailand is being developed, and there is a plan to extend the TH to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Completion of the TH is likely to facilitate faster movement of goods and people between India and ASEAN and add growth impetus to India's Northeast. RIS Report titled "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India" sheds light on the economic principles underlying the Northeast India market and to offer new ideas on how its potential can be better exploited in view of the TH development. This study assesses the status of the economic linkages of the NER, identifies the constraints behind and at the India- Myanmar border, and recommends policy measures to augment the linkages between the Northeast India and Southeast Asia. This study also reviews the institutional arrangements and identifies key elements that may hinder the movement of goods and people across the India-Myanmar border along the TH. It also analyses the development impacts of the TH on India's NER.

Strengthening Regional Integration in BIMSTEC

The RIS has been known for its contribution in regional cooperation and integration. Focus was relatively more on the BIMSTEC and ASEAN in 2021-22. Stronger partnership with the BIMSTEC and ASEAN not only supports our 'Neighborhood First' but also drives the 'Act East'. Besides generating research inputs, RIS organized several international events. For example, RIS in collaboration with the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata organized a symposium entitled "BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development" on 25-26 October 2021. On 28 October 2021, RIS organized a webinar in association with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 'Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region'. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS in collaboration with the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Indian Studies Center (ISC) of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka; Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society (CRBS), Bhutan organized the 2nd Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2022 in virtual mode. South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka was on lead.

Scaling up ASEAN-India Partnership

ASEAN has been at the core of the AEP. The RIS and its ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) have been working on the ASEAN-India relations through research studies, publications, seminars and conferences. RIS organised a panel discussion on theme of 'Building Post Covid-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific' on 29 July, 2021. RIS in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) of VASS organised the third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links (AICCL),

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held at Hanoi and New Delhi on 7-8 October 2021 in hybrid mode. RIS in collaboration with the EXIM Bank of India and ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) organized a webinar on 'Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements' in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India Summit 2021 on 18 October 2021 in virtual mode. The webinar focused upon the current issues on India-ASEAN bilateral trade and investment, identifying areas of collaboration to further expand regional trade and integration, and ways for strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the post-Covid-19 world. RIS organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience' on 21 October 2021 in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India and 14th East Asia Summit. RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India Summit 2021 and Major Takeaways' on 18 November 2021. The RIS and Embassy of Indonesia jointly organised a panel discussion on ASEAN-India FTA to identify the potentials and challenges for deepening India-Indonesia economic engagement on 29 November 2021 in virtual format.

Commemorating Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations

To commemorate the 30 years of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the RIS organized webinars in virtual mode to focus on the persistent challenges and emerging opportunities in ASEAN-India relations. The first of its kind was conducted on 18 February 2022. Two special remarks were given by H.E. Mr. Ung Sean, Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Cambodia, New Delhi and Amb. Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Indian Mission to ASEAN, Jakarta. The RIS in collaboration with the Chulalongkorn University also published a commemorative volume entitled "Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: ASEAN-India Strengthening Partnership and Post-Pandemic Future".

Training and Capacity Building and Dissemination

In 2021-21, the RIS started an online training and capacity building entitled "ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP)" on 16-20 August 2021, which was supported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The AIDPP was hosted jointly by the AIC at RIS; Asian Confluence and the ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore, held on 16-20 August 2021. The AIDPP programme comprised with several lectures and interactive sessions that include geo-politics, economic relations, trade and investment, connectivity, trade facilitation and priority sectors for the ASEAN-India relations. The AIC at RIS organised a week-long online public lectures on 'India and International Development' during 14 - 19 June 2021. On research and policy dissemination front, the AIC at RIS issued the Journal of Asian Economic Integration (JAEI) from Sage and published the two issues of Vol. 3 in 2021-22. Besides, the AIC at RIS continued to publish the commentary series and working papers on several cross-cutting themes.

Going Forward

Connectivity is a means, not an end in itself. Its main purpose is to facilitate economic and social integration. Connectivity is crucial for sustainable development. Regional cooperation is needed to strengthen the connectivity partnership between nations. Stronger connectivity and cooperation may yield the regional integration, not only resilient but also people-centric and inclusive. Going forward, to realize the true potential of the connectivity projects in the backdrop the AEP, an assessment of the present state of affairs, challenges and opportunities is needed. The current evaluation will lead to design a long term perspective plan for India in realizing the Indo-Pacific vision.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements

The EXIM Bank of India in collaboration with ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) organised a webinar on 'Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements' in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India Summit 2021 on 18 October 2021 in virtual mode. The webinar focused upon the current issues on India-ASEAN bilateral trade and investment, identifying areas of collaboration to further expand regional trade and integration, and ways for strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the post-COVID-19 world. Opening Remarks were delivered by Ms Harsha Bangari, Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India, whereas Special Addressees were extended by Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair, ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Ms Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East),



Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. India Exim Bank Research Publication "*Building Value Chain: Opportunities for India and ASEAN*" was also released at this webinar. Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi moderated the panel discussion which was attended by Dr Rajan Ratna, Deputy

Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, New Delhi; Professor Ruth Banomyong, Dean, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok; Secretary Carlito G. Galves, Jr., Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar, National Task Force Against COVID-19, Government of the Philippines; and Mr Mohamed Irshad, Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN, Tata Consultancy Services Asia Pacific, Singapore. Mr David Sinate, Chief General Manager, Export-Import Bank of India extended the Closing Remarks and the Vote of Thanks. ■

Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements

The 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related events took place in the last week of October 2021. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India Summit 2021 and Major Takeaways' on 18 November 2021. The young scholars from various ASEAN countries and India participated in the webinar and discussed outcomes of the recently held ASEAN-India Summit. Welcome Remarks was given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-

India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi chaired the panel discussion. Panellists were Ms. Joanne Lin Weiling, Lead Researcher, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, VASS, Vietnam; Dr. Shristi Pukhrem, Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi; Mr. Suppawit Kaewkhunok, Researcher, Thailand Political Database Research Centre, Bangkok; Ms. Mahima Duggal, Research Associate, Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi and Dr. Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC, RIS, New Delhi. ■

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation



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Third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) organised the third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links (AICCL), held at Hanoi and New Delhi on 7-8 October 2021 in hybrid mode. The third edition of the AICCL was a two-day event, which included five Plenary Sessions and a Special Session on Cultural Cooperation. The five Plenary Sessions were (1) Contemporary Cultural Interactions and Diversity, (2) Culture and Digitalisation, (3) Culture and Tourism, (4) Education and Youth, and (5) Shared Heritage. Over 400 delegates including several senior officials from the ASEAN countries and India along with subject experts, scholars, practitioners, diplomats, academicians and researchers attended this conference. Special remarks

were extended by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Professor Dr Dang Nguyen Anh, Vice-President, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Ambassador Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Hanoi; Ambassador Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of Vietnam to India, New Delhi; and Mr Tran Duc Binh, Dy. Secretary General (DSG) for ASEAN Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. H.E. Mr Nguyen Quoc Dzung, Vice Foreign Minister and ASEAN SOM Leader, Viet Nam delivered an Inaugural Address. Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs delivered the Keynote Address. ■

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

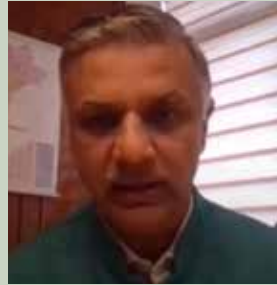
Exploring Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC



Mr Bishow Parajuli



Professor Mustafizur Rehman



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi



Professor S.K. Mohanty

On 28 October 2021, RIS organized a webinar in association with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on “Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region”, where distinguished speakers, chairs, and panelists participated from the member states.

The webinar was inaugurated with the welcome remarks of Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. He highlighted several important points on capacity building and collaborative work of the member states, expanding the development frontiers in the region, identifying the investment opportunities, and several others. Dr Suresh Babu, Senior Research Fellow & Head of Capacity Strengthening, IFPRI, Washington gave his opening remarks pointing out the importance of the priority alignment in the region. He further mentioned how a sustainable food system is the most important link in achieving the SDG goals and directly or indirectly affects nine out of seventeen SDGs.

The inaugural address was given by Professor Satish Y. Deodhar, Professor, Economics Area, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He talked about the impact of climate change on food security, the need for a nudge in connectivity, promotion of going vocal for local, weather forecast, value chains, knowledge sharing, and also highlighted the problem of lopsided production in agriculture.

After the inaugural session, there were three sessions. The first technical session was on ‘Promoting Trade in Agriculture in BIMSTEC’ where the chair and the panelists highlighted that agriculture in the



Professor Satish Y. Deodhar



Mr Rajeev Kher

region is highly vulnerable to climate change, hence, there is a risk on food security and value chain disruptions. Several suggestions were also made like increasing labor productivity and produce quality, promoting fair trade practices, food safety regulations, focusing on regional trade, etc.

The second technical session was on ‘Prospects of Food Processing and Regional Value Chains in BIMSTEC’ suggesting addressing and overcoming the bottlenecks, higher involvement of farmers in the value chains, improving the packaging at farm level, higher regional performance in various processed food sub-sectors, value chain upgrading, efficient use of data and improved data collection, etc. The third session on ‘Food Security and Safety Issues in Agriculture’ pointed out to focus on the nexus between agriculture and nutrition, to diversify the produce, to spend on reducing the food loss and waste, to focus on private sector participation, etc.

The programme ended with a closing session chaired by Dr Suresh Babu, key recommendations were presented by Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS. Valedictory address was given by Mr Han Thein Kyaw, Director-in-Charge (Agricultural Cooperation), BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS, New Delhi gave vote of thanks.

BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development

Research and Information System for Developing Countries jointly with the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India, and other national and international organization were organised a two day international symposium on BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development on 25-26 October 2021. In the inaugural session, the Opening Remarks was delivered by Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, India gave the Welcome Remarks. H.E. Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC delivered the Special Remarks. Inaugural Address was extended by H.E. Amb. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, MEA, India. H. E. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of the State, Ministry of External Affairs, India delivered the Special Address

on theme of 25 years of BIMSTEC: A Way Ahead. The programme comprised with four technical sessions and a Special Session on Cyber Security amongst BIMSTEC nations: Challenges and Prognosis. The special session was chaired by Dr. Uttam Sinha, Head, Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) and Lt. Gen. Rajesh Panth, National Cyber Security Coordinator, India was the speaker of the session. The four technical sessions were on post Covid-19 economic recovery and restoring growth momentum in BIMSTEC; strengthening regional value chains-role of connectivity and trade facilitation; regional cooperation in public health infrastructure and health care services; and disaster management, maritime cooperation and coastal security.

Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific

Advancement of modern marine technologies is enabling the efficient harnessing of ocean resources for achieving higher socio-economic growth and sustainable development. Recognising this immense potential in the South Asian region, the coastal economies, including India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are implementing several national level initiatives to promote Blue Economy and also promote cooperation in different areas of Blue Economy in the context of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The scope for maritime sector cooperation could be comprehensive and wider in the coming



years from the perspective of Indo-Pacific cooperation. In order to generate informed debate and brainstorm on the potential and prospects of maritime economy, RIS organised a Webinar on 'Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific' on 23 September 2021. Professor S. K. Mohanty delivered the welcome remarks and Dr Malini V. Shankar chaired. There were

special remarks by H. E. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India. Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS, made a paper presentation on 'Maritime Trade in Indo-Pacific'. Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, Formerly Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Mines, Government of India was the discussant.

Review of ASEAN-India FTA: Identifying the Potentials and Challenges for Deepening India-Indonesia Economic Engagement

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and Embassy of Indonesia jointly organised a panel discussion on ASEAN-India FTA to identify the potentials and challenges for deepening India-Indonesia economic engagement on 29 November 2021 in virtual format. Mr Masni Eriza, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indonesian Embassy in Delhi; and Mr Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Jt. Secretary (South and Indo-Pacific), MEA delivered the inaugural addresses. The session was moderated by Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. Speakers were Mrs. Dina Kurniasari,

Director of ASEAN Negotiations, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; Ms Indu Nair, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India; Dr Lina Alexandra, Senior Researcher, Department of International Relations, Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi. The eminent panel discussed the prospects of India-Indonesia economic engagements in light of ASEAN-India FTA Review.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy

The India-European Union (EU) Connectivity Partnership will be a vital component of the EU's Global Gateway initiative that aims to create 'links and not dependencies' through investments in quality infrastructure in order to connect goods, services, institutions, banks, businesses and people across the world, according to Ugo Astuto, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan.

Launching a report by the RIS titled '*India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy*,' on 28 October 2021, Ambassador Astuto also said leveraging the strengths of the European Investment Bank and the private sector will be key to effective implementation of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership.

Speaking at the event organised by the RIS, Mr Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs, said India and the EU have ensured that their bilateral Connectivity Partnership was of a 'high standard' and focuses on people-to-people connectivity as well as mobility. The bilateral Partnership has spurred similar ideas in other countries and regions for reasons including the importance of forging 'secure and trusted' supply chains, he added. Mr Chakravorty said there is a plan to launch an India-EU 'Connectivity Forum' soon to take forward viable projects in this context.

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, highlighted the strategic importance of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership and stressed the need to expedite negotiations on India-EU trade and investment pacts to ably support the implementation of the bilateral connectivity agreement. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the RIS report has an in-depth coverage and analysis of India-EU trade and investment, areas of cooperation in connectivity as well as ways to use connectivity for sustainable development and green transition by leveraging Science, Technology and

Innovation (STI). He said the report also looks at alternative energy resources such as green hydrogen, solar and other kinds of non-conventional energy, in addition to financial connectivity from the institutional perspective where linkages between financial institutions, banks and providers of fintech have been examined in detail.

During the subsequent panel discussion, Ms Bhaswati Mukherjee, former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, pointed out the convergence between India and the EU on connectivity principles including on sustainability. She said the partnership agreement will be able to address the emerging challenges including that of financial and environmental sustainability. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chairperson, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the India-EU Connectivity Partnership has huge potential and geo-political value with regard to enhancing connectivity in third countries as well, and will be an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative of China.

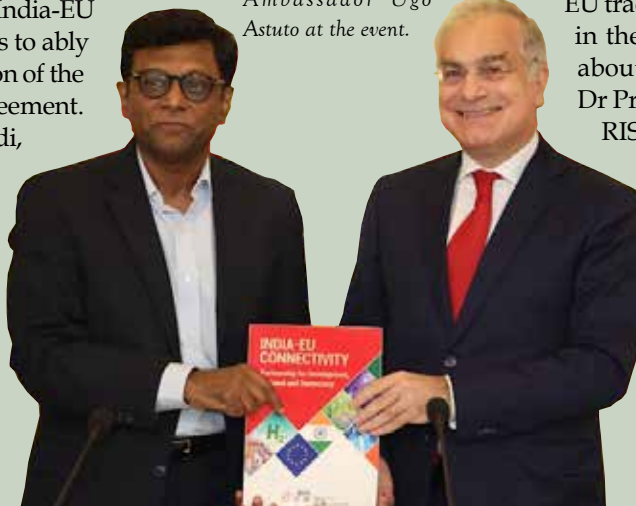
Dr Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, said since the bilateral connectivity partnership is based on democratic principles and lays emphasis on interoperability, in addition to transparency and good governance, it could help set regional standards and even help in the formation of a global connectivity partnership. Another important aspect was the decision of India and the EU to ensure that they, at a governmental level, will lead and facilitate, but not play an overwhelming role.

Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, mentioned that technology intensive trade is at the core of India-EU trade, while there are complementarities in their bilateral services trade. Speaking about the trends in development finance, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, said there is now a focus on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) norms. He observed that there was a need for greater financial connectivity between India and the EU in order to help both sides achieve their full potential, notably in the areas of Fintech. ■



Former Ambassador Ms Bhaswati Mukherjee

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar and Ambassador Ugo Astuto at the event.



Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP): An Online Training and Capacity Building Programme

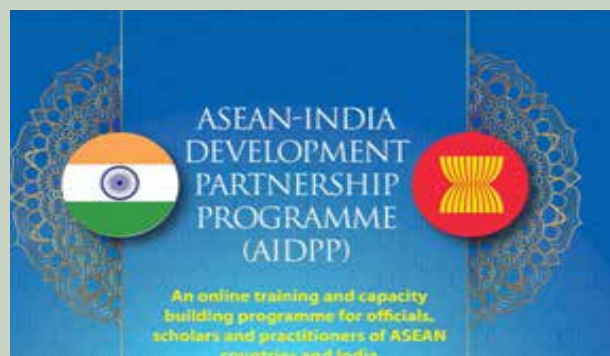
Supported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the ASEAN India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP) was hosted jointly by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS; Asian Confluence and the ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore on 16-20 August 2021. The AIDPP programme comprised with several lectures and interactive sessions that include geopolitics, economic relations, trade and investment, connectivity, trade facilitation and priority sectors for the ASEAN-India relations. The programme had five technical sessions and each session addressed two areas in a day.

The Welcome Remarks were delivered by Mr. Sabysachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence; Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi; and Ms. Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow and Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

The Session I was moderated by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. In this session, Dr Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi and Ms Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore were focused on three decades of ASEAN-India relations; and strategic imperatives of ASEAN-India relations was discussed by Prof. Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi.

Deepening ASEAN-India trade integration: facilitation and Non-Tariff Measures reforms; and changing profile of ASEAN-India investment relations and B2B engagements were the two dynamic issues captured in Session II. Dr Jayant Menon, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore chaired the session. Dr Sithanonyay Suvannaphakdy, Lead Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Relations, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi discussed the topic respectively.

Session III highlighted issues on multilateralism in post-Covid-19 world; and ASEAN-India in the Indo-Pacific. The session was moderated by the Ms Sharon



Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. Ms Hoang Thi Ha, Lead Researcher (Political and Security), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Ms. Jane Chan, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore made their presentation respectively.

Mr Rajat Nag, Member, Governing Council, ASCON, New Delhi chaired the Session IV where the issues relating to ASEAN-India connectivity was discussed by Dr Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi and Prof. Ruth Banomyong, Department of International Business, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok. The session also covered production networks and ASEAN and India in shifting global supply chains and Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta delivered his lecture on this.

The last Session V comprised with two relevant issues of ASEAN-India relation which include fostering people to people contacts; and ASEAN and India's progress on SDGs: opportunities for collaboration. The session was moderated by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN India Centre at RIS, New Delhi. Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group (DPG), New Delhi and Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, ASCON, Shillong covered the first topic of the last session. ASEAN and India's Progress on SDGs was discussed by Ms Melinda Martinus, Lead Researcher (Socio-Cultural), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Dr P K Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi. An overwhelming number of participants attended this programme. ■

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience' on 21 October 2021 in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India and 14th East Asia Summit. The panel consisted of subject experts, academicians, policy planners and practitioners. The webinar discussed the opportunities of the Trilateral Highway, enhanced connectivity between Northeast India and Southeast Asia, disruption and challenges in the supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a few other issues on this occasion. AIC-RIS Report entitled *"Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for Northeast India"* was released. Welcome Remarks were delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and the Opening Remarks was given by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Special Remarks were extended by Ms Alice Cheng, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in India New Delhi and Ambassador Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Jakarta.

Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS chaired the Panel Discussion and made a presentation on the "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Implication for Northeast India". Speakers of the Sessions were Dr Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Mr So Umezaki, Director, Economic Integration Studies Group, Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan; Mr Bharat Joshi, Director, Associated Container Terminals Limited (ACTL), New Delhi; Professor Ch. Priyaranjan Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University, Imphal; Dr Tin Htoo Naing, Director, Center for Economy, Environment and Society (CEES Myanmar), Myanmar; and Dr Pham Cao Cuong, Acting Deputy Director General, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS). Dr Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC at RIS, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Kanchenjunga Dialogue

The Brainstorming Session on 28 December 2021, brought together academicians, policymakers and community development practitioners from Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal to discuss the issues as well as challenges of mutual cooperation in areas of community development, regional connectivity, trade, investment, energy, financial and infrastructure development, etc. Thematically, issues of local and grassroots development and practices, especially in the areas of climate change adaptation, eco-tourism, organic

food, floriculture, cultural interaction, etc. were also discussed in the session. Conceptualised as an academic platform for deliberations and dialogue for facilitating sub-regional mechanisms for development cooperation and community practices in India's North East region and neighbouring countries, the first Kanchenjunga Dialogue is scheduled to take place in February 2022 at Sikkim University, Gangtok.

Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021

The AESAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with SANEM, Bangladesh; Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society (CRBS), Bhutan; South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka; and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand organised the Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021- "Post-COVID-19 Challenges in the Bay of Bengal Region" on 8-11 February 2021. The programme had the following sessions: Digital Connectivity and E-Commerce; Trade and Regional Value Chains; Paper presentation sessions on trade, regional cooperation, health and education, employment challenges and cross-cutting issues; Regional connectivity in Bay of Bengal Region; Institutional Challenges for post-COVID-19 Recovery; Deepening Health Sector Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Region; Tackling post-COVID Challenges in the Bay of Bengal Region; and Strengthening People to People contacts. The dialogue aimed at promoting greater integration, cooperation and shared economic prosperity within the Bay of Bengal region with the help of six organized discussions between eminent panelists and 15 presentations by scholars, practitioners and students from the region. Professor Rehman Sobhan was the keynote speaker of the dialogue. H.E. Dr A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and H.E. Mr Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General of BIMSTEC, was the Special Guest of the inaugural session.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

Online Public Lecture on India and International Development

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised a week-long online public lectures on India and International Development during 14 – 19 June 2021. A total 12 lectures were delivered by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS on various aspects of foreign policy, trade and regional integration. The lecture sessions had covered following subjects- Indian Foreign Policy: Achievements, Challenges and Outlook; India's Foreign Trade Policy: Contemporary Strategic Dynamics of India's Trade; Trade and Integration: Theory and Applications; Regional Integration and Trade: Development, Priorities and Way Forward; Trade

and Connectivity: Global and Regional Programmes and India; Trade Facilitation and India: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities; ASEAN-India Economic Integration: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities; Bay of Bengal Integration: Current Status and Prospects; South Asian Integration: SAARC and BBIN; India-Japan Partnership for Development; Indo-Pacific Cooperation: Challenges, Opportunities and Way Ahead; Post Covid-19 Challenges and Shared Responsibilities. The presentations enlightened the subjects covered in this lecture series. Over 250 participants attended this lecture series.



ONLINE PUBLIC LECTURES ON INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

14-19 June 2021 (in virtual mode)

Day	Time (IST)	Lecture ID	Lecture Particulars
Day 1 14 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.1	India's Foreign Policy
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.2	India's Foreign Trade Policy
Day 2 15 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.3	Trade and integration
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.4	Regional integration
Day 3 16 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.5	Trade and connectivity
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.6	Trade facilitation priorities and Sustainability
Day 4 17 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.7	India-ASEAN integration
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.8	Bay of Bengal integration
Day 5 18 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.9	South Asian integration
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.10	Glaring bilateral: India-Japan cooperation
Day 6 19 June 2021	10.00 am - 11.30 am	L.11	Indo-Pacific cooperation
	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	L.12	Post Covid-19 challenges and way forward
	3.45 pm - 4.00 pm	L.13	Closing remarks

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation



Group Photo of Delegates at 5th EAS Conference, Kolkata, 23-24 November 2021.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Australian Government and National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at (RIS), New Delhi, and Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K) organised the fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation, held at Kolkata on 23-24 November 2021 in hybrid mode. In the inaugural session, Special Remarks were delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and Former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, President, Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K). Ms. Megan Jones, Director, Regional Maritime Engagement and Programs, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canberra delivered the Special Address. Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, New Delhi.

The 5th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation discussed issues related to maritime

security, information and resources sharing on the maritime domain, science and technology cooperation, disaster risk reduction and pandemic management and a panel discussion on way forward. Discussions reflected upon the importance of Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and its seven pillars that has the potential to strengthen its India's pragmatic diplomacy in the region. The IPOI is focused on better management of shared interests of the participating countries. There is an urgent need to facilitate convergences of national and regional interests in the Indo-Pacific and IPOI is suited for such a scenario. Over 90 delegates attained the conference. The conference covered dynamic issues of Indo-Pacific and identified actionable agenda for future course of Indo-Pacific region.

The first session on Maritime Security was chaired by Dr. Malini V Shankar, Vice-Chancellor, Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai. Superintendent Joanne Prior, Australian Border Force; Commander Touch Ponleu, National Committee for Maritime Security (NCMS), Cambodia; Mr. Jian Xin, China Maritime Safety Administration, Beijing, China; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd.), Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; Mr. Takehiko Wajima, Director, Space and Maritime Security

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA), Japan; and Commodore P.K. Banerjee, VSM (Retd.), Distinguished Fellow, CENERS-K, Kolkata were the speakers in this session. Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, NMF moderated the second session and the theme of the session was Resource Sharing. The session speakers were Mr. Kevin McEvoy, Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Captain Himadri Das, IN, Research Fellow, NMF, New Delhi; Major Surendran Kumar, Information Fusion Centre, Singapore; and Prof. Suman K Mukherjee, Distinguished Fellow, CENERS-K, Kolkata. The session on science and technology cooperation was chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Mr. Mark Alcock, Geoscience Australia; Rear Admiral KM Ramakrishnan, [ACNS [Communications, Space, & Network-Centric Operations (CSNCO)], Indian Navy; and Mr. Christopher Merritt, US Mission to ASEAN were the speakers in this session. The fourth session was on Pandemic and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, which was chaired by Mr. Taguchi Seiichiro, Minister, Embassy of Japan in India. In this session, the speakers were Captain Amanda Garlick, Royal Australian Navy; Surgeon Rear Admiral Shankar Narayan, Additional Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (Addl DGAfms (E&S)), Indian

Navy; Dr. Zaw Minn Aung, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Myanmar; and Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi. The session discussed how disaster risk reduction in East Asia has particularly become a serious challenge in the post-pandemic period. Commodore C Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies (SPS) moderated the panel discussion on Way Forward. The eminent speakers of the session were Mr. Justin Whyatt, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, DG, NMF, New Delhi; Amb. Foster Gultom, Former Indonesian Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Tajikistan, Jakarta; and Mr. Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Joint Secretary (South and Indo-Pacific), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi. In the closing session, Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks were extended by the Mr. Manoj Pandey, Dy. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India; Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and Maj. Gen Arun Roye, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), Vice-President, CENERS-K.

Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads

The ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS) in Bangkok, and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in New Delhi organised an international conference on "Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads" on 8-9 July 2021 in virtual mode. The two-day conference had six technical sessions which covered - Southeast Asia between India and China: Reimagining Asia and Regional Indo-Pacific Order; The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives; Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times; Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: The Interesting Interests of Other Major Powers; Asia's Post-Pandemic Integration: What the Indo-Pacific Should

Stand for?; ASEAN amidst Competing Connectivity Strategic and Integration Challenges; Security Issues and Strategic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific. In the Opening Session, opening remarks were made by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University; Assoc. Prof. Claire Thi Lien Tran (IRASEC CNRS); and Prof. Prabir De, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS. Ms. Usana Berananda, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs of Thailand; H.E Dr Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France in Thailand, former Director of the Asia Direction at the French MOFA; and Dr. Mohan Kumar, Former Ambassador of India in France and Chairman, RIS, New Delhi were delivered the remarks on this occasion.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience' on 21 October 2021 in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India and 14th East Asia Summit. The panel consisted of subject experts, academicians, policy planners and practitioners. The webinar discussed the opportunities of the Trilateral Highway, enhanced connectivity between Northeast India and Southeast Asia, disruption and challenges in the supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a few other issues. AIC-RIS Report entitled "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for Northeast India" was released. Welcome Remarks was delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and the Opening Remarks was given by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Special Remarks were extended by Ms. Alice Cheng, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in India New Delhi and Amb. Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian

Ambassador to ASEAN, Jakarta. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS chaired the panel discussion and made a presentation on the "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Implication for Northeast India". Speakers included, Dr. Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Mr. So Umezaki, Director, Economic Integration Studies Group, Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan; Mr. Bharat Joshi, Director, Associated Container Terminals Limited (ACTL), New Delhi; Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University, Imphal; Dr Tin Htoo Naing, Director, Center for Economy, Environment and Society (CEES Myanmar), Myanmar; and Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, Acting Deputy Director General, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS). Dr Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC at RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements

The 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related events took place in the last week of October 2021. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India Summit 2021 and Major Takeaways' on 18 November 2021. The young scholars from various ASEAN countries and India participated in the webinar and discussed outcomes of the recently held ASEAN-India Summit. Welcome Remarks was given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New

Delhi chaired the panel discussion. Panellists were Ms. Joanne Lin Weiling, Lead Researcher, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, VASS, Vietnam; Dr. Shristi Pukhrem, Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi; Mr. Suppawit Kaewkhunok, Researcher, Thailand Political Database Research Centre, Bangkok; Ms. Mahima Duggal, Research Associate, Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi and Dr. Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC, RIS, New Delhi.

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation



Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS edited the proceedings of the 11th edition of Delhi Dialogue entitled “Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific” presents a detailed account of discussions of the Delhi Dialogue XI which was held on 13-14 December 2019 in New

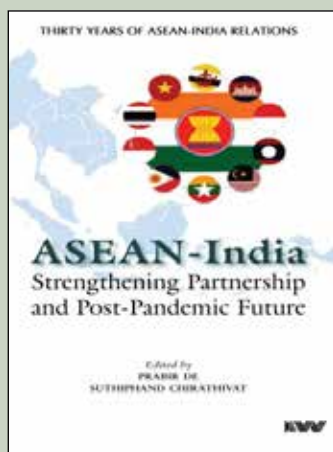
Delhi. It also presents summary, key recommendation, speeches and the set of papers presented at the conference. The proceeding covers some important areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India.



Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC): Achievements and Way Forward

Launched in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2000, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) completed twenty years in 2020. The MGC initiative is a sub-regional cooperation organisation comprising India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. To commemorate the 20 years of establishment of MGC, the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in collaboration with the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised an international conference entitled “Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)” on 5-6 November 2020 at

New Delhi in virtual mode. Edited by Dr Prabir De, this volume is an outcome of the aforesaid conference, and examines the connected past, present, and future of MGC. This commemorative volume presents a selected set of papers, which were presented at the aforesaid conference. Although the economic engagements between India and Mekong have been limited, there is further scope to scale up our economic relations. This book shows the path to strengthen the MGC partnership in the third decade of its establishment.



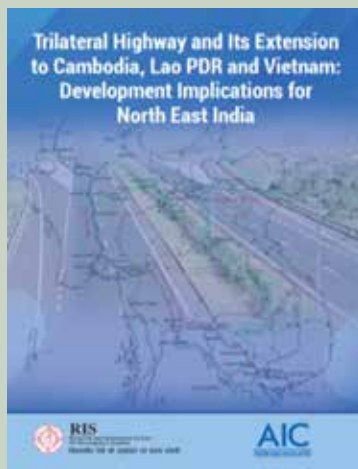
Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: ASEAN-India Strengthening Partnership and Post-Pandemic Future

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India are bound together by their shared history and culture. Relation with ASEAN is one of the cornerstones of India’s Foreign Policy. Starting in 1992, when India joined ASEAN as a sectoral dialogue partner, ASEAN and India are going to complete thirty years of their bilateral relations in 2022. The ongoing pandemic has imposed many global and regional challenges. Moving from cooperation to integration, there is a need to jointly address challenges to strengthening the partnership between

Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Cooperation

ASEAN and India in various areas. Edited by Dr Prabir De and Dr Suthiphand Chirathivat, this book addresses some of these challenges in a lucid manner. It presents a set of 15 research papers, which were presented at the sixth ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) roundtable in 2020. Divided in five major sections, this volume reviews some of the achievements

of ASEAN-India relations while completing three decades of partnership, and presents a set of new agenda for the fourth decade. It also underlines the desire of the ASEAN countries and India to diversify and further strengthen the relations in the third decade. This volume is also published to commemorate the thirty years of ASEAN-India relations.

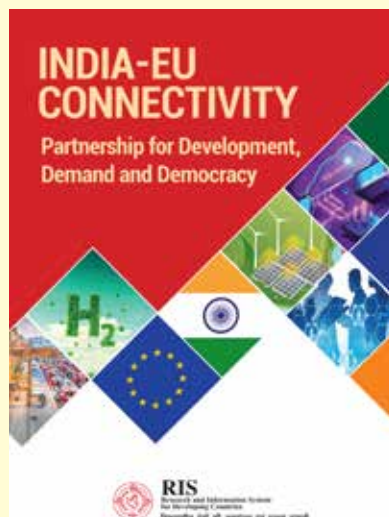


Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India

This Report assesses the status of the economic linkages of the NER, identifies the constraints behind and at the India-Myanmar border, and recommends policy measures to augment the linkages between the NER and Southeast Asia. This study also reviews the institutional

arrangements and identifies key elements that may hinder the movement of goods and people across the India-Myanmar border along the TH. It also analyses the development impacts of the TH on India's NER.

RIS Publications



REPORTS

- **Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India, RIS-AIC, New Delhi, 2021**

New Technologies and Development Issues



Dr Ravi Srinivas
Consultant



Dr Amit Kumar
Assistant Professor



Dr Sneha Sinha
Consultant

STI Work Programme

STI Work Programme is an agile programme in RIS that does work on multiple themes and issues with continuity and changes in approach and focus while taking into consideration the emphasis of the government as well as the global contemporary developments. It consists of STI Policy Programme (STIPP) and Science Diplomacy Programme (SDP). The latter is a programme, funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and is the first such programme on Science Diplomacy in India. STI Policy Programme focuses on policy research but scope of its activities and publications are beyond this. It involves *inter alia*, collaboration, networking and joint research with institutions in India and abroad.

STI Policy Programme

During 2021-22, the STI Policy Programme (STIPP) covered various themes such as STI developments during COVID19 pandemic, WTO TRIPS waiver, STI for SDGs, emerging technologies such as AI, Robotics, Synthetic Biology, Digital Sequence Information (DSI), Technology Trade and Technology Wars, Digital Trade, Digital Payment Systems, FinTech, Digital Health, 4IR, Climate change, clean and renewable energy, Green Hydrogen and so on. In 2021, in wake of COVID Pandemic, to address the global crisis in access to vaccines, India and South Africa submitted a proposal to WTO's TRIPS Council seeking a waiver on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and this was supported by many developing countries and was opposed by *inter alia*, European Commission and USA. Later USA agreed to a partial waiver. RIS in association with South Centre, Geneva organized a series of webinars to discuss and mobilise support for the TRIPS Waiver.

RIS, as the Knowledge Partner to the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) in the Global Pilot Project on STI for SDGs of the UN (an initiative under the Technology Facilitation Mechanism launched as part of the Agenda 2030 for implementation of the SDGs), organised a series of webinars with the stakeholders and submitted the interim report with detailed Technology-Roadmaps on four selected SDGs namely SDGs 2,3,6 and 7 to the Office of PSA. Several workshops and consultations were organized under this Project.

Research on emerging technologies and their impacts has been a key feature in STIPP. Among them, Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a key technology and STIPP is working on its impacts, particularly the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) aspects. In order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and ensure that no one is left behind, emphasis on inclusive and responsible AI is significant. RIS would also be working with UNESCO on this issue as UNESCO has developed Guidelines on AI Ethics. Researches on other impacts of AI continue and outcomes will include more events and publications.

New Technologies and Development Issues

Digital Sequence Information governance (DSI) is emerging as an important issue particularly in access and benefit sharing (ABS) in theory and practice. Negotiations under Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are in advanced stages and a solution may be reached soon. RIS has been working on CBD and ABS related themes. RIS organised a webinar on Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Issues and Implications on 31 August 2021.

A faculty from RIS is also part of an expert panel constituted by one of the agencies in UK on this issue. Emerging technologies like AI, robotics, Genome Editing, Synthetic Biology, and, Gene Drives are inter alia, themes of research under STIPP. RIS faculty are contributing to the literature on this as evident from the publications. In addition to this they are working with Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on Synthetic Biology. Technology Assessment (TA) is an important theme in Science Policy and is also widely practiced. RIS is part of a project on capacity building in TA in Africa. This project is led by UNCTAD and ITAS, with KIT (Germany) serving as a partner institution. Meetings, related to this have been held and RIS faculty member is contributing to proposed publications including a manual on TA for this project. RIS is also a contributing institution to the Global TA project's forthcoming volume '*Technology Assessment in a globalized world - Facing the challenges of transnational technology governance*'.

South-South Co-operation (SSC) is a key theme in RIS work on Development Cooperation and SSC in STI is of critically important in this. Faculty members from this program co-authored '*Mapping South-South Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Theory and Practice*' published by UN Office on South-South Cooperation and UNDP. RIS-South Centre Webinar Series on TRIPS Waiver included four webinars on topics such as 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges' (5 June 2021), 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Africa' (12 June 2021), 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Latin America' (19 June 2021), and 'TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for South East Asia' (26 June 2021), with a wide spectrum of experts from these regions evoking significant responses.

Digitization and Development is another theme in which STI Programme is working on. RIS is a partner institution in PRODIGEES Project funded by European Commission. Due to the COVID, the Project's activities were affected. However, Project meetings were held online and plans for publications were initiated. A faculty from this project will be seconded to IDOS, Bonn in the second half of 2022. RIS has been part of projects on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) including NewHoRRizon project which was completed in early 2022. RIS contributed to this project by bringing in concepts and examples from India to enrich RRI and to learn from RRI projects.

Besides these, RIS faculty regularly take part in external events, work with different Ministries and Departments, UN agencies like UNESCO and conduct peer reviews. For example, RIS faculty was part of the consultation process of India's forthcoming STI Policy undertaken by the DST and Office of PSA and did peer-review of the draft STI Policy.

RIS has been actively engaging with key institutions and experts on the topic of emerging technologies such as AI and DSI. RIS organised a webinar on "AI Ethics and Responsible AI" on 19 May 2021. The panelists drawn from IIT, NITI Aayog, MeitY, UNDP etc, stressed on addressing geo-political, psychological, privacy and ethical issues and challenges of emerging technologies like AI.

New Technologies and Development Issues

Research on SDGs is integral to RIS work programme. Therefore, recognising the significance of finance for tackling development issues and achieving SDGs and success stories of FinTech in Kenya and India, RIS, India International Centre (IIC) in collaboration with University of Essex, UK organised a webinar on 'Banks, Finance and Changing form of Technology: New Options with FinTech' on 23 April 2021. Bringing together several stakeholders, the webinar emphasised on scope of replicating models of cooperation through innovative development cooperation projects in Asia and Africa and harnessing FinTech in an inclusive manner and ensuring safety and security of digital transactions.

Further, RIS organised a webinar on 'Indian Perspectives on Innovation Incentives: Health Impact Fund and Green Impact Fund Technology' (with Global Justice Programme of Yale University) on 13 November 2021, as well as a Special Session on Innovations and Data with Focus on Sustainable Economy at Bhopal on 26 December 2021.

Under the aegis of STIP Forum Lecture Series (started in September 2017), eight public lectures were held during the period from April 2021 to March 2022. These public lectures were delivered by eminent experts on important topics such as data analytics and long-term COVID19; S&T and the pandemic; food processing technologies and rural economy; Solar Physics; energy *Swarajya* through solar energy; translational research through Traditional Medicines; global energy transitions; and re-wiring the brain. RIS coordinated three of these public lectures; while other STIP Forum partner institutions (TERI and Vigyan Prasar) coordinated the rest. Till March 2022, a total of 42 such public lectures have been successfully organised. The Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum was set up in August 2017 by RIS, in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre, TERI, CEFIPRA, and Vigyan Prasar, with the objective of promoting debate on various aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. It aims to bridge the gap between the science and society for the dissemination of scientific achievements as well as for generalising debate of societal aspirations and promoting responsible research and innovations.

During the period 2021-22, RIS came out with several flagship and key reports and its faculty members have published numerous research papers, articles and chapters in reputed peer-reviewed journals, books and authored many policy briefs and discussions papers on various topics related to Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI); and New and Emerging Technologies and Development Issues. A number of short articles/opinion pieces/commentaries published in popular media, including leading newspapers, have been authored by the faculty members. They have contributed immensely to the writing of RIS flagship reports. Major reports published during the period as mentioned earlier included *World Trade and Development Report 2021*; *Report on India-EU Connectivity Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy*; and a *Report on Digitalisation and Development*.

RIS faculty members contributed substantially to the writing of the '*International Cooperation Review Committee Report*' for the Experts' Review Committee, which was constituted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, under the Chairmanship of Dr Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India and of which Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS was a member too. This report made a comprehensive review of the international cooperation activities of India's Science & Technology Departments and provided key policy

New Technologies and Development Issues

recommendations. The report was released by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh on 21 July 2021.

A wide range of topics has been covered under the publications by the RIS and its faculty associated with the STI work programme during 2021-22 such as STI for SDGs, Technology Trade and Technology Trade Wars, Global Health Governance, Digital Health, Digital Payment Systems, FinTech, Women in STEM, New and Emerging Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, 4IR, Green Hydrogen and Off-Grid Solar Energy Systems etc. The issues of global governance, socio-economic impact assessment and ethics around emerging 4IR technologies such as AI have also been dealt with these publications. Topics related to South-South Cooperation in STI, access to technologies, WTO, and TRIPS Waiver (esp. *w.r.t* to COVID19 -related therapeutics such as vaccines and drugs) have also been featured in the publications. RIS faculty member has co-written two chapters to a volume on global Technology Assessment (TA) besides contributing to an article on TA in India for the volume on Global TA.

Three issues of RIS's international, open-access and peer-reviewed journal, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review* (ABDR) have been published during the period with contributions from several researchers, practitioners, experts, academicians from across the world on many key and contemporary topics related to STI, Biotechnology and Biodiversity, including a Special Issue of ABDR on Synthetic Biology.

Science Diplomacy Programme

S&T lay at the core of finding solutions to the grand challenges as well as several development issues facing the Global-South. Therefore, science diplomacy and the need to integrate S&T into foreign and public policy, diplomacy and management of international relations assume far greater importance. The present discourse on science diplomacy remains Global-North centric. RIS-Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD) aims to enhance capacity, develop networks in science diplomacy and contribute to research and strategic thinking. This will enable relevant science diplomacy for other developing countries and economies in transition in the Global South to strengthen STI ecosystem, share best practises, achieve SDGs and offer markets for Indian STI products and services. Similarly, the Global Development Centre (GDC) aims to contribute to the alternative development paradigm through exchange of best practices, showcasing innovation and success stories and possible replication/adoption among peer countries in the Global South.

During the period, RIS, FISD, and GDC organised several webinars, events, technical bilateral sessions on prospects of S&T cooperation in achieving SDGs, technological capability in semiconductors, sharing of India's vaccine platform and digital payments with countries like Vietnam, Taiwan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda and South Sudan. These saw the participation of several stakeholders, including relevant institutions, senior officials from health ministries, experts, etc. which elicited good response. With the EU's Horizon 2020 coming to an end and in order to explore the prospects of India-EU S&T Cooperation, RIS-FISD organised a webinar on *Horizon Europe: The Way Forward in India-EU Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation* on 23 August 2021.

New Technologies and Development Issues

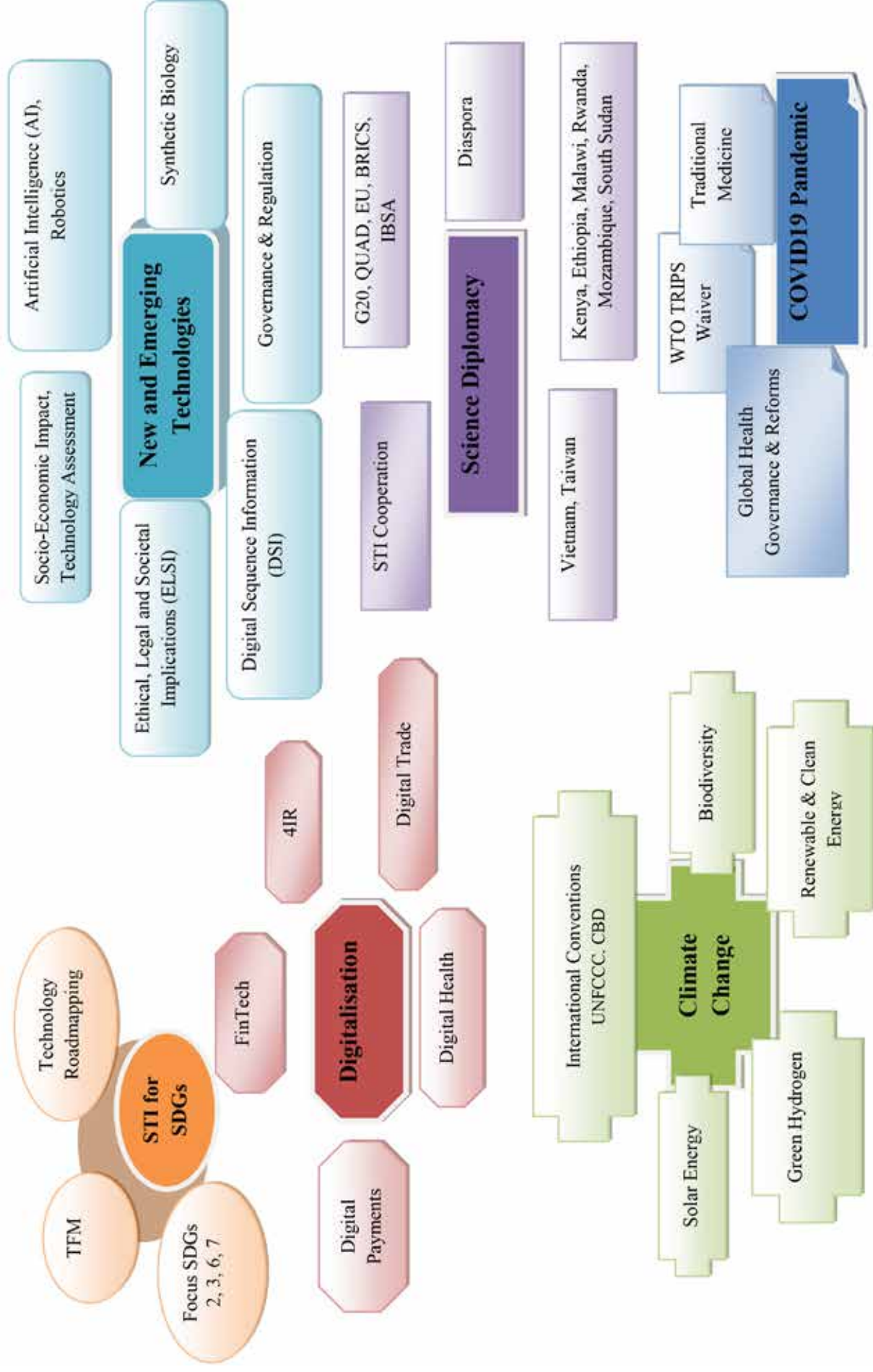
To facilitate networking with institutions in science diplomacy, science policy activities/courses, across the globe, FISD developed a database of more than 110 institutions. FISD team members have participated, presented, delivered lectures in various national and international training programmes, workshops, schools, conferences and seminars, etc. on science diplomacy and related issues. South-South Cooperation is integral to RIS work programmes.

In view of India's efforts through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and its significant role in building diplomatic ties and strategic partnerships across the Global North and South as well as India's economic diplomacy and foreign policy on climate change, RIS together with the GDC and FISD organised a webinar '*Tapping Solar Energy: Sharing India's Experience and Forging Partnership with Asia, Pacific Island Countries*' on 17 June 2021, and an online lecture on '*Channelising the Sun: Ideas, Institutions and India's New Climate Diplomacy*' on 29 June 2021 respectively.

FISD follows Indian and global developments in scientific research, technological advancements of significance, science diplomacy, S&T policy and governance and electronically circulates its fortnightly, *Science Diplomacy News Alert* to more than 8000 members including diplomats, former and present science counselors, institutions engaged in science policy/science diplomacy/science technology studies, local embassies, and policymakers, etc across the globe. During April 2021-March 2022, twenty-four issues have been published. During the period, several publications have come out on the theme of Science Diplomacy and International STI Cooperation too such as on India-Vietnam and India-Taiwan STI cooperation. Three issues of *Science Diplomacy Review* (SDR) have come out during the period with contributions from several researchers, practitioners, experts, academicians from across the world on many key and contemporary topics related to Science Diplomacy.

In April 2022- March 2023, more activities are lined up, and more publications, including ten chapters in different volumes will be published. STI Programme is contributing to T20/G20 process and will be fully engaged with them in 2023 as India will take up the G20 Presidency in 2023.

Schematic Presentation of Topics Covered under STI Work Programme during 2021-22



New Technologies and Development Issues

Banks, Finance and Changing form of Technology: New Options with FINTECH

Speaking at a webinar on 'Banks, Finance and Changing form of Technology: New Options with FINTECH' organised by RIS, India International Centre in collaboration with University of Essex, UK on 23 April 2021, Mr T. Rabi Sankar said, "the concentration of two or three third party providers in these retail payment space could give rise to competitive weaknesses. That is a challenge that we need to look at and solve going forward." He added that the overall theme of speeding up Fintech absorption in the financial space without undermining the integrity or stability of the financial system will remain the primary challenge for regulators in the next decade or so.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Srinivas Yanamandra, Chief of Compliance, New Development Bank, Shanghai, said it was important to have a differentiated regulatory approach – one for start-ups with a view to promote innovation, and another for Big Tech players to ensure that there are no monopolistic and anti-competitive practices. Pointing out the recent anti-trust-related actions by the People's Bank of China against some leading Big Tech players in China, he said other countries were also looking at that approach and considering replicating it in their own jurisdiction.

Professor Thankom Arun, Director, Centre for Accountability and Global Development (CAGD),



University of Essex, UK, said while the new technologies have the potential to reshape banks and other financial institutions, it was important to harness such technologies for the betterment of the entire population. He further stressed that Fintech should ideally reduce the cost of financial intermediation and ensure financial inclusion.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said Fintech investments have grown globally following success stories like M-Pesa in Kenya and the UPI in India, adding that many developing countries were looking to emulate countries like India and Kenya in this regard. There is scope for replicating such models of cooperation through innovative development cooperation projects in Asia and Africa. However, he said it was important for regulators and the players to ensure the safety and security of digital transactions. ■

Channelising the Sun: Ideas, Institutions and India's New Climate Diplomacy

The Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD) organised an online lecture by Dr Vyoma Jha, J.S.D, Stanford Law School on 'Climate Diplomacy' on Tuesday 29 June 2021. Dr Vyoma Jha, J.S.D, Stanford Law School lecture focused on 'Channelising the Sun: Ideas, Institutions and India's New Climate Diplomacy'. She emphasised that there is a 'climate turn in India's Science Diplomacy'. The creation of ISA marks the integration of India's climate and science diplomacy, setting the background for India's role in climate governance and future climate negotiations in COP26. ■



Dr Vyoma Jha, J.S.D, Stanford Law School



Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI



Ambassador Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Ambassador of India



Prof T. Jayaraman, Senior Fellow, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

New Technologies and Development Issues



Ms Renata Dessallien



Professor V. Kamakoti



Dr Grace Eden



Professor Bernd Stahl

AI Ethics and Responsible AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) developers and policymakers need to address the dangers stemming from deepfakes and biases impacting privacy as well as the emerging technology's damaging geo-political implications and psychological consequences, according to experts.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the New Delhi-based research institute RIS on 'AI ethics and responsible AI' on 19 May 2021, Ms Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in India, said AI increasingly has geo-political implications as the emerging technology is disrupting the current distribution of power between countries, adding that this important issue was not currently getting adequate attention.

Addressing the same event, Professor V. Kamakoti, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras, talked about the dangers of AI, including certain instances where the use of the technology was not fair and responsible.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the access, equity and inclusion framework and the humanitarian value system are important while looking at the ethical aspects of AI that have an economic imperative for the developing world. Inclusive and responsible AI is vital to ensure that no one is left behind

and to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, he added.

Professor Bernd Stahl, Director, Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, De Montfort University, UK, said in order to get a handle on the ethics of AI, "it was important to not think about an individual technology, but conceptualise AI as a set of interlocking ecosystems which are driven and enabled to a certain degree by AI."

Mr Santosh K. Misra, IAS, CEO, Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency, said the government has an intertwining role of being the promoter of AI and also of being the regulator and user of AI. He said the state government has brought out a policy on ethical AI. It was probably the first in the country and even among the few government to do so, the official said.

Dr Grace Eden, Assistant Professor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, Mr Ameen Jauhar, Senior Resident Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Mr Rohit Satish, Consultant, NITI Aayog and Senior Fellow, Wadhvani Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Ms Vidushi Marda, Senior Programme Officer, Article 19 and Non-resident Research Analyst, Carnegie India, and Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS, spoke on the occasion. ■

New Technologies and Development Issues

COVID-19: Need to Prepare for Medium and Long-term Implications

The 35th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Amitava Banerjee, Associate Professor in Clinical Data Science, University College London (UK), Honorary Consultant Cardiologist, University College London Hospitals and Adjunct Associate Professor, Public Health, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, India on 25 May 2021 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “COVID-19: Urgent Need Beyond The ICU, The Hospital and The Short-Term”.



Dr Amitava Banerjee

Dr Amitava Banerjee, in his very insightful lecture elaborated on the importance of data science in helping devise a timely and effective strategies for tackling COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Banerjee argued that the current pandemic can be better termed as “syndemic” (a set of linked health problems involving two or more afflictions, interacting synergistically, and contributing to excess burden of disease in a population) and therefore better concerted integrated care pathways are required to address the challenges. ■

Science & Technology and the Pandemic

The 36th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India on 5 August 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Science & Technology and the Pandemic”.

In her very insightful address, Dr Swarup covered the key aspects of what has been the science and technology response to the pandemic and how S&T has been playing at the forefront, in response to the pandemic. The enabling policy environment created over the period greatly helped S&T perform exceptionally well towards this pandemic; whether by building capacities in S&T across our academic institutions, or bringing together the industry, the academia, the Start-Ups, and forging international collaborations. The focus has been on addressing the gaps, building a strong ecosystem, identifying the new technology platforms, connecting Industry-Academia-Start-Ups.

She elaborated on the “Science-based Response Strategy” that India took well on time to tackle



the pandemic. This strategy focussed on product development such as vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics, bio-therapeutics and botanicals, with the proper ecosystem support measures such as fast-track approvals, product scale-up facilities, mentoring and support to Start-Ups. This roadmap provided clear focus on what needs to be done and also provided the understanding on the stakeholders, which helped the government to connect all those stakeholders. ■

Food Processing and Rural Economy: Technological Options for Farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The 37th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Ashutosh Upadhyay, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology and Dean Academic, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) (an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries) on 29 September 2021 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Food Processing and Rural Economy: Technological Options for Farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)”.

In his very insightful address, Dr Upadhyay covered the range of issues related to the topic, including the significance of the food processing sector for India in general and for the rural economy, in particular. Given the low share of processed food in India, there is a serious problem of high food wastage, especially of the fruits and vegetables. In this context, there is an immense scope and



Dr Ashutosh Upadhyay, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology and Dean Academic, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) delivering the lecture.

opportunity in the food processing sector, which needs to be tapped to provide a thrust to the rural economy. Towards this cause, farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can play a key role, provided they have the access to the available technological solutions at an affordable rate. Dr Upadhyay elaborated on the gamut of technologies that are available for uptake by the individual farmers and SHGs. These technologies have been developed by the public-funded research centres and cover the entire value chain of the food processing sector. He further gave

a detailed overview of such technologies within the sub-sectors such as dairy, fruits and vegetables, cereals and seeds, oilseeds, pulses, beverages, meat and poultry products, honey and spices. ■

Growth of Solar Physics in India from Ground and Space-based Platforms

The 38th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Professor Dipankar Banerjee, Director, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Nainital, Uttarakhand on 29 October 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Growth of Solar Physics in India from Ground and Space-based Platforms”.

In his very insightful address, Professor Dipankar Banerjee provided an overview of the status and prospect of solar physics in India. He began his lecture by giving a detailed overview of the solar facilities existing at various places across the country and explained the technical nuances of the subject. He talked about sophisticated instruments such as Multi Application Solar Telescope, which is needed to study the variability of different timescale in the Sun, sunspots, solar flares and

so on. Professor Banerjee elaborated on the proposed National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) which will be 2m class optical and near infra-red (IR) observational facility in the country. ■

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture Series

TOPIC: Growth of Solar Physics in India from Ground and Space-based Platforms

29th October 2021
TIME :- 4:00 PM

		
CONVENER	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	CHAIRPERSON
DR NAKUL PARASHAR Director, Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi	PROF. DIPANKAR BANERJEE Director, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital	PROF. ARNAB RAI CHOUDHURI Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru

New Technologies and Development Issues

Realising Energy Swarajya in India through Solar: Towards Ensuring Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation

The 39th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Professor Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor at the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, Founder of Energy Swaraj Foundation and the Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy for the state of Madhya Pradesh, on 22 December 2021 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Realising Energy Swarajya in India through Solar: Towards Ensuring Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation”.

In his very insightful and thought-provoking address, Professor Chetan S Solanki presented an overview of the prevailing alarming state in terms of the increasing pollution and climate change phenomenon, which is going to adversely impact the human species and threaten its sustenance in this planet. He exhorted that the decisive factor in this alarming state is the huge generation and usage of energy, derived from fossil fuels i.e. oil, gas and coal.

Professor Solanki alluded to the dichotomy between growth and climate change and argued that while an increase in the energy supply is needed for growth; a decrease in the energy supply is required for addressing the serious issue of climate change. Thus the key challenge is how to balance the growth without affecting the climate change. He argued for deploying drastic and immediate measures to deal with this alarming situation. Towards such a solution, Professor Solanki urged for switching to 100 per cent solar energy immediately (wherever it's possible) and becoming Atma Nirbhar and adopting energy swarajya. He placed forward the twin principles of “Limited Consumption” and “Localised Production” as key to realise energy swarajya. He further went on to



Professor Chetan Singh Solanki delivering the STIP Forum lecture.

enumerate the benefits of energy swarajya such as livelihood creation, energy independence, community involvement, strengthening of local and rural economy, energy discipline, energy security and sustainability.

At the end, Professor Solanki advocated a three-step approach for everyone to follow to achieve energy swarajya and mitigate climate change. The first step is to avoid use of energy as much as possible (even if it's solar) by trying to prevent at least by one-third. The second step is to minimize the use of energy as much as possible by practicing discipline and using efficient appliances and try to minimize at least by one-third; and the third step is to generate as little as possible (if possible, only one-third, that too locally!). He argued that this principle or rule of “AMG” (Avoid, Minimize and Generate) is critical for mitigating climate change and achieving energy swarajya. Finally, he appealed for making energy swarajya as a public movement, as government actions alone won't be sufficient to address the challenge of such an enormous proportion. ■

Enabling the Global Energy Transition: India in the World

The 41st STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance, on 28 February 2022 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Enabling the Global Energy Transition: India in the World”. In his insightful address, Dr Mathur provided an overview of the energy transitions happening in the world and in India. He began his lecture by highlighting that the renewable energy and non-fossil fuels have taken up a substantial share of the electricity generation mix. Dr Mathur enumerated two key public policy interventions that helped India scaled up its solar energy installation to date viz. Price reduction and demand creation. Price reduction has been achieved through a two-stage process comprising of Feed-in Tariffs and Reverse Auctions, whereas demand creation was

achieved through the system of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs). These policy instruments have made renewable energy cost effective and competitive, thus spurring their high intake. However, as mentioned by Dr Mathur, India’s trade balance in terms of solar cells and solar modules is extremely skewed at this moment, wherein only 36 per cent of the solar panels installed in India during the FY 2021 were supplied by the domestic manufactures. Another challenge, as pointed by him, is in terms of cost of capital for solar energy projects which is quite high in India as compared to many other countries such as US, China and Europe. He placed high hopes on recently launched PLI scheme to change this scenario in near future. ■

Rewiring the Brain

The 42nd STIP Forum Public Lecture was delivered by Dr K Sridhar, Honorary Secretary, Neurological Society of India, on 28 March 2022 via an online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Rewiring the Brain”. Dr Sridhar began his address by providing an overview of the critical role the brain plays in our existence as living being. He elaborated on the various processes in terms

of neural networks and reactions that happen inside the brain to help us speak, act, smell, think and so on. He went on to explain how the ‘rewiring’ of the brain can help solve many neurological disorders such as epilepsy, brain stroke, Parkinson’s disease and dementia through the technique called Neuro Plasticity. ■

Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Issues and implications

In light of developments related to Digital Sequence Information (DSI) in CBD and its implications for ABS, and discussions on DSI in other fora, RIS organised a Webinar on Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Issues and Implications on 31 August 2021.

The Session I on DSI: International Developments and Trends was chaired by Dr Sylvain Aubry, Scientific Advisor at Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Zurich. The distinguished panelists were: Mr Frederic Perron-Welch, Research Scholar, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University; Dr Lotte Asveld, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Department, Delft University of Technology; Dr Amber Hartman Scholz, ABS Team, Leibniz Institute - German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Culture; Dr Viviana Munoz, Coordinator of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme, South Center, Geneva.

The Session II was on DSI and Biodiversity: Implications for India. It was chaired by Professor M. K. Ramesh,

National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore and panelists were: Dr Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) & Alliance for



Agri Innovation (AAI); Dr Vishwas Chavan, Consultant in Bioinformatics, Pune; Ms Shalini Bhutani, Legal & Policy Analyst, New Delhi; Ms Shyama Kuriakose, Legal Head, Wildlife Conservation Society-India. ■

New Technologies and Development Issues

India-Kenya Bilateral Technical Session on Co-WIN

GDC made a presentation on India's digital vaccination platform, Co-WIN with the support of GOI's National Health Authority, MoHFW to participants from the Ministry of Health in Kenya to explore the possibility of its possible replication by the Kenyan Government.

Earlier, GDC had organised a webinar on 'Coping with COVID: Experiences of developing countries in vaccine platforms and rollout' on May 19, 2021. The event was attended by health officials from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Nigeria. Subsequently, GDC was constantly pursuing with relevant health officials from these countries to explore opportunities for possible



adoption of Co-WIN platform or upgrading their existing vaccination platforms in lines of the Co-WIN. ■

Innovations and Data with Focus on Sustainable Economy at IEA 104th Annual Conference

RIS organized a Special Session on Innovations and Data with Focus on Sustainable Economy at Bhopal on 26 December 2021. The eminent participants were Professor Shamika Ravi, Former Member, PM's Economic Advisory Council, India; Research Director, The Brookings Institute,

Delhi; Professor Rishikesh T. Krishnan, Director, IIM, Bangalore; Professor Anna Roy, Senior Adviser at NITI Aayog; Professor Amitabh Kundu, RIS; Dr Ankush Agarwal, IIT, New Delhi; and Professor D. K. Nauriyal, Former Vice Chancellor, Kumaun University, Nainital. ■

Digital Payments Offerings by NIPL

GDC at RIS reached out to Sociedade Interbancaria De Mocambique (SIMO), a government entity associated with Central Bank of Mozambique. It functions as a regulator of all commercial banks in the country. As part of SIMO's mandate, it manages digital payments in Mozambique. GDC had already organised a virtual bilateral session between SIMO and representatives of NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) in the month of February 2022. Subsequent, GDC hosted another bilateral session between United Nations Industrial Development Organization and NIPL on 11 March 2022 to take the deliberations further.



Participants from Reserve Bank of Malawi attending Bilateral Session with NIPL

India-Ethiopia Bilateral Session on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

GDC at RIS also organized a bilateral session between the Ministry of Health, Ethiopia and the National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India, on 5 March 2022. The Ethiopian delegation, led by Dr Meseret Zelalem, expressed Ethiopia's interest to advance the current District Health Information (DHI-2) system used in the country. They reiterated their interest to improve the reporting mechanisms, both for C-19 and other existing programmes. It was also emphasised that there is a need for a system that can be plugged into interoperable work with their current systems. They also called for support in the capacity building of their staff. ■



Participants from Ethiopia interacting during bilateral session with NHA official

New Technologies and Development Issues

Rwanda Bilateral Session on Digital Payments Offerings by NIPL

GDC has established linkages with National Bank of Rwanda to explore opportunities of co-learning and suitable adoption of relevant offerings provided by NPCI International Payments Limited, India in the field of digital payments. The team from Rwanda was invited to attend the workshop at Expo 2020, Dubai on 5-6 March 2022. Unfortunately due to C-19 related travel restrictions, they

preferred to join a virtual session over physical participation at the Expo. Rwanda was led by Mr Karamuka Bagirishya John, Director Payment Services, National Bank of Rwanda. At the programme NIPL's digital payment offerings were showcased, followed by a Q&A session. The virtual session on 16 March 2022 was well appreciated by officials from National Bank of Rwanda. ■

India-South Sudan Bilateral Session on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

GDC at RIS organized a bilateral session between the National Health Authority, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and delegates from the Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan on 5 March 2022. It was an opportunity for a more detailed technical exchange between South Sudan Delegates and NHA. The delegation from South Sudan, led by the Director General, Ministry of Health, GDC at RIS organized a bilateral session between the National Health Authority, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and delegates from the Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan on 5 March 2022. It was an opportunity for a more detailed technical exchange between South Sudan Delegates and NHA. The delegation from South Sudan, led by the Director General, the Ministry of



Participants from South Sudan interacting during bilateral session with NHA official

Health, presented plan of action to acquire a digital system with greater capabilities compared to the system which is currently used in the country. They shared their interest in systems that support quality data entrance and processing for which Co-WIN has distinct strengths. ■

Cross-Country Cooperation in Digital Payment Platforms and FinTech Solutions: Key to Ensure Financial Inclusion and Inclusive Development



Amar Sinha



D Janakiraman



Dr Emmanuel Mungo



Priyadarshi Dash

Speaking on 'Digital Payments Dialogue: Experiences among Developing Countries', the 11th webinar held on 22 July 2021, organised by Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS on South-South Cooperation, Professor D. Janakiram, the Director of the Institute for Development

and Research in Banking Technology established by the RBI, said that although India still examines the pros and cons of adopting central bank digital currency for wide use, digital wallets may become a crucial part of the proposed Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) framework in India to help

New Technologies and Development Issues

boost financial inclusion programmes as well as to prevent leakages of government subsidies, according to an expert.

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, said Africa and Asia - which are emerging as the most important digital payments markets due to their young and growing population - must be 'rule-shapers' than 'rule-takers'. He said governments must play the role of facilitators and enablers and help promote harmonisation of rules and share best practices.

Mr Ritesh Shukla, CEO of NPCI International Payments Limited, said P2M (person to merchant payments) transactions are growing in India with more merchants accepting digital payments. He said there is also a greater focus on providing digital payment solutions for people with regular phones (that are not smartphones).

Mr Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Airtel Payments Bank, said the key target segment in the digital payments space in India is the 200 million underserved customers including in remote areas.

Mr Kennedy Kipkemboi, Regulatory Specialist, Mobile Money, Programme, GSMA, Kenya, said it is important to reduce the compliance cost including

those related to initial capital requirements to promote digital payments and ensure a level-playing field.

Mr Mackay Aomu, Director, National Payment Systems, Bank of Uganda, said Uganda is looking into the gaps in regulation including those related to initial capital requirements, and has introduced a six-tier regulatory mechanism to bring in small and medium players.

Ms Olanike Kolawole, Head, Agency Banking, Consumer Bank, Ecobank Nigeria Ltd., spoke about the opportunities in digital payments in Nigeria. Dr Emmanuel Mungongo, Senior Principal Officer, Bank of Tanzania, said there should be greater collaboration among developing countries on improving digital payment product design and reducing barriers.

Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory Committee - GDC and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, spoke about the importance of sharing the experience of the developing world including India and Africa to mainstream digital payments that boost financial inclusion in the global discourse agenda, develop innovative solutions and build an ecosystem. He said governments must keep a close watch on the sector to prevent fraudulent practices. ■

India-Malawi Bilateral Session on Digital Payments

GDC at RIS facilitated a bilateral session between NIPL and Reserve Bank of Malawi. Dr Seshadri Chari, Member, RIS Governing Council chaired the session. The bilateral session was an opportunity for further in-depth technical exchange with respect to the specific requirements of Malawi based on their local contexts.

During the session, the team from Malawi presented details of their country's plan towards advancing digital payment systems and appreciated the potential of experience sharing and peer-learning based on India's

experience with UPI and RuPAY Cards. They also shared insights on the Reserve Bank of Malawi's procedures for implementing such a system. On the other hand, the team from NIPL presented further technical details, implementation and operational modalities, financing mechanisms, etc. and answered all queries raised by the Malawi delegation. Other issues discussed included operations costs, capacity building requirements, among others. The NIPL team and Malawi delegation also agreed on the next steps of their engagement. ■

New Technologies and Development Issues

Horizon Europe

RIS jointly with the Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy organised a Webinar on Horizon Europe: The Way Forward in India-EU Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation on 23 August 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave welcome and opening address. Introductory Remarks were made by Ms Nienke Buisman, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission; Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs. The session on Horizon Europe: The Way Forward in India-EU Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation was chaired by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Panelists were: Ms Tania Friederichs, EU Research & Innovation (R&I) Counsellor in India; Dr S. K. Varshney, Head, International Cooperation Division, Department of Science and Technology; Dr Rita Dhodapkar, Principal Technical Officer, Science Secretary, DRC, NEERI. Dr Jakob



Williams Ørberg, Counsellor Innovation, Research and Higher Education, Royal Danish Embassy; Dr Madhusudan Reddy Nandineni, Counselor (Science & Technology), Embassy of India, Berlin and Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS were discussants. Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, also gave the closing remarks. ■

Tapping Solar Energy: Sharing India's Experience

India is keen to ensure that solar energy tops the political and economic agenda across all countries through the efforts of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in greater capacity building programmes, reduction of per unit price and creation of markets, according to Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA. In this regard, the ISA, launched by India and France, is aiming to channel USD one trillion in the solar energy sector by 2030 across the world, facilitate universal energy access as well as enable green economic recovery of growth along with climate change mitigation and adaptation, he said.

Dr Mathur was speaking at a webinar on 'Tapping Solar Energy: Sharing India's Experience and Forging Partnership with Asia, Pacific Island Countries' organised by RIS and Global Development Centre (GDC) on 17 June 2021.

Mr Chandra Kishore Mishra, Former Secretary, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, who chaired the panel discussion said it is important for countries to not only reduce carbon emissions but also increase the carbon sink to ensure more carbon dioxide absorption than releases.

Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory Committee, GDC and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, said India has been proactive in its efforts to go green, rely on solar energy and push the 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' initiative. He amplified that the most crucial



Dr Ajay Mathur



Mr Chandra Kishore Mishra

aspect is the interconnected problems of climate change, global warming and the rising sea levels that poses an existential threat to the mankind. The dangers of climate change have also found reflection in the statement of the recent G7 summit.

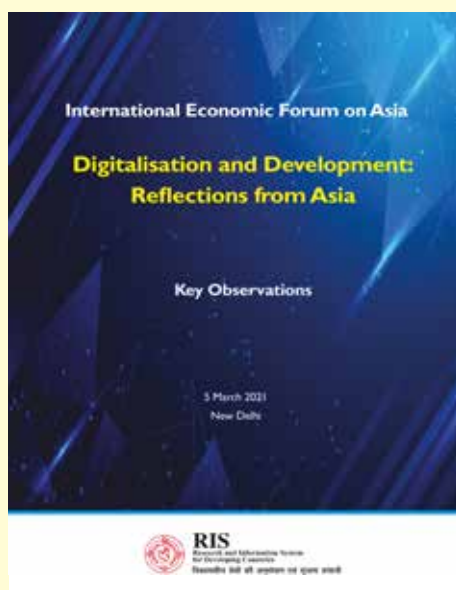
Dr Christopher Vehe, Permanent Secretary of the Solomon Islands – Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, spoke about the need for strengthening capacity building and skill through effective management of human and financial resources.

The webinar saw a discussion on stimulating renewable energy deployment across the Pacific Island Countries, especially since the islands are endowed with natural resources like sunlight and wind. The challenges faced by the islands include lack of private sector investment, poor capacity to operate and maintain renewable energy systems, particularly for off-grid installations on remote islands, as well as the difficulties in grid integration. There

New Technologies and Development Issues

were also discussions on the scope of India's support and partnerships in solar energy demand assessment plan development, creation of governmental enterprise, capacity building of personnel and help in accessing global finance to build solar power for Pacific Island Countries. ■

RIS Publications



REPORTS

■ **FinTech: New Technology for Future Banking and Finance**, RIS and IIC, New Delhi, 2021

■ **Digitalisation and Development: Reflections from Asia**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

■ **Digital Payments Dialogue: Experiences among Developing Countries**, GDC, New Delhi, 2021

■ **Leveraging India's Digital Experience in Payments and Vaccination Platform**, GDC, New Delhi, 2022

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

#265: **National AI Policy/Strategy of India and China: A Comparative Analysis** by Amit Kumar

#269: **Skilling, Fulcrum of a Proactive Multidimensional Poverty Tracker Pathway** by Pramod Kumar Anand & Krishna Kumar

#271: **Role of Indian Science Congress Association in the Emergence of Scientific Community in Pre-Independence India** by Sneha Sinha

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

#104 **Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Jobs in India** by Amit Kumar

#103 **India's Tryst with Robotisation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Implications** by Kapil Patil

#102 **Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Technologies** by T. C. James

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY REVIEW

• Volume: 3 No: 1: April, 2021

ASIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

• Volume: 23 No: 2, July, 2021

Chapter 4B

New Technologies and Development Issues-FITM



Dr Namrata Pathak
Consultant

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine

Traditional knowledge, medicinal plants, traditional medicine and biological diversity related issues have been on the agenda of RIS for quite some time. In recognition of the work, the Ministry of Ayush set up the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) in RIS. FITM's current research focus is based on the changing role of traditional medicine in national and international discussions. Epidemiological trends, especially growth of NCD burden have stimulated growing global interest and preference for traditional herbal medicines. Today, these systems of medicine are not limited by demand within the countries of origin as is visible in the substantial growth in international export of Ayurvedic and other traditional medicine products. A growing body of clinical research and regulatory reforms with reference to uniformity in standards and quality controls is further adding to its validity. COVID 19 has served to increase global demand for herbal health products further. It has enabled acknowledgement of both preventive and curative aspects of healthcare for sustainable wellness. Traditional medicine in healthcare, being more prevalent in the Global South, is also a significant tool for South-South Cooperation, as is evident in several strategic regional co-operations with and within Africa, BIMSTEC and ASEAN. Protection of traditional medicine and rights of its knowledge holders has also brought the common concerns of the Global South at several international platforms such as WIPO, WHO and WTO. At the same time these systems' strong linkage with biodiversity creates issues of both sustainability of resources and rights of communities associated with it. The drastic health implications of zoonotic diseases in the form of pandemics further reinforces the need for exploration of transdisciplinary approach to health and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity. These include drawing from knowledge sources on sustainable health practices outlined in India's health based texts on Ayurveda, Siddha and Yoga.

The research areas of FITM this year have focussed on new technologies and development issues pertaining to health, economy, trade and environment especially in context of traditional medicine systems. The report 'Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges', prepared by FITM is a landmark report, the first academic exercise of its kind to understand traditional medicine goods industry in its entirety. It studies Ayush classical and proprietary goods and allied industries of extracts and medicinal plants, its global and national market size, exports, regional distribution along with performance and opportunities in the Ayush manufacturing sector.

Buoyed by the growing global and domestic demand and enabled by a strong support to regulatory, R&D and backend infrastructure by the Ministry

New Technologies and Development Issues

of AYUSH, Indian systems of medicine especially Yoga and Ayurveda have shown tremendous growth in the last few years. Ease of business in the sector is being facilitated at several fronts. Along with special incentives under 'Make-in- India' and 'Start Up India', India allows 100 per cent FDI in AYUSH industry. At the central level, programmes for a sustained supply of medicinal plants through cultivation/collection and market linkage in contract farming are being undertaken. Against this backdrop it was felt that policy support to the sector could be greatly enhanced with a study an estimation of the size of the sector and an understanding of its key strengths. An estimated \$18 billion industry size, as brought out by the study, has provided policy makers with the necessary insights on scale of operations and guidance on the key aspects of the industry.

While an estimation of the market and trade prospects of Ayush was to serve the objective of promotion of the sector by the Ministry of Ayush, a Round Table Discussion on 'Ayush Sctor Promotion: Identifying Product Categories for Financial and Regulatory Support' elicited views from stakeholders on mechanisms for enhancing export potential of the sector with the necessary policy support.

Biodiversity is the key source of medicinal plants, the principal raw materials for Traditional Medicines. Local communities have long been the preservers of the biological resources and the medicinal knowledge associated with them. Issues of access, benefit sharing with these communities and their positioning vis a vis narratives on rights and ownership has long been a global debate. International discussions on human rights have thrown up questions on appropriate terms to refer to such people, be it historically, socially or economically. The appropriate use of the term 'indigenous' and how it shapes legal narratives on rights and development both nationally and internationally becomes important in this context. In this backdrop, FITM organised a Panel Discussion based on the RIS Discussion Paper 'International Discussions on Indigenous People and India' by Prof T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS.

Biodiversity and its sustainable use have also been at the heart of multilateral discussions specially in the face of intensified, global circulation of pathogens like COVID 19 where we recognize that managing risk is not possible in one country alone. Understanding links between humans, animals, and the environment, how these links are integral to understanding disease dynamics, and the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to prevention, education, investment, and policy development are imperative. The Concept of One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach – working at the local, regional, national, and global levels – with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. The conceptual core of 'One World One Health', the understanding of zoonoses can be traced in the India's traditional health texts. FITM's first Invited Lecture, delivered by the Chairperson of University Grants Commission, Prof Jagadesh Kumar, dwelled on the key aspects of the national and global positioning of One Health with an integrative, multidisciplinary approach for a global health agenda.

Building on its mandate for policy research on economy and governance of traditional medicines in global and national arena, FITM has also launched its Journal, the *Traditional Medicine Review*. Its aim is to bring out academic outputs to generate debate on economy, trade, IPR, international healthcare cooperation, legislation and policy responses in the field of traditional medicine. A biannual Journal the two issues brought out in October 2021, and April 2022 have covered subjects ranging from trade promotion, regulatory reforms for health insurance to digital technologies, standardisation of terminologies and innovation in traditional medicine healthcare systems.

New Technologies and Development Issues

Translational Research through Traditional Medicines for Holistic Health Care

The 40th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Vaidya Shri Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, on 23 February 2022 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Translational Research through Traditional Medicines for Holistic Health Care”. The event was moderated by Dr Kinkini Dasgupta Misra, Scientist F, Vigyan Prasara.

Vaidya Shri Rajesh Kotecha began his very insightful address by providing an overview of the concept of holistic health care and highlighted the key role traditional medicines can play in achieving holistic health care. Vaidya Shri Kotecha elaborated on the translational approach through Ayurveda and explained in detail how well the whole Ayurveda knowledge system is itself structured as translational model. The three tier structure of the Ayurvedic knowledge system comprising of ‘Taatva’ (principles), ‘Shastra’ (theoretical constructs) and ‘Vyawahar’ (practical applications) is aimed to ensure that the academic insights get translated into practical application. The Ayurvedic knowledge system is also engrained in the process of translation through science, rationale and experience.



Vaidya Shri Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

Vaidya Shri Kotecha further shared some successful instances of integration of AYUSH in the mainstream public health care schemes and programmes. He highlighted the cases of integration of AYUSH in the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS), National Reproductive and Child Healthcare (RCH) Programme like SUPRAJA Initiative, Geriatric Healthcare through VAYO MITRA, Palliative Survives (KARUNYA). Vaidya Shri Kotecha also mentioned about AYURVIDYA, a new AYUSH Ministry

initiative for the promotion of healthy lifestyle through Ayush system in 75,000 schools. He also shared the list of extensive AYUSH research done on COVID-19 across the country during the pandemic.

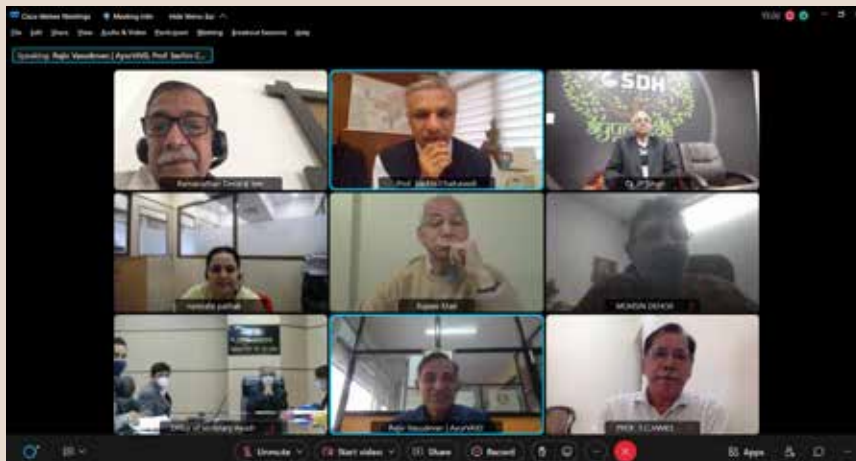
At the end, Vaidya Shri Rajesh Kotecha put forward some key pointers as way forward, which included inter alia a call for facilitating more inter-disciplinary collaborative research studies; envisioning a National AYUSH Research Consortium; promoting industry-academia collaboration and setting-up on an intuitional mechanism for translational research to convert evidences and experiences into practical implementation. ■

New Technologies and Development Issues

'AYUSH Sector Promotion: Identifying Product Categories for Financial and Regulatory Support'

The Ministry of AYUSH has framed various schemes and is working on several initiatives that aim to make India the hub for manufacturing of AYUSH products, with global competence and penetration. To enhance domestic capacity and exports and position India as the global champion of traditional medicine, strategies to reduce import dependency and improve the cost competitiveness of domestically manufactured AYUSH products become important.

FITM organised Round Table discussion to elicit views from the industry and other stakeholders for identifying important components of the industry that may require policy support. The virtual Round Table Discussion on 'AYUSH Sector Promotion: Identifying Product Categories for Financial and Regulatory Support' was held on Monday, 14 February 2022. Welcome Remarks were given by Prof Sachin Chaturvedi,



Webinar in progress.

Director General, RIS. Opening Remarks was delivered by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH. The session on AYUSH Product Categories for Financial and Regulatory Support was chaired by Shri Rajiv Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, New Delhi and vote of thanks was given by Dr Namrata Pathak, Consultant, RIS, New Delhi. ■

FITM Invited Lecture on 'One World One Health'

FITM has launched the Invited Lecture series with an objective to bring national and international policymakers, academics and subject experts to discuss their views and experience in development of AYUSH system and its global connect. The first Invited Lecture was delivered by Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission on the topic of 'One World One Health' held on 16th February 2022. Welcome remarks were given by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, presided over the event. Professor Kumar, in his Lecture highlighted the need for global cooperation on early detection mechanisms for diseases, data generation and sharing through a public cloud system, along with an integrated health approach as the fundamental steps required for achieving One health goals. He advocated the need for 'One health one world' strategy considering the particular vulnerability



Webinar in progress.

of rural population and communities to the zoonotic diseases owing to their degree of interface with livestock animals. He emphasized the importance of classical Indian texts for One Health in line with their strengths in diagnosis and prevention of zoonoses and pressed for its validation with modern medicine. Vote of thanks was given by Professor T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS. The lecture was attended by several participants from Australia, Sri Lanka, Japan, etc. ■

New Technologies and Development Issues

International Discussions on Indigenous People and India

India's stand in various international fora on issues relating to access and benefit-sharing for biological resources and traditional knowledge reflects India's approach of considering different groups of people that form the rich tapestry of Indian society as indigenous people.

However, international discussions on human rights have thrown up some questions on suitable terms to refer to differently positioned people, be it historically, socially or economically. The appropriate use of the term 'indigenous' and how it shapes legal narratives on rights and development, both nationally and internationally, becomes important in this context.

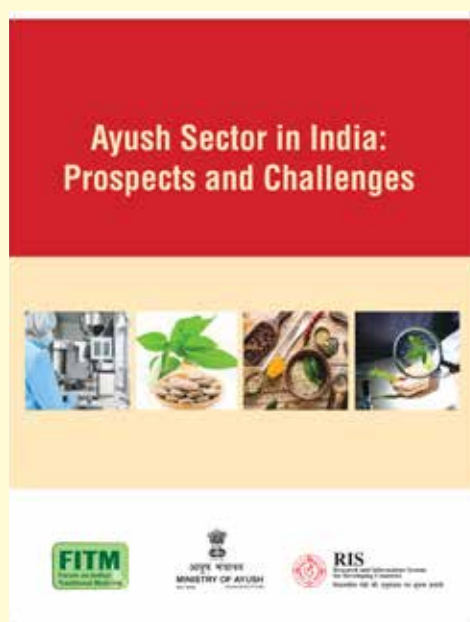
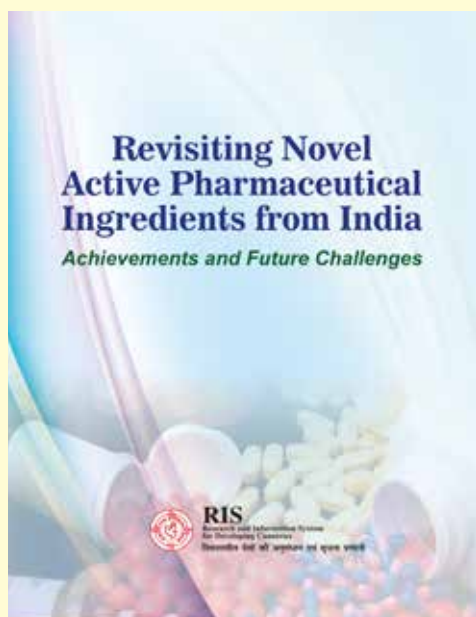
In this backdrop, FITM organised a Panel Discussion on 16 March 2022, based on a Discussion Paper

'International Discussions on Indigenous People and India' authored by Professor T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS.

The Panel Discussion was chaired by Shri Harsh Chouhan, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The panelists included Justice Pratibha M. Singh, Delhi High Court, Smt Bhaswati Mukherjee, Former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands and Smt Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary (L&T), Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr Ram Chander Jangra Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha and Convener, Sub-Committee of the Parliament Rajbhasha Committee also addressed the participants. ■

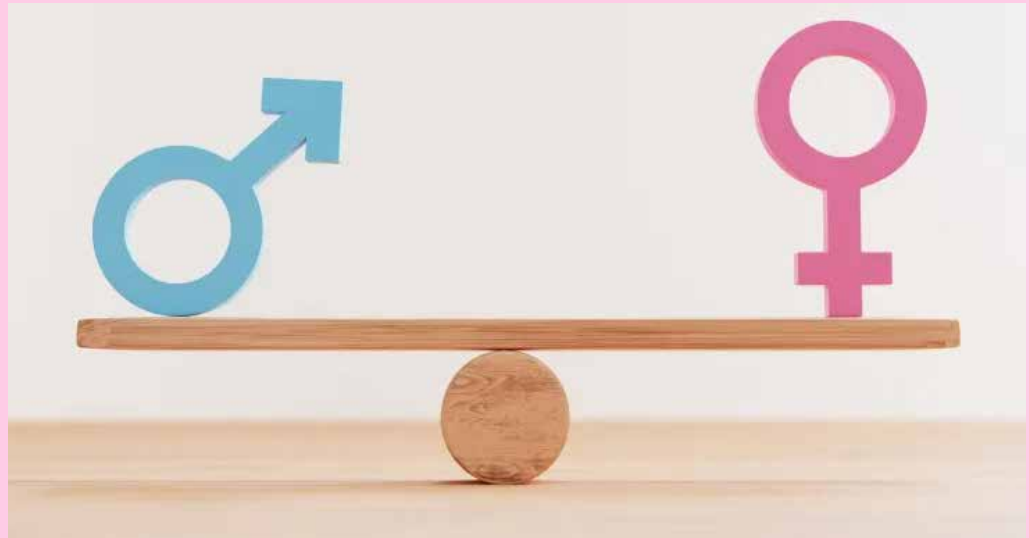
RIS Publications



REPORTS

- **Revisiting Novel Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from India Achievements and Future Challenges**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

Chapter 5



Dr Beena Pandey
Assistant Professor

Gender Equality in Social Cohesion Perspectives

Gender equality has always been a contested issue in the light of women's economic, social, cultural and political conditions across national, regional and international arenas which focus on common shared problems faced by the women, both in developed and developing countries that have persisted for long time. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, social coherent and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes would fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

Women, who are contributing effectively in the growth of the development of nations, sharing wide variety of responsibilities, playing a pivotal role in upbringing their children and supplementing the family income, are still being blatantly discriminated at every level. Despite various measures, initiatives and efforts at a range of levels, gender disparity in respect of health care, nutrition, education, employment, decision making and more importantly political participation still exists all over the world. However, as a priority, investments in the social sector are the prerequisite to achieve social equity, inclusive growth, social cohesion and shared prosperity as well. There is a direct relationship between gender equality and social cohesion as more equal society is a more cohesive society.

Gender discrimination and continued gender gaps have been the most pertinent social problems facing the global community. These problems have received considerable attention particularly during the past few decades through a series of initiatives at international, regional and national levels. This process was formally initiated through the programmes centering on the International

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Women's Year in 1975. The process of empowering women was initiated more specifically since 1975, which was designated as International Women's Year by the UN General Assembly, when the 1st World Women Conference was held in Mexico. It further received a major impetus at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, in 1995, which heralded a new era giving a fresh vision to women empowerment all over the world. While the impact of various developmental policies, plans and programmes implemented over the last few decades have brought forth perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women, however, problems like illiteracy, ignorance, discrimination, inequality and violence continue to persist even today. However, the overall socio-economic and development of a nation requires maximum utilization of human resources without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion or sex.

Over the last few decades, gender and development have indeed been discussed a great deal. Generally, the discussions have focused on ensuring equal opportunities for women and men particularly social and economic rights, mainly in poor economies where human deprivations are frequently depicted in terms of limited and unequal access to food, nutrition, health care, education and job opportunities. Consequently women's political rights have been ignored or neglected, as has been argued by social thinkers that as priority women need adequate food, basic health care services and educational opportunities rather than right to participate in politics or public decision making.

Gender became an issue during the First United Nations Decade, 1960-70, when it was found that planned development efforts which were meant to improve the lives of the community as a whole, were either not helping women or were actually harming them in many ways. Such a state of affair was indeed a major concern especially when the benefits of development was not reaching the poor or to the women. There were evidences of under employment, food shortages and polarization between the rich and the poor. As a result of these, and the pressures from below, the goals of development and the means for their achievement were re-examined. During the Second Development Decade 1970-80, NGOs working in the rural areas in many developing countries pointed out the absence of participation by the poor and the women in development programmes.

Earlier one talked about 'Women in Development' (WID), which aimed at meeting women's basic needs and making use of women's traditional skills and abilities for achieving the goals of development. It later changed to 'Women and Development' to remove the impression that they are not only the beneficiaries of development, but they are also participants and contributors in development process. The emphasis has now shifted to Gender and Development (GAD) since the 1980s bringing the concept of empowerment of women along with men. It also shifted from a welfare approach to a basic needs and efficiency approach, and thereafter to the women's empowerment approach.

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According to the World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report, 2022*, it will take another 132 years to close gender gap worldwide based on the current rate of progress. Therefore, there is need to emphasize on the importance of integrating gender issues into the public policy, as public actions and public policy are both important for gender equality and maintaining social cohesion in the societies. Further, budgetary and monetary policies should incorporate gender concerns in the economic growth recovery process during the pandemic. Therefore, thrust should be on social inclusion in a true sense that are pro-poor policies which ensure the wellbeing of each individual and protect the poor and vulnerable sections of the society who are excluded from the mainstream development policies due to inherent challenges faced by them in terms of human vulnerabilities or natural calamities. As disparities are seen worldwide in the provision of and access to basic services, socially and economically disadvantaged groups of society, have not benefitted equally or lagged behind from the mainstream of the development policies, due to deep rooted unequal social structures of societies.

World has faced gruesome effects of the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020, with the periodic resurgence of various new variants. This has impacted, men, women, elderly and even children having serious implications of the pandemic. Pandemic induced restrictions were one of the major setbacks in exacerbating existing inter-country and intra-country disparities in social and economic development. World-wide deepening of social and economic and social inequalities during pandemic has been widely acknowledged. The impact of pandemic on women, the world over, has not only been in terms of social and economic vulnerabilities but has also resulted into increased inequalities that disturb the social cohesion in various spheres. Further, this vulnerability factor exposed the women due to lack of access to social safety nets.

India would hold the G20 Presidency from December 2022 onwards for a period of one year. As during the last few Presidencies of G-20, gender empowerment has also been one of the major priority areas on the G-20 agenda. In general, women face more challenges than their male counterparts, when it comes to labour participation and access to decent jobs. As has been analyzed in the last four G-20 Presidencies, it has been observed that, there has not been any separate Task Force theme for women empowerment, except in Argentina in 2018. Many Task Forces of different Presidencies are mainly pertaining to the issue of social cohesion, global governance and the future of welfare systems etc which partially also touched upon the issue of women empowerment.

In order to explore gender issues in G20, RIS organised a special Panel Discussion on '*Women's Issues in G-20 and Way Forward*' with participation from distinguished panelists on Women's Day itself. At the outset, it was highlighted that in Brisbane, at the core of the G20, Women 20 (W 20) urged all member countries to advance member states policies towards the '25 by 25' target set by

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G20 for reducing the gender gap in labour force participation rate by 2025 by putting forward national plan of actions. This is one of the commitments that is still to be achieved in several G20 countries. Further, issues of gender discrimination, skilled labour, finance, gender budgeting and technology are being stressed on the commitments of the G20 national and international mechanisms. The Ministry of Finance in the respective G20 countries has the important role to play in G20 Forum which is a specialized forum to finance human development and gender equality as an important public good. Gender budgeting in G20 countries is also a promising framework to deal with gender issues.

In India being the fastest growing economy in the world, the majority of the population does not uniformly share the benefits of development that the elitist population enjoys due to the presence of widespread inequality in access to education, healthcare, income and overall development. India's vast geographical area, huge ethnic and cultural diversity and widespread social and economic inequalities lead to less cohesive societies. In order to achieve social cohesion, there is a need for overall development for all sections of the society, irrespective of caste, creed and gender.

In fact, T20 Final Communiqué of Italy believes that the G20 has a crucial role in ensuring that the recovery from the pandemic preserves social cohesion. Apart from these, the Governments in these G20 countries should work effectively in close partnership with the public, private organizations and civil society organizations in order to have more cohesive societies and bring significant improvement in the socio-economic conditions of women.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi Director General

- Panelist at the Session on “The Future of Development Cooperation” at the Global Solutions Summit organised by Global Solutions Initiative Foundation on 29 March 2022.
- Panelist at the Working Session of Task Force 8 – T20 on ‘Digital Transformation in Transportation Infrastructure Development of Emerging Countries’ at the Global Solution Summit 2022 organised by T20 Indonesia 2022 on 29 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on ‘Perspective from India on investments priorities across T/G7/20’ at the Side-event on New Ways towards the Agenda 2030 across the G20/G7 organised during the Global Solutions Summit organised by Global Solutions Initiative Foundation on 29 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on The Future of Development Cooperation at Global Solutions Summit organised by Global Solutions Initiative Foundation on 29 March 2022.
- Keynote Speaker at the Conference on Disaster Management organised by the Sewa International on 28 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on ‘Innovation for Development’ in the online webinar on Public-sector capacity building for Innovation and Industrialization in Developing Countries organised by UNIDO and STEPI in partnership with the Republic of Korea on 22 March 2022.
- Chaired the Session on ‘Socio-technological Transitions and the Key Economic Sectors’ at the 21st Science Council of Asia Conference Science, Technology & Social Science Research: Together for a Better World organised by ICSSR on 15 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on ‘Role of NBFCs in Atma Nirbhar Bharat: Opportunities & Challenges’ at the Interactive Meeting organised by Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) on 15 March 2022.
- Panelist in the online Roundtable discussion on ‘War in Ukraine: Implications for International Cooperation’ organised by GDI/DIE on 10 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on “Emerging opportunities for India in the Indo Pacific region” at the CII National Committee on ASEAN and Oceanic Region on 4 March 2022.
- Made a presentation on ‘BBIN Connectivity’ at the webinar on “BBIN Connectivity: Way Forward” organised by The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) on 28 February 2022.
- Participated in the Brainstorming Session on growing inter-connectedness between national security, defence, foreign policy, economic development, financial inclusion and gender equality organised by Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on 24 February 2022.
- Keynote Speaker in the session on Digital Healthcare Revolution at the virtual Brainstorming Workshop on theme ‘Post-COVID19 Sustainable Innovation to set the economy back on track’ organised jointly by the University of Mauritius, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat on 24 February 2022.
- Participated in the Interactive session on expanding India’s footprint in the Arctic organised by National Security Council Secretariat on 23 February 2022.
- Moderated the virtual Session on ‘EU-India Connectivity to celebrate EU-India relations in the context of India@75 celebration’s organised by the EU Policy & Outreach Project in India on 22 February 2022.
- Participated in the Brainstorming meeting on LIFE -the role of lifestyles in addressing climate change

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

organised by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 16 February 2022.

- Participated in the Round Table Discussion on “AYUSH Sector Promotion: Identifying Product Categories for Financial and Regulatory Support” organised by Ministry of Ayush on 14 February 2022.
- Made a presentation on Global Health Architecture and Financing at the T20 Indonesia 2022 – Inception Conference organised by T20 Secretariat, 9 February 2022.
- Delivered 23rd Malayala Manorama Annual Budget organised by Malayala Manorama on 4 February 2022.
- Moderated the Session on ‘Operational innovations in knowledge sharing: Examples for effective and sustainable operations’ at the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Forum themed “Harnessing South-South and Triangular Cooperation: How to accelerate contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) organised jointly by Rwanda Cooperation, APC Colombia and the German Development Institute on 19 January 2022.
- Made a presentation on ‘One Health Security: Safeguarding Against (Re-) Emerging Veterinary and zoonosis Diseases in Africa: Key Challenges and Opportunities in Implementation of One Health Strategy in LMICs’ in the Panel Discussion on ‘Addressing critical bottlenecks & opportunities for the effective implementation of One Health Programs in low-and-

middle income countries’ organised jointly by the Global Alliance for Pandemic Preparedness And Response (APAR), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) on 19 January 2022.

- Participated as a Co-chair of TF8 on Managing and financing local and social infrastructure development (PA-6) in the Kick of Meeting for Co-chairs and Thematic Coordinators of TF8 organised by T20 Secretariat on 17 January 2022.
- Made a presentation on University Think-tank Connect - Inferences for India-China Studies at the panel discussion organised during Synergence 2022 – The Knowledge Week by Shiv Nadar University (SNU) on 5 January 2022.
- Chaired the ‘Inaugural Session’; Session on ‘International Trade and Investment: Emerging Dynamics’ and Session on ‘Economy of Madhya Pradesh’ at the 104th Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association organised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis on 25-26 December 2021.
- Delivered Keynote Address at the Conference on Science Policy and Administration, organised during the Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sammelan & Expo on 23 December 2021, Indore.
- Made a presentation on ‘Trade negotiations issues’ at the Webinar on Is India’s approach to Global Economic Engagement Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP26 and

Trade Discussion organised jointly by ICRIER and ADBI on 17 December 2021.

- Made a presentation at the Session on ‘Leveraging the Power of Research Community and Policy Makers: Role of Think 20 (T20)’ at the 27th Edition of CII Partnership Summit on 15 December 2021.
- Moderated the Session on Beyond Borders: Science & Technology Cooperation in the Quad at the Global Technology Summit, organised by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on 14 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘Promoting Participatory Democratic Cities through Good Governance at the 2021 Resilient Cities Forum in Taoyuan: Sustainable Economy, Good Governance, and International Cooperation’, organised jointly by the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) and the Taoyuan City Government on 13 December 2021.
- Panelist in the panel discussion on ‘Mitigation and Adaptation Measure: Action Plan organised during the 7th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) on Celebrating creativity in science held on 11 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘Emerging Global Economic Frontiers’ at the Indraprastha Grand Strategy Conference on the Necessity for Choice, organised by The Indian Futures on 10 December 2021.
- Panelist at the discussion on ‘AYUSH Systems in Public Health and Primary Health’ at the JIGNASA Arogya Fair & International Conference, organised by Jignasa on 10 December 2021.

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- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on 'Is India's Foreign Policy Serving Its Economic Interests' on the occasion of Foundation Day of the Alumni Association of Calcutta University, Economics Department on 5 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on Growth Strategy of Asia Pacific at the Asia-Pacific Forum 2021, organised jointly by Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) and China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD) on 3 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on India-Bangladesh Trade at the Dialogue on 50 Years of Bangladesh-India Partnership: Towards a Journey in the Next 50 Years, organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka on 1 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on How Sustainable Development Goals could be embedded into WTO Rules from developing countries perspectives' at the Panel on Role of the G20 in sustaining and improving WTO rules for sustainable development purposes at the Panel Discussion organized jointly by Trade and Investment Research Network (TIRN) and IISD on 1 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Financial Tools to Support 4IR Technologies' at the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies for Sustainable Development organised by APCTT of UN ESCAP and DSIR on 30 November 2021.
- Delivered keynote Address at the Virtual Symposium on "Changing Contours of Development Cooperation: What Roles for Civil Society?" organised by PRIA on 29 November 2021.
- Panelist at the Panel on Renewing Multilateralism to provide Public Goods, including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the 6th UNDP-OECD-G20 workshop on Sustainable Development and Inclusive Globalization organised by UNDP, OECD and G20 Italia on 29 November 2021.
- Made a presentation at the session on 'Economic Conditions in Post-COVID India' at the Gen Next Democracy Network Programme organised by ICCR on 28 November 2021.
- Delivered Valedictory Address on Climate Change at the International Conference on Political Economy of Climate Change organised by Association of Asia Scholars on 27 November 2021.
- Chaired the Technical Session on Global partnership on Bio-security at the ICMR Technical Session on Building a resilient biomedical disaster response: learning from the COVID-19 pandemic during the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management on 24 November 2021.
- Addressed the opening session of the Navigating the Financing Landscape of Africa at the 2nd CII Summit on Innovative Financing Partnership with Africa, organised by EXIM Bank and CII on 24 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on Health, Environment and Technology as Areas of Strategic Disputes at the VI Conference on Strategic Studies organised by the Centro de Investigaciones de Politica Internacional on 24 November 2021.
- Participated as Leading Expert in an Interactive discussion on the Plurilateral Initiatives in the World Trade Organisation organised by Institute for International Trade and TIRN on 23 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on Briefing on India's Development Co-operation at the Meetings of DAC External Relations Group organised by OECD on 22 November 2021.
- Addressed the Research Institutes Network (RIN) Annual Meeting 2021 organised jointly by JETRO Bangkok and ERIA Indonesia on 22 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'The Quad: Global and Regional Perspective' organised by the National Defence Dialogue, Delhi Gymkhana Club on 20 November 2021, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative?' at the Meeting on Leading Think Tanks organised by NITI Aayog on 17 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Building Back Better and Accelerating SDGs Achievement Priority Actions for Regional Cooperation' at the Fifth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals organised by UN ESCAP on 16 November 2021 at Colombo.
- Made a presentation on 'South Asia: COVID-19 Protracted Crisis' at the Session on UNICEF in a fast-changing world - implications for positioning and programming organised by UNICEF on 15 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Future of Medicine and Healthcare' at the 2nd European Corporate

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Council on Africa and the Middle East annual Summit organised by The European House – Ambrosetti on 1 November 2021 at Rome.

- Made a presentation on ‘Ayush Sector in India – Prospects and Challenges’ at the AYUR-UDYAMAH programme, organised by the Ministry of Ayush on 29 October 2021.
- Moderated the Session on ‘Role of National Task Force and Partners Institutions in advancing SSC’ at the Capacity Building Workshop for National South-South Cooperation organised by Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Dhaka on 27 October 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘BRICS and IBSA: A Comparative Perspective’ at the BRICS and IBSA: Reflections on Recent Academic Forums, organised jointly by SA BRICS Think Tank, the BRICS, Project at University of Johannesburg and the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) on 26 October 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative?’ at the Webinar series organised by EGROW Foundation on 22 October 2021.
- Moderated the Technical Session II at the GLOBELICS-INDIALICS Webinar on ‘Reimagining Innovation System for COVID-19 and Post-COVID-19 World’, organised by GIFT and Khalsa College of Patiala on 13 October 2021.
- Panelist in the Webinar on “Global Poverty and Rural Revitalization: Challenges and Experiences” organised by College of International Development and Global

Agriculture (CIDGA), China Agricultural University, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), Institute of Development Studies China Center, the UK, Network of Southern Think-tanks (NeST) on 12 October 2021.

- Made a presentation on India International Development Fund (IIDF) at the First Meeting of the CII CPSE Project Exports Forum organised by CII on 12 October 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘Perspectives on the Asia Africa Growth Corridor’ at the Webinar on India-Japan Economic Partnership: Trade and Beyond organised by Exim Bank on 8 October 2021.
- Panelist at the book launch event on ‘Origins, evolution and future of global development cooperation: The role of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)’ organised by German Development Institute (GDI) on 29th September 2021.
- Participated in the Virtual Discussion on ‘Expanding Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Relationships between India and ASEAN’ organised by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on 21 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘Methodological Pluralities in Impact Assessment of South-South Cooperation: A Synthesis from Efficiency Perspective’ at the side-event on “Institutionalization and impact assessment of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Key findings and recommendations

from Southern think tanks” organised jointly by UNOSSC and UNDP on 13 September 2021.

- Panelist at the event on “Strengthening Development Cooperation for Uncertain Times: Harmonizing Lessons and Experiences from the COVID19 Pandemic to Pave the Way for the Future” organised by Islamic Development Bank on 9 September 2021.
- Panelist at the Virtual Round Table Discussion on “Startups for New and Atmanirbhar Bharat” organised by ICSSR on 9 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on ‘Dealing with COVID-19 and Beyond: India-Korea Partnership from a Business Perspective’ at the session on ‘Overcoming the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Business Perspective’ organised during the Second Online Academic Workshop on “Facets of the India-ROK Partnership” organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul on 2 September 2021.
- Participated in the First Meeting of CII Africa Committee 2021-2022 organised by CII on 1 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals at the National Webinar on “Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Role of Panchayats – Goal No. 2 – Zero Hunger” organised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India on 23 August, 2021.
- Participated in the Conversation about BRICS – particularly on future BRICS cooperation at the Intelligence

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Forum: The Future of BRICS Cooperation organised by BRICS Policy Centre on 11 August 2021.

- Chaired the Working Session II on Economic Diplomacy as a factor in India-ROK Relations of the International Symposium on India-Republic of Korea: Aspects of Public Diplomacy jointly organised by India Foundation, and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul on August 11, 2021.
- Made a presentation on Informality and the Power of Networks: BRICS knowledge at the Webinar Results of BRICS Labour Ministers Meeting at the Knowledge Development Series on Formalization in BRICS countries: A South-South Perspective organised by ILO on 10 August 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'South-South Cooperation and Inclusive Development, Jobs and Entrepreneurship' at the session on Informality and the Power of Networks: A South-South Perspective organised by ILO on 10 August 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting with the representatives in the G20 from India, Indonesia and India -- G20 3Is and study forum on renewing multilateralism, organised by OECD on 9 August 2021.
- Made a presentation at the Plenary Session "Aligning India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA" at the 16th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India and Africa Project Partnership, "Harnessing the Africa-India Opportunity : Connect, Create, Collaborate" organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of

External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India on 13 July 2021.

- Delivered keynote address on Address on 'Welfare State Policies and Governance' at the International Conference on 'Governance and Policy Reforms: An Indo-Pacific Perspective' organised by Jagran Lakecity University in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on 12 July 2021.
- Panelist at the High-level dialogue on the Partnership in Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps organised by the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations, in collaboration with Japan, UN-DESA, EC/JRC, UNESCO and UNECA on July 9, 2021.
- Made a presentation on "Facing the new order of globalization" in the 21st edition of Les Rencontres Economiques d'Aix-en-Provence, on the theme of "Embracing the future, together".organised by Les Rencontres Economiques d'Aix-en-Provence on 4 July, 2021.
- Made a presentation on at the webinar on "Beyond the Great Powers: The EU, Partnerships and Inclusive Multilateralism", organised by the European Think Tanks Group (ETTG) on 21 June 2021.
- Chaired the Discussion on book "Dancing Towards The \$5 Trillion Economy on a Holistic Beat" authored by Aruna Sharma, organised by IIC on 19 June 2021.
- Delivered inaugural address on 'Revisiting Indian Development Models and Contemporary Connects' at

the 3rd National Integration Conference on Self-reliant India: Towards Svarajya in Ideas organised by Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla on 18 June 2021.

- Participated in the High-level closed-door workshop "Boosting the Role of Least Developed Countries in the G20 policy agenda", jointly organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and UNCTAD on June 14, 2021.
- Presentation on Promoting Financial Innovation and Cooperation at the 2021 BRICS Think Tank International Symposium on the theme 'Building the Innovation Center Together to Create a Paradigm for BRICS Cooperation' organised jointly by China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation and Xiamen Municipal People's Government on 10 June 2021.
- Panelist at the virtual side-event on "Triangular Cooperation post BAPA+40: a multi-stakeholder partnership for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda" organised by the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation and Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN on 3 June 2021.
- Discussion meeting on UNDP's next Strategic Plan organised by UNDP on 25 May 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Indian Philosophy and Global Commitments: Context of Sustainable Development Goals' at the Conference on Sustainability, Simplicity and Spirituality: the 3S organised by University of Utah on 23 May 2021.
- Discussion meeting on New experiences of

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multilateralism/new IC - 3Is meeting organised by OECD Development Centre on 7 May 2021.

- Discussion Meeting on future collaboration beyond triangular cooperation organised by OECD on 27 April 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Impact of the Pandemic on Economic, Social and Environmental Pillars of SDGs in India' at the Launch of the 2021 Theme Study "Beyond the Pandemic: Building Back Better from Crises in Asia and the Pacific", organised by UN ESCAP on 20 April 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Future Challenges in Development Ecosystem and Preparedness' at the: 7th International Sewa Baithak organised by Sewa International on 15 April 2021.
- Delivered opening remarks at the Discussion Meeting on 'Technology Cooperation and Supply Chain Security' held during Second India-France-Australia 1.5 Trilateral Dialogue organised jointly by Observer Research Foundation, the Foundation pour la recherche stratégique, and National Security College at the Australian National University on 14 April 2021.
- Made a presentation on Recommended projects for India-ASEAN Cooperation in Digital Connectivity at the Brainstorming Session on Establishment of Digital Connectivity with ASEAN including through Creditline organised by Ministry of External Affairs on 7 April 2021.
- Discussion meeting on 3Is potential meeting organised by OECD Development Centre on 7 April 2021.

- Discussion Meeting of Experts Working Group on 'The Future of International Cooperation' organised by OECD on 6 April 2021.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the webinar on India Exim Bank instituted the International Economic Research Annual (IERA) Award: 2020 organised by EXIM Bank of India on 21 March 2022.
- Participated in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) - Funded Virtual Brainstorming Workshop on "Post-COVID-19 - Sustainable Innovation to set the economy back on track" and made a presentation on Emerging Blue Economy in IORA: Changing Dynamic of the Manufacturing Set-up, organised by The University of Mauritius and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and the IORA Secretariat, Mauritius on 23 February 2022.
- Participated in the Virtual Inception Conference of the T20 Secretariat, Jakarta Indonesia regarding discussion on policy brief on Greening the Global Trade: Policy Options for Developing Countries on 10 February 2022.
- Submitted policy recommendations for the T20 policy brief on Greening the Global Trade: Policy Options for Developing Countries on 17 January 2022 and has been accepted by T20 Secretariat, Indonesia on 5 February 2022.
- Participated in the meeting regarding Joint Working Group on India-GCC FTA

organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 2 February 2022.

- Participated in the luncheon meeting to discuss the draft export policy of Madhya Pradesh 2022-2027 on 10 January 2022.
- Participated in the meeting on Current Economic Scenario of Madhya Pradesh - Madhya Pradesh GDP task force virtual meeting organised by Department of Planning, Economics and Statistics, Government of Madhya Pradesh on 7 January 2022.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on India EXIM Bank International Economic Research Annual (IERA) Award 2020: Second meeting of the IERA Award Committee, organised on 9 December 2020.
- Participated in the International Conference on New Southern Policy Plus: Vision, Progress, and the Future, and made a presentation on Dynamism in India-Korea Economic Partnership: A Model for the 21st Century, jointly organised by Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy; National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRC) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Korea on 8 December 2021.
- Participated in the Meeting on Bangladesh's 50th Anniversary - 50 Years of Bangladesh-India Partnership: Towards a Journey in Next 50 Years and made presentation virtually on 'A Story of Half Century Old Indo-Bangladesh Trade', organised jointly

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- at CPD Bangladesh on 1 December 2021.
- Participated as a Speaker in the Think Tank Discussion Meeting, organized by NITI Aayog, New Delhi dated 17 November 2021.
- Participated as a Speaker in First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on Reimagining India - Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy' and made a presentation in the session on Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order, jointly organized by RIS, ICWA, Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea, dated 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, organised by Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi dated 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the trade Discussion Meeting with the United States Trade Representative Delegation organised by Embassy of the USA, New Delhi on 7 October 2021.
- Made a presentation on Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy: Towards Sustainable Utilisation of Ocean Resources, at the webinar on Marine Spatial Planning & Regional Cooperation, organised by the Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS) New Delhi on 03 September 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion/ Brainstorm Session on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs at New Delhi on 26 August 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion meeting as a Team Leader on Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges, in the Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi on 9 July 2021.
- Made a video presentation on Unleash Opportunities in the Blue Economy Sector in IORA: Untapped Potentials in Regional Blue Trade, at the 2nd Republic of Korea-Indian Ocean Rim Association Partnership Seminar, organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Busan, Korea on 8 July 2021.
- Participated in the meeting organised by Ministry of AYUSH and made a presentation on AYUSH Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges, New Delhi on 25 June 2021.
- Participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Working Area 2 on 'Building partnerships and enhancing maritime cooperation with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member States and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)' organised by IMU Chennai Campus, on 27 May 2021.
- Delivered a lecture on "Blue Economy" to the Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of 2020 Batch & Bhutanese Diplomats, organised by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi on 6 May 2021.
- Participated in the First India-Korea 2+2 Dialogue as a Speaker on Re-contextualising India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order organised by Center for ASEAN-India Studies, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, The Korean National Diplomatic Academy, Seoul, Korea, 29 April 2021.
- Participated in the India-France-Australia 1.5 Trilateral Dialogue 2021 organised by Observer Research Foundation, the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, and National Security College at the Australian National University, and made a presentation on Marine Global Commons, Connectivity, and the Geopolitics of Fisheries dated 14 April 2021.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha Associate Professor

- Panelist at the panel titled "Impact of COVID-19 on Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation" during Twenty-fourth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by SDPI on 8 December 2021 (participated virtually).
- Resource Person at the Webinar on BRICS and formalisation: ILO Partners Perspectives organized by ILO International Training Centre at Turin on 7 December 2021 (participated virtually).
- Panelist at the panel titled "Role of the G20 in sustaining and improving WTO rules for sustainable development

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purposes” organized by G20 – TIRN (Trade and Investment Research Network) on 1 December 2021 (participated virtually).

- Resource Person at V BRICS International School, November 29 - December 3, 2021, Moscow, Russia (participated virtually).
- Panelist at the “APRM High-Level Peer Review Forum on South-South Cooperation: Agility and Resilience in Africa and global South” (HLFSSC) held in Cairo, Egypt from 24 to 25 November 2021 (participated virtually).
- Delivered lecture at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs to IFS Probationers; Theme: “Dynamics of BRICS: Opportunities and Challenges for India” on 29 April 2021.
- Participated in 4th Annual Regional Conference themed “Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) in Enhancing the Delivery of the Big Four Agenda” organised by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) on 24 June 2021 and made Presentation on “Role of Technology and Innovation Hubs – Towards Southern Innovation Hubs.”

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Served as a Discussant for the UKIERI-DST Conference on ‘AI, Cyber Risks and Data Science for FinTech and Digital Economy’ organised by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and University of Essex on 14 January 2022.
- Served as a Discussant in the virtual seminar on ‘Post-

Pandemic Infrastructure and Global Public Goods in the G20’ organised by G20 Indonesia in collaboration with B20 Indonesia, RIS and Global Solutions Initiative on 18 February 2022.

- Served as a Speaker in the Strategic Roundtable Discussion on ‘The Importance of Industry in Driving Forward Digitalization and Environmental Sustainability in G20 Countries and Beyond’ organised by G20 Indonesia, T20 Indonesia and UNIDO on March 24, 2022.
- Made a presentation in the technical session on “International Trade and Investment: Emerging Dynamics” in the 104th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association held in Bhopal on December 25-27, 2021.
- Made a presentation on Fintech in “Roundtable on India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World” organised by RIS and University of Oslo on December 9, 2021.
- Made a presentation on “Resource Implications of Profit Shifting, Economic Fugitives and Illicit Financial Flows” in the Asia Africa Forum Summit on Corruption 2021 by Asia-Africa Forum on Corruption, Indonesia on December 7-8, 2021.
- Made a presentation on “Indo-Pacific Economic Vision: Larger Role for India in Future Asian Growth Story” in the Second South Asia Research Center International Conference on Memory and Past in South Asia organised by Soka University, Japan on November 26-27, 2021.
- Presented the report of the webinar on ‘BRICS

Virtual Economic Conclave: Reshaping Global Economic Cooperation and Role of BRICS-Exploring Synergies and Complementarities’ organized by RIS, Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India on November 26-27, 2021.

- Moderated the Virtual Brainstorming Session on ‘T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies’ organized by RIS and G20 Research Forum on November 24, 2021.
- Presented report of the webinar on ‘Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region’ organised by RIS and IFPRI on October 28, 2021.
- Made a presentation as a Discussant in the technical session on “Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order” in the India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on ‘Reimagining India- Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergizing the ‘Act East Policy’ and the ‘New Southern Policy’ organised by RIS, ICWA, KNDA and KIEP on October 27, 2021.
- Made a presentation on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor in the “India-Japan Economic Partnership: Trade and Beyond” organized by EXIM Bank of India on October 8, 2021.
- Moderated the panel discussion on ‘Digital Payments Dialogue: Experience among Developing Countries’ organised by Global Development Centre at RIS on July 22, 2021.
- Made a presentation on services trade in Virtual Dialogue on ‘Trade in Services

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in the Digital Age' held on July 19, 2021 organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

- Made a presentation as a panelist in RIS-ORF Panel Discussion on Digital BRICS held virtually on June 24, 2021.
- Made a presentation on "Basel Regulations and Development Finance Flows to Developing Countries' at BRICS Academic Forum 2021 Dialogue on SDGs and Strengthening the Means of Implementation on May 21, 2021 (Virtual).
- Made a presentation on "Mainstreaming Digitalisation in Development: Initiatives and Lessons from Asia" at the Russian scientific and practical conference on "The Asian World in New Realities of the Cross-Borderland held on 28 April 2021 organised by Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Russia (Virtual).

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in a Webinar on "India-Japan Partnership Towards Resilient Supply Chains" organized by ICRIER on 31 March 2022.
- Participated in a Flagship Seminar on "Asia and the Changing Global Economy: Outlook and Risks Ahead" organized by The Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 30 March 2022.
- Participated in a conference on 4th Edition "Arbitration in the Era of Globalization: organized by ICA and FICCI on 19 March 2022.
- Participated in a webinar on "Can we design a carbon tax that doesn't create trade conflicts?" organised by Peterson Institute for International Economics on 16 March 2022.
- Participated in the Director Power e-Meeting organized by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability on 18 February 2022.
- Participated in the 4th Annual Senior Care Conclave : Building the Silver Economy organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 11 February 2022.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board meeting of Airtel Bank on 10-11 February 2022.
- Participated in a Flagship Seminar & Book Launch- The Struggle and The Promise: Restoring India's Potential organized by The Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 9 February 2022.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the board meeting organized by Goodyear India Limited on 1 February 2022.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee - Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 19 and 31 January 2022.
- Participated in a Pre-board meeting on Whistle Blower on 31 January 2022.
- Invited to join Budget Special English Prime Time Show on Boosting Trade and Commerce organized by Sansad TV on 22 January 2022.
- Participated in the Airtel Payments Bank draft strategy note discussions on 18 January 2022.
- Participated as Honorary Member of NABCB Advisory Committee on 17 January 2022.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee - Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 18 October, 12 November and 27 December 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on "Is India's Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions" organized by ICRIER on 17 December 2021.
- Participated in the book launch on "Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival" organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on 16 December 2021.
- Participated in the CII Partnership Summit 2022 on 13-15 December 2021.
- Participated in the lecture series on "Vision Sustainable Mobility: Implications of CoP26" organized by SIAM on 10 December 2021.
- Participated in the flagship seminar on "Revisiting India's Role in the Bangladesh Liberation War" organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on 9 December 2021.
- Participated in an interaction with Ian Bremmer, President & Founder, Eurasia Group, on "Changing Global Geopolitical Dynamics and its Impact on India" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 3 December 2021.
- Participated in the 17th Annual Meeting of True North on 2 December 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Goodyear India Limited on 11 and 24 November 2021.

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- Participated in the Digital Conference & Exhibition on “India - Taiwan Business Cooperation - Building Synergies and New Partnerships” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 23 November 2021.
- Participated in the conference on “Competition, Regulation and Development” organized by CUTS-CIRC on 16-17 November 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 29 October 2021 and 10 November 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board Meeting of Airtel Bank on 22 October 2021 and 8-9 November 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “The 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO: Expected Outcomes and the Path Forward” organized by ICRIER, in collaboration with the India office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on 8 November 2021.
- Participated in the CII Core Group Meeting in China on 2 November 2021.
- Participated in a session on “Integrating Sustainability in Production and Trade Policies for Forest linked Commodities” organized by Centre for Responsible Business on 28 October 2021.
- Participated in a special discussion on “What to Expect from COP26 - A Framework for Indian Businesses” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with The U.S. Consulate in Mumbai & the Atlantic Council on 27 October 2021.
- Participated as a Panelist on “Focus on Exports to Boost India’s Economic Growth” organized by Surya Foundation on 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the Brainstorming on “Institutional Issues and WTO Reform” organized by Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT) on 26 October 2021.
- Participated in the event on “Growing a Green Economy with Renewable Energy” organized by The U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, along with the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and Consulates in Chennai, and Hyderabad, in association with the Ananta Centre on 21 October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “India’s Economy in a Post-Pandemic World” organized by Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the Institute for International Economic Policy on 20 October 2021.
- Participated in the 13th Annual International G-20 Conference on “Global Economic Coordination in the Age of Pandemic: Views from the G-20 Members” organized by ICRIER on 6-8 October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “Envisioning India: Getting India to the Green Frontier” organized by the George Washington University on 29 September 2021.
- Participated in the Governing Board Meeting of ICAI Registered Valuers Organisation (“ICAI RVO”) on 20 and 28 September 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Airtel Bank on 4 August 2021 and 27 September 2021.
- Participated in the 6th International Competition Law Conference organized by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India on 23-24 September 2021.
- Participated in the conference on “India UK Roadmap 2030: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability and Technology” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 17 September 2021.
- Participated in the seminar on “Getting to Net Zero: An Approach for India at CoP 26” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 16 September 2021.
- Participated in the conference on “Leveraging Partnerships through New Age Technologies” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 14 September, 2021.
- Participated in the seminar on “India’s Public Finance Management System: Fiscal Governance” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) in collaboration with the World Bank on 13 September 2021.
- Participated in the ICRIER-KAS COVID-19 Webinar Series on “People, Planet, Prosperity: Rebuilding Differently” on 13 September 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 9 September 2021.
- Participated in the 3rd India U.S. Trade Townhall on “Reducing Green House Emissions in Manufacturing for mitigating Climate Change” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration

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- with U.S. Consulate, Mumbai on 8 September 2021.
- Participated in the ICRIER-KAS Webinar on “Formulating New Approaches to Strengthen Multilateral” on 6 September 2021.
- Participated in the Consultation on “Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)” organized by ICWA on 3 September 2021.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee – Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 13, 27 July, 17, 31 August and 2, 15, 30 September 2021.
- Conference on “5-Years of IBC, 2016 & Way Forward” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry 27 August 2021.
- Participated in the 61st SIAM Annual Convention on 25 August 2021.
- Participated in the Reimagine India Series : “India’s Climate Diplomacy” organised by FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians and the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung on 24 August 2021.
- Participated in the CII Annual Meeting 2021 on “India@75: Government and Business Working Together for Aatmanirbhar Bharat” on 11 - 12 August 2021.
- Participated in the seminar on “Towards a Strategy for India’s Decarbonisation” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 6 August 2021.
- Participated as a Guest Speaker on “WTO Reforms & Implications on the Indian Industry” organized by Tata Steel Ltd on 6 August 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “Mapping Sustainable Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges of Exporting Processed Food from India” organized by India International Centre on 28 July 2021.
- Participated in the Book Launch: The Economics of Deep Trade Agreements organized by the World Bank on 19 July 2021.
- Participated in the 16th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on “India Africa Project Partnership- Harnessing the Africa – India Opportunity: Connect: Create: Collaborate” on 13-15 July 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Goodyear India Limited on 13 July 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “The Indo Pacific Business Summit” - Developing a Road Map for Shared Prosperity organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, GoI on 6-8 July 2021
- Participated in the Book Discussion on “Forgotten Kashmir - The Other Side of the Line of Control” organised by Indian Council of World Affairs on 30 June 2021
- Participated in the Policy Roundtable on Leveraging FDI Flows for Sustainable Recovery: World Investment Report 2021 organised by ISID-UNCTAD on 29 June 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on India Versus China: Why they are not friends organised by The Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 29 June 2021.
- Participated in the Indo-Pacific Experts Group meeting organised by Vivekananda International Foundation on 28 June 2021.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee – Bench-II Meeting organised by Institute of Accountants of India on 6 April, 26 April, 13 May, 14 & 25 June 2021.
- Participated in the discussion on Beyond the Great Powers: The EU, partnerships and inclusive multilateralism organised by European Think Tanks Group on 21 June 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on Neighbourhood First Series - Afghanistan Post US Withdrawal organised by India International Centre 16 June 2021.
- Participated in the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee constituted for IPRS 2.0 organised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry on 4 June 2021.
- Participated in a meeting on Trade Remedies organised by NITI Aayog on 3 June 2021.
- Participated as a Discussant in the webinar on Envisioning India organised by Institute of International Economic Policy and Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University on 2 June 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organised by Goodyear India Limited on 27 May 2021.
- Participated in a Conversation on “Transforming India’s Economy: Lessons from Global Experiences” organised by Pune International Centre on 27 May 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organised

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by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 24-25 May 2021.

- Participated in the Director Power e-Meeting organised by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability on 21 May 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organised by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 20 May 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organised by Airtel Bank on 18 May 2021, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Design Talk Series organised by CII in collaboration with World Design Organisation on 14 May 2021.
- Participated as a Member of the CII Core Group on China on 11 May 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the 'Future of India-EU Relations' Key Takeaways from India-EU Summit 2021 organised by FICCI on 10 May 2021.
- Participated in the digital session on 'Strategic Patience and Flexible Policies: How India can rise to the China Challenge' organised by Confederation of Indian Industry on 29 April 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the National Virtual Conference on Economics Dimensions in Judicial decisions organised by OP Jindal University and CUTS International on 27-28 April 2021.
- Participated in a Lecture organised by the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service on 23 April 2021.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on Perspectives from the South Asia subregion

organised by ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA) on 20 April 2021.

- Participated in the UN Food Summit on 15 April 2021.
- Participated in the Virtual seminar to explore TRIPS and trade in knowledge organised by CUTS on 15 April 2021.
- Participated in a webinar on India - U.S. Trade Townhall: Strengthening U.S.-India Pharma Cooperation and Vaccine Diplomacy organised by Confederation of Indian Industry on 7 April 2021.

Dr B. Balakrishnan

Science Diplomacy Fellow

- Participated in FISD Lecture on Climate Diplomacy, 29 June 2021 as opening speaker.
- Participated as speaker in a panel discussion on 21 June 2021, organised by the Warsaw Science Diplomacy School 2021 course for 34 participants from various countries.
- Participated in RIS-South Centre webinar on TRIPS Waiver: Issues and Challenges for Latin America, 19 June 2021 as opening speaker.
- Participated in RIS-ORF "Dialogue on International Security" held on June 15, 2021 as panelist from India.
- Participated in virtual Meeting on Sustainable Logistics and Transportation in North East, 23 April 2021, organised by Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.

Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

- Chaired the session on 'RRI as an Integrated Approach

to Research and Innovation Across Disciplines, Contexts and Countries' at the NewHorizon Final Conference - Experiences with implementing RRI in Europe on 25 May 2021.

- Moderated discussion in the session on Asia/Pacific in the Regional Webinars of the Super MoRRI project organised by SUPER MoRRI on 15 April 2021.

Professor T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Chaired a session and delivered a talk on Trends in Trade and Development Goals and Policies for Ayush Industry during the Conference on Bioresources and Commercial Utilization - Trends, Supply Chain and Sustainability organised by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board on 27th September 2021.
- Delivered a talk on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright in Modern World at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi on 24th September 2021.
- Delivered a talk on Publication Ethics: Plagiarism and Copyright to the faculty at the Deva Matha College, Kuravilangadu on 21st September 2021.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the webinar on 'India-Japan Partnership Towards Resilient Supply Chains', organised by ICRIER on 31 March, 2022.
- Participated in webinar on 'Advancing India-Australia-Pacific Islands Development

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- Cooperation, organised by RIS in collaboration with The Asia Foundation on, 31 March 2022.
- Participated in the Summit on the 'Digital Wellbeing' on 30 March 2022 organised by King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.
- Participated in the Summit on 'Listen to the world: Promoting social well-being within planetary boundaries', organised by Global Solutions on March, 28-29 March 2022.
- Participated in the STIP Lecture on 'Rewiring the Brain: Is It Possible?' by Dr K. Sridhar, Honorary Secretary, Neurological Society of India coordinated by RIDS with Vigyan Prasar on 28 March 2022.
- Participated in the TF5 meeting as co-author for the Policy Brief titled, 'Education for survival- Strengthening multi-sectoral and integrated policy approaches to early childhood as a global common good', on 23 March 2022.
- Participated in the ICRIER-PRI Workshop on 'Policy Responses to COVID19 in India and Japan and Prospects for Economic Cooperation Going Ahead', on 22 March 2022.
- Participated in the web dialogue entitled: 'Development of North Eastern Indian Region and Neighbourhood: India-Japan Collaboration for Fostering Entrepreneurship and People Connectivity', on 3 March 2022, organised by the Asian Confluence, India East Asia Centre.
- Participated in the STIP Policy lecture on Solar Energy by Dr Ajay Mathur, DG, ISA, on 28 February 2022.
- Participated in the RIS, ICWA, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) organised, Indo-German 1.5 Track Dialogue 2022 on February 24, 2022.
- Participated in the webinar on 'Indonesia's G20 Presidency: Economic Transformation to Recover Together and Recover Stronger', organised by T20 Secretariat, Indonesia on 24 February 2022.
- Participated in the meeting on, 'Celebrating 30 Years of ASEAN-India Relations Evolving Strategic Architecture in Indo-Pacific', held on 18th February 2022.
- Participated in Seminar on the theme 'Post-Pandemic Infrastructure and Global Public Goods in the G20' collaborated by RIS and Global Solutions Initiative along with G20 Indonesia, on 18 February 2022.
- Participated in the T20 Inception Conference titled 'Realizing Inclusive Recovery from The COVID-19 Pandemic', on 9 and 10th February 2022.
- Participated in the 'Debate on the Rural Development Report 2021: Food system midstreams', on 3 February 2022, organised by IFAD.
- Participated in the webinar on 'Making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses' organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 19 January, 2022.
- Participated in the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations event on "Is India's Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions" held on 17th December 2021(virtual).
- Participated in the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) event on '16th National Convention TARGET 2030 Assess. Act. Accelerate" held on 15th - 16th December 2021. (virtual).
- Participated in Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on 'Session on India-Vietnam: Opportunities for business collaborations' held on 14th December, 2021 (virtual)
- Participated in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) event on 'Social Enterprises and Disability: Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region' held on 8th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Official Side Event of Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021: Empowering Every Child for Healthier Future - Potential of School Feeding and Nutrition Education held on 2 December, 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in T20 Handover event 'From Italy to Indonesia: T20 Contribution to G20 Recovery Initiatives', held on 30th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the conference jointly organized by the

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- Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn on 'Africa and India: Experiences with transformation of food and agriculture and opportunities for learning and collaboration' held on 26th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and India Land and Development Conference on Special Economic Zones and India's Industrialization Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward held 24th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on the 5th anniversary of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) organized by the Future Investment Initiative Institute, FII Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the theme of 'Invest in Humanity' held during 26th - 28th October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on 'G20 role towards an internationally recognized ESG framework' organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali, Roma of T20: Italian Presidency, held on 11th October, 2021.
- Participated in the T20 Roundtable Seminars/ workshops organized by T20 Italy chairs during July-September 2021.
- Participated in ISID-ICSSR-UNIDO Policy Roundtable on Reigniting Sustainable Growth of MSMEs in the Aftermath of COVID-19 Pandemic, held on 30 July 2021.
- Participated and made a presentation in ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP) on 20th August 2021.
- Participated in a Webinar on 'Localization of Sustainable Development Goals & Role of Panchayats- SDG Goal No 2- Zero Hunger', on 23rd August 2021 organized by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India.
- Participated in the T20 Roundtable Seminars/ workshops organized by T20 Italy chairs during April-June 2021.
- Participated in the ERIA Webinar Series the 'ASEAN on Point' Public Forum #3 - 'Preparing ASEAN Workforce for Post-COVID-19', on 20 April 2021.
- Participated in ERIA Webinar Series - Episode #4 'Entrepreneurship, Start-ups, Innovation (E-S-I) in ASEAN and East Asia for The Post-Pandemic Recovery', on 27 May 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on 'Critical Partnerships for Success - Public, Private and People' on 24 June 2021, organised by ERIA.
- Participated in a Webinar on 'Resilient Financial System and Governance', on 16th June 2021, organised by IIC. New Delhi.
- Participated in the Summit on the "Digital Wellbeing" on 30 March 2022 organised by King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (virtual).
- Participated in the hybrid Summit on "Listen to the world: Promoting social well-being within planetary boundaries" organised by Global Solutions on March, 28-29 March 2022 (virtual).
- Participated in the ICRIER-PRI Workshop on "Policy Responses to COVID19 in India and Japan and Prospects for Economic Cooperation Going Ahead" 22 March 2022.
- Participated in the webinar on "Indonesia's G20 Presidency: Economic Transformation to Recover Together and Recover Stronger" organised by T20 Secretariat, Indonesia on 24 February 2022.
- Participated in the webinar on "Making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses" organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 19 January, 2022.
- Participated in the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations event on "Is India's Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions" held on 17th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) event on '16th National Convention TARGET 2030 Assess. Act. Accelerate' held on 15th - 16th December 2021. (virtual)

Mr Krishna Kumar Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the webinar on "India-Japan Partnership Towards Resilient Supply Chains" organised by ICRIER on March 31, 2022 (virtual).

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- Participated in Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on 'Session on India Vietnam: Opportunities for business collaborations' held on 14th December, 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) event on 'Social Enterprises and Disability: Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region' held on 8th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Official Side Event of Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021: Empowering Every Child for Healthier Future - Potential of School Feeding and Nutrition Education held on 2 December, 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in T20 Handover event "From Italy to Indonesia: T20 Contribution to G20 Recovery Initiatives", held on 30th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the conference jointly organized by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn on "Africa and India: Experiences with transformation of food and agriculture and opportunities for learning and collaboration" held on 26th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and India Land and Development Conference on Special Economic Zones and India's Industrialization Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward held 24th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on the 5th anniversary of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) organized by the Future Investment Initiative Institute, FII Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the theme of "Invest in Humanity" held during 26th - 28th October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on "G20 role towards an internationally recognized ESG framework" organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali, Roma of T20:Italian Presidency held on 11th October, 2021.
- Participated in the T20 Roundtable Seminars/workshops organised by T20 Italy chairs during April-June 2021.
- Participated in the ERIA Webinar Series the 'ASEAN on Point' Public Forum #3 - 'Preparing ASEAN Workforce for Post-COVID-19', on 20 April 2021.
- Participated in ERIA Webinar Series - Episode #4 'Entrepreneurship, Start-ups, Innovation (E-S-I) in ASEAN and East Asia for The Post-Pandemic Recovery', on 27 May 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on 'Critical Partnerships for Success - Public, Private and People' on 24 June 2021, organised by ERIA.
- Participated in a Webinar on 'Resilient Financial System and Governance', on 16th June 2021, organised by IIC. New Delhi.

Dr Pankhuri Gaur Assistant Professor

- Participated in discussion in the Department of Commerce on 9 March, 2022.
- Held an interactive session with IsDB Team on 19 January, 2022.

Chapter 7

Data and Information Centre

The Documentation Centre at RIS has obtained vast collection of latest specialized publications, reports, databases, e-journals and articles, etc. for providing up-to-date information to RIS Faculty and visiting scholars. It exchanges programme of publications with a number of national and international organizations and keeps enriching the resource base by adding more publications and study programmes on issues of critical importance to the developing world.

There are close linkages with key global institutions like FAO, ILO, OECD, UN, UNCTAD, World Bank, WTO, etc. Working Papers, Discussion Papers, Re-prints, Occasional Papers from national and international organizations, in print and electronic formats are received either through mutually exchanged programmes or downloaded through institutional websites. The current collection has more than 24,632 books that include government publications, documents of other research institutions in print and electronic format, in addition to 1850 journals in bound volumes. The centre also subscribes to more than 476 print and online journals/magazines that include jstor, Elsevier- sciencedirect, Oxford University Press, Taylor& Francis, Wiley, etc. and gets about 40 journals on complimentary basis from prestigious sources. There are more than 350 CD Roms and databases. and being a member of DELNET, it promotes resource-sharing. The Current Awareness Service is provided to the Faculty on regular basis.

Centre has a wide range of collection available online through intranet for easy access.

Documentation Centre/Library Collection includes

- Books
- Statistical Yearbooks
- Documents-WP-OP-DP
- Journals/Periodicals (Print+Online+CD-Rom)
- Newspapers both Indian and International

- Back Volumes
- CD-Rom
- Databases in CD-ROM
- RIS Databank

The global database on trade, tariff and non-tariff measures, balance of payment, financial statistics, development statistics, industrial statistics, intellectual property services and corporate data and information. The Indian database covers time series database on trade at 8-digit level, database of Indian companies and their financial performance, social- economic database, and customs tariff among others.

RIS Data Server

RIS has got a modern Data Server, which is firewalled against any possible external attacks, including data exterminating viral or hacking as part of enhanced security of its databank. RIS has acquired domestic and international time series data for quick reference. It has uploaded vital domestic and international trade data (HS&SITC) on it, along with tariff database, DGCIS database on Indian Domestic Trade Lines – 8 Digit Level both Export and Import Data, Indian Firms Database, Direction of trade statistics, (Dots) World Development Indicators (WDI), etc. These databases on server are updated on a regular basis. It provides instant updated data to Faculty members, which profoundly helps in their evidence-based research studies and obviates the need for subscription to expensive multiple global data systems for individual faculty.

RIS Website and Online Documentation Centre

(www.ris.org.in)

RIS website is updated regularly with more aesthetically impressive, user-friendly, content-wise rich, and equipped with latest features and functions. The website is updated on a real time basis by RIS in-house team to put across the wide body of rigorous research studies

and related events in the global public domain as a part of its outreach programme. It gives substantial up-to-date information on the core areas of the work programme of RIS, including health, trade, finance, investment, development cooperation, global economic issues, regional cooperation, South-South cooperation, health, science, technology, and innovation. It provides free download facility of the wide range of publications brought out by RIS in the form of research reports, journals, newsletters, and media articles. It also features details of various conferences, seminars, workshops conducted by RIS. During this FY 2018-19, three new sub-domains have been developed in-house and linked to the RIS website for their clearer and wider accessibility. The eight sub-domains and six web pages under the RIS main website are::

RIS Main Website

<http://ris.org.in>

Asia Africa Growth Corridor

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

BRICS

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

Blue Economy Forum

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

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Initiative

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

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

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

STI for SDGs

<http://sti4sdg.ris.org.in>

Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC)

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

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM)

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

New Asia Forum

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

BIMSTEC

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

Delhi Process

<http://ris.org.in/delhi-process>

Documents on Non-Aligned Movement

<http://ris.org.in/documents-non-aligned-movement>

Summer School

<https://ris.org.in/en/exim-bank-summer-school>

Paris Peace Forum

<http://ris.org.in/deadline-extended-extra-time-submit-your-project-Paris-peace-forum>

Other Websites maintained by RIS

ASEAN India Centre

<http://aseanindiacentre.org.in>

Global Development Center (GDC)

<http://gdcin.org>

Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST)

<http://southernthinktanks.org>

Forum For Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD)

<http://fisd.in>

IBSA

<http://ibsa-trilateral.org>

South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)

<http://saceps.org.in>

There has been a substantial increase in the number of hits in viewership. RIS website gained the status of one of the top research institute results powered by Google thereby underlining its expanding visibility. RIS also regularly brings out its quarterly e-newsletter and monthly e-journal, which are disseminated all over the world among leading policy-makers and shapers, think tanks, universities, national and international

Data and Information Centre Data

organizations, prominent academia and other national and international eminent personalities to keep them abreast of the wide variety of credible research work being carried out on issues of critical importance to the developing countries by RIS.

Social Media

RIS has deepened its outreach on the social media platforms like Blog, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. RIS YouTube channel is constantly kept updated. Video recordings of events are made available in YouTube for easy access. There is a rise in viewership and its subscriber's base in YouTube channel. The number of followers is more than 4k followers on Facebook and its pages have been rated at 4.3 out of 5 on the basis of public opinion polls. Every

major activity of RIS is immediately flashed on both these platforms for quick public access on real time basis. There has been highly encouraging response from the viewers.

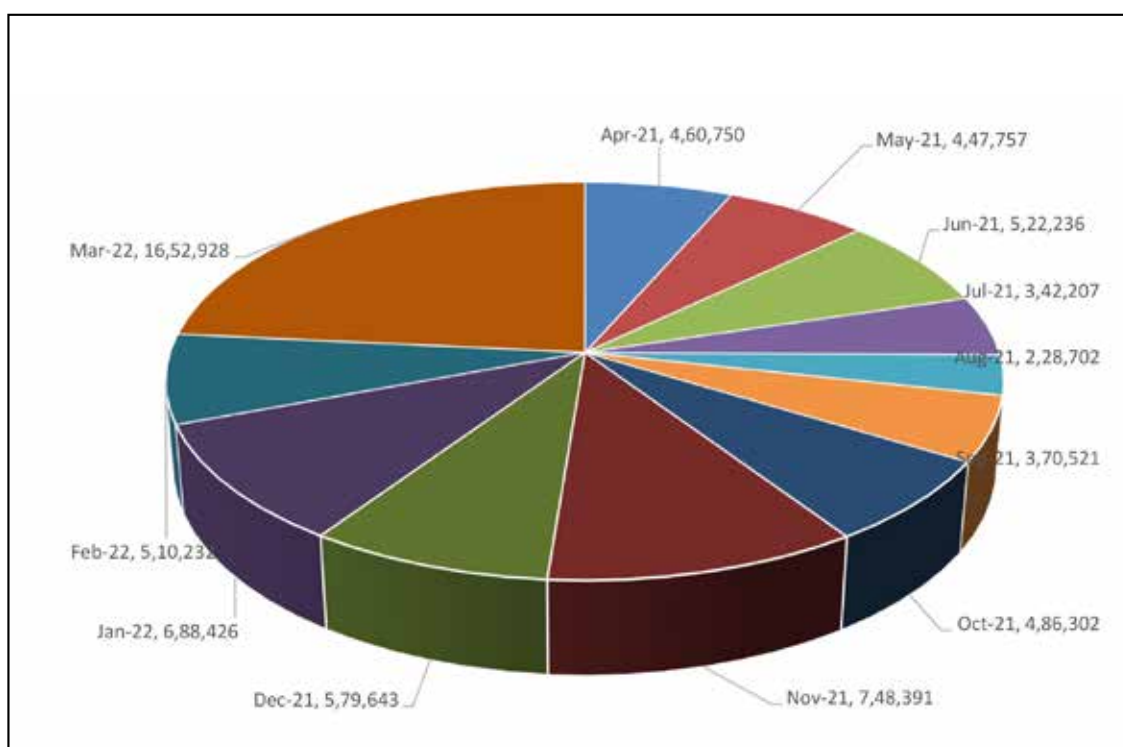
RIS Intranet Facility

The intranet facility for faculty and administrative staff with password protected information to employees regarding their service matters, including leave records, salary slips, medical reimbursements, and other details.

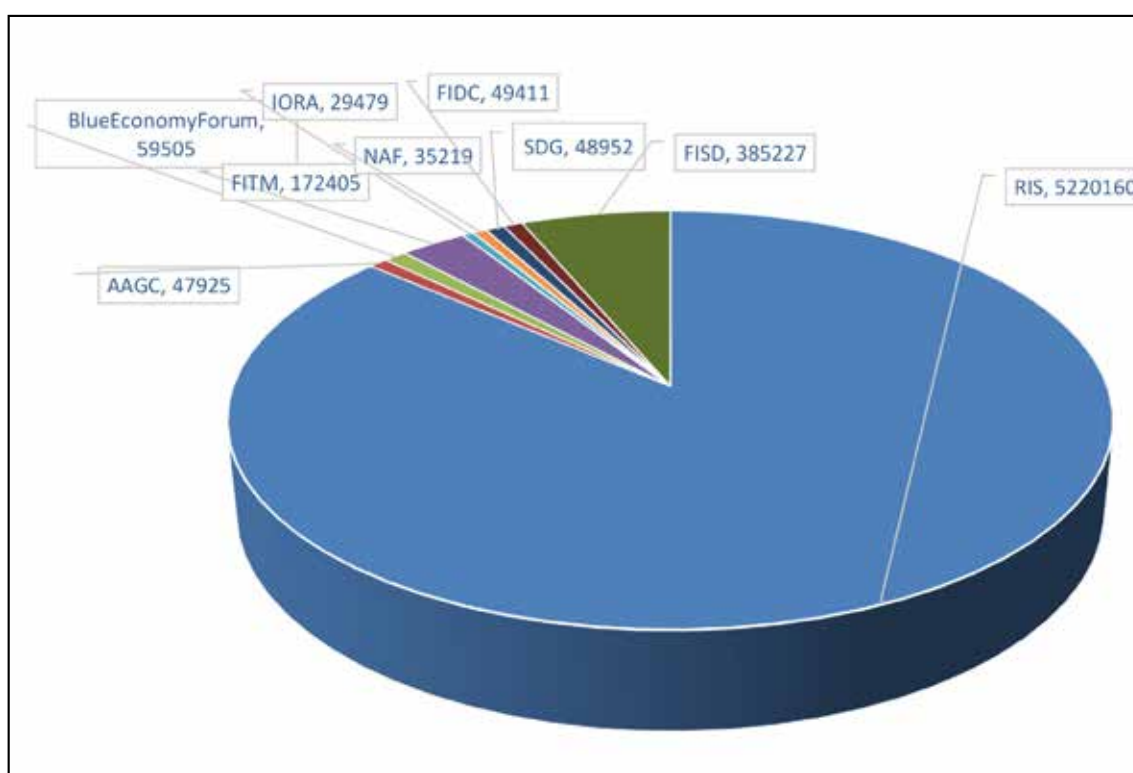
Research databases for Faculty are available in CD format covering Direction of Trade Statistics, CUSTADA, World Development Indicators, Government Financial Statistics (IMF), International Financial Statistics (IMF), etc.



Statistical Hits in RIS Website in FY 2021-22



Hits in the RIS Domain and Sub Domains



Human Resource



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

Specialisation: International Economic Development and Cooperation

Faculty



Dr S. K. Mohanty

Professor

Specialisation: Global & Regional Economic Integration
Trade and Development Issues



Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Associate Professor

Specialisation: : Technology & Development Economics and International Trade



Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

Specialisation: Macroeconomics and International Finance



Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor

Specialisation: Trade, Technology, and Labour Market



Dr Beena Pandey

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: Social Sector, Gender Empowerment and Development Issues



Dr Sushil Kumar

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: International trade and finance



Dr Amit Kumar

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: Innovation, foresight, and S&T governance



Dr Pankhuri Gaur

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: International Trade, Blue Economy, FTAs and Mega Regional

Distinguished Fellows



Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

Specialisation: International trade and commerce



Ambassador Amar Sinha

Distinguished Fellow

Specialisation: Economic diplomacy and South-South Cooperation



Mr R V Shahi

Distinguished Fellow

Visiting Fellows



Mr Bhaskar Balakrishnan

Science Diplomacy Fellow

Specialisation: STI Cooperation and Science Policy



Mr Krishna Kumar

Visiting Fellow

Specialisation: Official statistics and SDGs



Professor T C James

Visiting Fellow

Specialisation: Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)



Dr K. Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

Specialisation: IPRs and global trade



Professor Milindo Chakrabarti

Visiting Fellow

(till 31 July 2022)

Specialisation: Micro-economics, International trade, development cooperation and evaluation



Dr Augustine Peter

Visiting Fellow

(till 30 April 2022)

Specialisation: Trade investment and Competition Policy



Dr P K Anand

Visiting Fellow

Specialisation: Economic growth and development



Mr Arun Somachudan Nair

Visiting Fellow

(till 31 July 2022)

Specialisation: Foreign trade and investment

Human Resource

Fellow/Consultants/Research Associates

**Dr Namrata Pathak***Research Associate**Specialisation:* Traditional knowledge**Dr Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay***Consultant**(till 30 September 2022)**Specialisation:* Indian Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation**Dr Kapil Patil***Research Associate**(till 10 February 2022)**Specialisation:* STI Policy, Science Diplomacy**Dr Sneha Sinha***Research Associate**Specialisation:* Science and technology studies**Dr Anshuman Gupta***Consultant**(from 14 February 2022)**Specialisation:* Environment and Climate Change**Dr Rahul Ranjan***Consultant**(from 15 February 2022)**Specialisation:* Energy Economics and Trade in Energy**Dr Savitha K L***Fellow**(from 7 March 2022)**Specialisation:* Environmental Economics, SDGs, and STI for SDGs**Mr Sayantan Ghosal***Consultant**(from 11 January 2022)**Specialisation:* International Relations, Social Protection Welfare Systems**Chaitanya Giri***Consultant**(from 1 December 2021)**Specialisation:* Space Domain Strategies, Planetary Science**Kanica Rakhra***Consultant**(from 25 January 2022)**Specialisation:* Multilateralism, International Organisations

ASEAN India Centre at RIS

**Dr Prabir De**

Professor/Coordinator, AIC

Specialisation: International Economics, Trade & Transport Facilitation and Service Trade**Ms Sreya Pan***Research Associate**(till 23 March 2022)**Specialisation:* International trade**Dr Sampa Kundu***(from 1 October 2021)**Consultant**Specialisation:***Dr Nida Rahman***(from 17 May 2021)**Young Professional*

Human Resource

Global Development Centre



Ms Sadhana Relia

GDC Fellow

(till 30 September 2021)



Ms Rituparna Banerjee

GDC Manager



Mr Amit Arora

GDC Manager

Research Assistants



Ms Kritika Khanna



Mr Siddharth Naidu

till 28 February 2022



Mr Syed Arslan Ali

(from 3 January 2022)



Ms Shweta Shaju

(from 24 June 2021)



Ms Neelakshi Maharshi

(from 3 January 2022)



Ms Sukhmani Kaur

(from 18 July 2021)



Ms Sanjana Agarwal

(from 4 February 2022)



Ms Siddhi Sharma

(from 22 July 2021)



Ms Prativa Shaw

(till 3 August 2021)



Mr Chaitanya Khurana

(from 24 June 2021)



Mr Apurva Bhatnagar

(till 4 December 2021)



Mr Ravi Kumar Gupta

(from 28 June 2021)



Ms Chandni Dawani

(till 15 March 2022)



Mr Pranesh M

(from 3 January 2022)



Ms Sunanda Mahajan

(till 22 October 2021)



Mr Preet Amol Singh

(from 3 January 2022)



Ms Debanjaba Dey

(till 13 September 2021)



Ms Ishita Varma

(from 3 January 2022)



Ms Sonal Garg

till 18 April 2021

Mr Hariom Arora

(till 5 June 2021)

Adjunct Senior Faculty


Professor Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director-General, Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa


Professor Manmohan Agarwal

Formerly RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram


Professor Haribabu Ejnavarzal

Former Vice-Chancellor-in-Charge, University of Hyderabad


Professor Shahid Ahmed

Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia


Dr Benu Schneider

Formerly with UN, UNCTAD & Adviser at the Reserve Bank of India


Professor Srividhya Ragavan

Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Norman, USA


Professor Amrita Narlikar

President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)


Dr Ramkishan S. Rajan

Vice-Dean (Research) and Professor Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy National University of Singapore


Professor Mukul G. Asher

Professorial Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore


Dr Suma Athreye

Professor, International Business and Strategy, Brunel Business School, UK


Dr Balakrishna Pisupati

Chairperson, FLEDGE and Former Chairman, NBA, Chennai


Dr T. P. Rajendran

Formerly Assistant Director General, ICAR and Visiting Fellow, RIS


Dr Biswajit Banerjee

Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana.


Professor Kevin P. Gallagher

Professor, Department of International Relations, Boston University; Senior Associate, GDAE, Tufts University


Dr Mitu Sengupta

Professor, Department of Politics and Administration, Ryerson University, Canada, Visiting Professor Council for Social Development (CSD)


Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja

Adjunct Senior Fellow Senior Research Associate at the Overseas Institute (ODI), London, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS)

Human Resource

Staff Members

Mr Mahesh C. Arora

Director (Finance and Administration)

Mr H. K. Malik

(from 10 March 2021)

Administrative Officer (Administration & Accounts)

DG Office

Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra, Head, DG's Office

Mr N.N. Krishnan, Personal Assistant

(retired on 31 July 2022)

Mrs Ritu Parnami, Personal Assistant

Ms Gohar Naaz, Secretarial Assistant

Mr Anil Kumar, Assistant

Mr Piyush Verma, LDC

Mrs Shalini Sharma, LDC/Receptionist

Mr Bhaskar Tiwari, Accounts Clerk

(from 3 January 2022)

Publications Department

Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra, Publication Officer

Mr Sanjay Sharma, Consultant (Editorial)

Mr Sachin Singhal, Publication Assistant (Designing & Web)

Research/Secretarial Support

Ms Kiran Wagh, PA

Mr Sanjeev Sharma, PS

(On Deputation)

Mr Surender Kumar, PS

Mrs Bindu Gambhir, Stenographer

Mr J. Srinivas Rao, Secretarial Assistant

Mr Baidnath Pandey, Office Assistant

Library and Documentation Centre

Mrs Jyoti, Assistant Librarian

Mrs Sushila, Library Assistant

Information Technology/Databases Unit

Mrs Sushma Bhat, Dy. Director (Data Management)

Mr Chander Shekhar Puri, Dy. Director (Systems)

Mrs Poonam Malhotra, Computer Assistant

Mr Satya Pal Singh Rawat, Jr. Assistant

Mr Soumya Ranjan, IT Assistant

Support Staff

Mr Satyavir Singh (Sr. Staff Car Driver)

Mr J.B. Thakuri (Staff Car Driver)

Mr Balwan (Daftri)

Mr Pradeep

Mr Raju

Mr Raj Kumar

Mr Manish Kumar

Mr Raj Kumar

Mr Sudhir Rana

Mr Birju

Mr Pradeep Negi

Mr Avinash Kapoor

(from 21 March 2022)

Finance & Administration

Shri V Krishna Mani, Consultant (Administration)

(till 31 October 2021)

Mrs Sheela Malhotra, Section Officer (Accounts)

(till 30 September 2021)

Mrs Anu Bisht, Assistant

Mr Surjeet, Accountant

Chapter 9

Financial Statements

G S A & Associates LLP

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the General Body of
Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Research and Information System for Developing Countries, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, (the entity), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account for the year then ended, and schedules to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at March 31, 2022, of its financial performance and receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, and financial performance of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Head Office : 16, DDA Flats, GF, Panchsheel-Shivalik Mor, Near Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110 017

Tel. : 011-41811888, 7862099205-206 E-mail : admin@gsa.net.in

LLP Registration No. AAS-8863 (Formerly known as GSA & Associates)

Branches at Delhi, Gurugram, Akhnoor (Jammu) and Surat (Gujrat)



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Financial Statements

G S A & Associates LLP


Chartered Accountants

Report on Other Requirements

We report that:

- (i) we have sought and obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- (ii) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the entity so far as appears from our examination of the books; and
- (iii) The Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.

for GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/N500339


(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899



UDIN :22083899AQXWCV7802

Place : New Delhi
Date :05/09/2022

Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022

Amount in ₹

	Sch. #	As at 31-Mar-22	As at 31-Mar-21
LIABILITIES			
Research and Development Fund	1	14,50,26,683.01	13,56,55,874.86
Fixed Assets Fund (Non - FCRA)	2	11,83,26,021.00	1,96,97,803.00
Fixed Assets Fund (FCRA)	2	1,14,634.00	2,52,597.00
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	1,62,92,667.14	68,00,325.14
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	3	9,09,88,960.24	87,27,688.28
Unutilised Grant-in-Aid from the MEA, GOI	4a	65,10,730.00	8,76,883.00
Current Liabilities and Provisions (Non - FCRA)	4	6,18,16,104.63	4,20,48,243.67
Current Liabilities and Provisions (FCRA)	4	72,52,196.00	12,23,949.00
Total		44,63,27,996.02	21,52,83,363.95
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA)	5	11,83,26,021.00	1,96,97,803.00
Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)	5	5,15,930.00	6,53,893.00
Investment (Non - FCRA)	6	5,26,19,103.00	5,06,46,467.00
Investment (FCRA)	6	8,61,53,579.95	9,23,84,916.33
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	80,52,406.00	51,06,303.00
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	3	1,60,672.90	-
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	7	6,39,85,822.03	3,29,23,505.48
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (FCRA)	7	11,65,14,461.14	1,38,70,476.14
Total		44,63,27,996.02	21,52,83,363.95

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

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Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/ N500339

(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899

Place : New Delhi

Date : 05/09/2022



for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

H. K. Mallick
Administrative Officer (Admin & Accts)

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

Financial Statements

Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2022

		Amount in ₹	
	Sch. #	Year Ended 31-Mar-22	Year Ended 31-Mar-21
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	4(a)	11,90,65,528.00	10,98,70,364.00
Sponsored Projects Grant transferred to meet Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	3,83,48,023.74	2,69,50,673.78
Surplus amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		21,42,204.00	45,77,697.00
Income from Royalty, Publications, etc. (Non - FCRA)		2,82,818.00	96,742.72
Interest Earned :			
On Term Deposits (FCRA)		47,87,984.00	57,63,307.00
On Term Deposits (Non - FCRA)		23,94,767.00	26,64,439.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (FCRA)		5,25,445.00	3,45,966.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (Non - FCRA)		3,00,911.00	3,05,933.00
On Loan to Employees (Non - FCRA)		92,396.00	1,166.00
On Income Tax Refund (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		33,934.00	1,02,177.00
Other Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		-	100.00
Recoveries for Training Programs and Overheads from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		18,55,709.00	16,45,820.00
Payable Written Off		1,432.00	1,146.00
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - W.D.V. of Assets Sold/ Written-off (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	2	-	45,583.00
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - Dep. on Assets Acquired out of Grant-in-Aid from the GOI/ Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		50,30,180.00	47,65,546.00
Total		17,48,61,331.74	15,71,36,640.50
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	8	3,83,48,023.74	2,69,50,673.78
Establishment Expenses (Non - FCRA)	9	8,46,89,270.00	7,93,17,435.00
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA)	10	3,73,52,160.73	3,00,17,521.64
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (FCRA)	11	70,889.12	20,620.36
Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	5	50,30,180.00	47,65,546.00
Deficit amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	-	9,99,611.04
Prior Period Expenses		-	6,15,758.00
Surplus transferred to Research and Development Fund		93,70,808.15	1,44,49,474.68
Total		17,48,61,331.74	15,71,36,640.50

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

16

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/ N500339

(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899



Place : New Delhi

Date : 05/09/2022

for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

H. K. Mallick
Administrative Officer (Admin & Accts)

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)
Receipt and Payment Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2022

Receipts		Year Ended 31-Mar-22		Year Ended 31-Mar-21		Payments	Year Ended 31-Mar-22	Year Ended 31-Mar-21
A	Opening Balances					A Expenditures		
i)	Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	36,056.00		50,816.00		i) Establishment Expenses - Schedule - 12 (Non - FCRA)	8,63,32,839.00	7,72,88,720.00
ii)	Bank Balances : In Savings Account- Andhra Bank In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA) In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA) In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA) In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	39,140.00 2,44,41,874.76 73,54,784.14 9,23,84,916.33 5,06,46,467.00		39,140.00 2,16,25,605.52 2,12,74,113.28 8,80,50,977.33 3,03,46,419.00		ii) Administrative and Other Programme Expenses - Schedule - 13 (Non - FCRA) iii) Administrative and Other Programme Expenses - Schedule - 14 (FCRA) iv) Expenses - Sponsored Projects and FCRA	3,14,81,631.77 44,053.12 2,96,71,075.74	3,10,25,072.64 18,534.36 3,41,56,989.78
iii)	Postage Stamps - Balance in Franchising Machine (Non - FCRA)	2,72,523.00		2,29,244.00		Total A	14,75,26,569.63	14,24,89,296.78
	Total A	17,51,75,761.23		16,16,16,315.13		B Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment		
						i) Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)	8,77,75,634.00	46,05,263.00
B	Grants Received					ii) Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)	35,046.00	1,86,240.00
i)	From the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	22,84,00,000.00		11,47,96,000.00		Total B	8,78,10,680.00	47,92,563.00
ii)	From various Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	2,29,33,746.80		2,59,45,338.00				
iii)	From various Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	10,64,08,161.00		1,66,06,035.00		C Advances and Deposits		
	Total B	35,77,41,907.80		15,13,47,373.00		i) Advances (Non - FCRA)	3,88,392.00	7,25,694.00
C	Interest Received					ii) Advances (FCRA)	1,74,510.00	6,000.00
i)	Interest on Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	66,438.00		1,166.00		iii) TDS Receivable (Non - FCRA)	2,78,529.00	2,50,475.00
ii)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (FCRA)	5,25,445.00		3,45,966.00		iv) TDS Receivable (FCRA)	5,45,980.00	4,71,562.00
iii)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (Non - FCRA)	24,40,337.00		21,46,146.00		v) State Cheques	3,31,128.00	-
iv)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (FCRA)	70,20,375.00		47,44,566.00		Total C	17,18,539.00	14,53,731.00
v)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (Non - FCRA)	9,97,952.00		3,05,533.00		D Others		
vi)	Interest on Income Tax Refund	33,934.00		1,02,177.00		i) Grants Refunded	3,83,720.00	-
						ii) Amount Received from LIC and Paid to Employees	19,04,044.00	12,99,518.00
						iii) Amount paid to RIS Provident Fund	-	12,29,000.00
						iv) Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refunded to GOI, MEA)	36,603.00	
	Total Carried Forward	54,40,02,150.03		32,06,09,642.13		Total D	23,24,367.00	25,28,518.00
						Total Carried Forward	23,93,83,185.63	15,12,64,048.78



Receipts		Year Ended 31-Mar-22	Year Ended 31-Mar-21	Payments	Year Ended 31-Mar-22	Year Ended 31-Mar-21
Total Brought Forward		54,40,02,150.03	32,06,09,642.13	Total Brought Forward	23,93,83,185.63	15,12,64,048.78
D Other Income				Closing Balances		
i) Royalty	1,17,649.72		93,329.88	i) Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	42,473.00	36,056.00
ii) Miscellaneous Income	-		100.00	ii) Bank Balances :		
Total D		1,17,649.72		In Savings Account - Andhra Bank (Non - FCRA)	39,140.00	39,140.00
E Advances and Deposits				In Savings Account / Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	5,56,00,240.03	2,44,41,874.76
i) Recovery of Loan/ Advances (Non - FCRA)	12,18,081.00		10,29,951.00	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	54,77,360.14	73,54,784.14
ii) Advances Recovered from Staff (Non - FCRA)	21,877.00		99,712.00	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	8,61,53,579.95	9,23,84,916.33
iii) State Cheques (Non - FCRA & FCRA)	44,011.00		2,90,778.00	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	5,26,19,103.00	5,06,46,467.00
iv) Amount Received from LIC and Payable to Employees	-		32,03,562.00	In Savings Account- State Bank of India (FCRA)	10,65,20,308.00	-
v) Amount received in Advance (Non - FCRA)	-		-	iii) Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non-FCRA)	2,39,036.00	2,72,523.00
vi) Recovery of Loan/ Advances (FCRA)	1,59,788.00		-	Total E		17,51,75,761.23
vii) Amount received on behalf of			1,33,079.00			
Total E		14,43,567.00			30,66,91,240.12	
F Others						
i) Disposal of Tangible Assets	-		1,100.00			
ii) Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refundable to GOI, MEA)	26,243.00		36,603.00			
iii) Income Tax Refund	4,84,816.00		9,41,953.00			
Total F		5,11,059.00				
Total		54,60,74,425.75	32,64,39,810.01	Total	54,60,74,425.75	32,64,39,810.01

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts (Schedule -16)

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for GSA & Associates LLP

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Registration No. 000257N/ N500339

(CA Sumit Aggarwal)
Partner

M. No. 083869

Place : New Delhi

Date : -



for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

H. K. Mallick
Administrative Officer (Admin & Accts)Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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