

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट
RIS Annual Report
2024-25

Shaping the Development Agenda of the Global South



RIS

**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries**

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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(Till 7 September 2025)



Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma
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Special Invitees



Dr Nagesh Kumar
Director and Chief Executive,
Institute for Studies in Industrial
Development (ISID), New Delhi



Professor S. K. Mohanty
Distinguished Fellow, RIS

Member Secretary



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, Research and
Information System for Developing
Countries
(Till 7 September 2025)



Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma
Director General, Research and
Information System for Developing
Countries
(Since 8 September 2025)



Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma

From Director General's Desk

At the outset, I would like to mention that it is indeed a great honour for me to have got the opportunity of serving the prestigious institute RIS as its current Director General. For this, I am grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. I am fully committed to taking forward the rich legacy of my predecessors, right from the founder Director General, respected Professor V.R. Panchamukhi, to Professor Nagesh Kumar, Professor Biswajit Dhar and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi. We shall ever remain grateful to them for their immense contribution in strengthening the role of RIS in the international research community. Carrying forward their legacy, fulfilment of the mandate of RIS, the "Voice of the Global South," would be my prime objective.

As the focus of RIS work programme was on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Trade, Finance, Investment and Technology, during the year 2024-25, the institute accomplished a number of important tasks by organising a significant number of important policy dialogues and bringing out several publications for providing evidence-based analytical policy research inputs. Some major programme included: Triangular Cooperation: New Modality and New Hope; India's G20 Presidency as a Voice of the Global South; Advancing Development in the Global South; Building Bridges through Triangular Cooperation; Digital Technologies in Agriculture for the Global South; Sustainable Agriculture and Agro-ecological Approaches in the Global South; Development Cooperation: Perspectives from the Global South; Advancing Collaboration: Inaugurating Training Workshop on G20, SDGs, and Public Policy; Inequality, Economic Growth and Inclusion; Trade, Tariff and Trump; Digital Public Infrastructure and Financial Inclusion; Advancing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC); BIMSTEC - Synergies in Agriculture Trade: Promoting Regional Growth; Second Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave (IPEC); India's Cultural Connect; India-Japan Economic Relations; Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) and the Developmental Partnerships; Expanding India's Global Commercial Space Footprint to IN-SPACE; Cyber Security in Digital Public Infrastructure; Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Learning Together towards Responsible AI, among others.

Likewise, some of the major themes covered in RIS publications during the year included: Trump's Trade Policies Peril Global Economic Stability; MSME Digitalisation in India: Current Status and Challenges; India's Experience in Insolvency Laws: Learnings for the Global South; Districts as Export Hubs: A Micro-level Trade Strategy; Strengthening India's Mineral Security: From Efforts to Action; India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Strategic Choices and Way Forward; Assessing Performance and Productivity of Major Ports of India; Seafarer's Well Being and Mitigation of Challenges in the Ecosystem; Bay of Bengal and India-Japan Economic Relations; BIMSTEC Synergies in Agricultural Trade: Promoting Regional Growth; Culture for Regional Cohesion and Global Engagement: The Case of ASEAN; ASEAN-India Cooperation - A New Perspective Based on the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework; Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Lessons from India and ASEAN Initiatives; Unlocking the Potential of ASEAN-India Regional Value Chain.

RIS, through its Centres, viz. DAKSHIN, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, Centre for Maritime Economy and Connect (CMEC) and Forum for Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) and Forums, such as Blue Economic Forum (BEF), Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) and Forum for Indian Science and Diplomacy (FISD), was deeply engaged in the process of policy coherence on regional, sub-regional and multilateral economic issues and development partnerships. The institute was engaged across inter-governmental processes of several multilateral economic cooperation initiatives such as G20, BRICS, IBSA, BIMSTEC, IORA, etc.

This year also marked the significant contributions by the young members of our faculty in the form of different chapters, elaborating various aspects of our ongoing research programme and other related activities. Our sincere thanks to all of them, with the best wishes for their future research and academic pursuits.

As in the past, we received continuous encouragement, guidance, and support of the Chairperson and Members of the RIS Governing Council and General Body, and the Chairman and Members of the RIS Research Advisory Council. We continue to be grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Ayush, other departments of the Government of India, the UN agencies, and the partner institutes for their close engagement with our work programme. Moreover, the support of RIS Faculty Members and the Administrative team was vital for the effective implementation of the RIS research agenda and undertaking various activities in the year. Thanks very much to all of them for extending their kind support and cooperation. I must also convey my special thanks to Professor Sachin Chaturvedi for his immense support during the overlap period of my taking over as DG, RIS.

We are sure the contents of the Report would be found interesting.



Sachin Kumar Sharma

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Global Governance and Sustainability



The world is at an inflection point. As traditional governance structures are challenged, a new, confident, and proactive Global South is emerging, not merely seeking a seat at the table but actively redesigning the table itself. At the vanguard of this transformation is India, articulating and advancing a vision for global cooperation that is demand-driven, equitable, and sustainable. India's approach transcends conventional aid; it is a 'development compact' built on partnership, shared learning, and ethical responsibility. Through this compact – powered by modalities

like trade for development, technology sharing, capacity building for sustainable growth, and project specific concessional loans and grants – India is not just a participant in global governance but is defining its future course. India, through its ethical models, visionary initiatives like LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), and its assertive agenda for institutional reform, is forging a path toward a more resilient and inclusive world.

Championing Reforms in Global Governance Architecture

Countries of the Global South have been referred to by different names like the Third World, Developing Countries, Less Developed Countries, Emerging Economies, the Periphery, and the Majority World. Such political, economic, financial, sociological, and anthropological terms capture one essential bit of these countries lacking agenda-setting powers at the global stage. Key drivers that led to the ascent of these countries of the Global South have been the economic transformation and rapid economic

growth turned them into major engines of the global economy, critical markets, and sources of investment. Their sheer economic weight became impossible to be ignored in managing global affairs. Importantly, the Global Financial Crisis exposed the interdependence of the global economy. Developed economies needed the large, dynamic economies of the South to stabilise the system and fuel recovery. This created a unique opening. Further, the rise of South-South Cooperation (SSC), and the Southern groupings like of BRICS, and IBSA provided a crucial platform for strategic coordination, amplifying their collective voice and bargaining power at the world stage.

A central pillar of India's global leadership in this regard is its unwavering commitment to reforming the antiquated architectures of global governance. The current frameworks of international institutions like the WTO, IMF, and World Bank, as well as the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), often fail to reflect the economic realities and priorities of the 21st century. India is a leading voice in advocating for



Eminent speakers at the Brainstorming Session on Triangular Cooperation.

these institutions to become more representative, democratic, and responsive to the challenges of climate change, sustainable development, and global inequality. India strategically leverages key forums to drive this agenda. Its successful G20 Presidency in 2023 was a testament to this, amplifying the voice of the Global South and placing their concerns firmly on the high table of global decision-making. Looking ahead, India's upcoming BRICS presidency in 2026 presents a pivotal platform to further advance this cause, pushing for tangible reforms in quota shares, voting rights, and the operational mandates of legacy institutions. Alongside these larger groupings, agile coalitions like IBSA serve as crucial platforms for like-minded Southern powers to coordinate strategy and build consensus on reforming global governance, ensuring that the multilateral system is fit for purpose and capable of delivering on its promises for all nations.

The Ascent of the Global South and India's Stewardship

The economic rise of the Global South is the defining geopolitical story of the 21st century. However, India's leadership recognises that economic weight must be translated into constructive agenda-setting power. India's role is that of a bridge and a beacon: leveraging its civilisational ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family) to foster strategic solidarity through forums like BRICS and IBSA, while simultaneously driving practical solutions to global challenges.

India's model is unique. It rejects the paternalistic paradigms of the past, instead offering a partnership model based on dignity, mutual respect, and shared destiny. This is operationalised through a rigorous practice of South South Cooperation, where India's developmental legacy, carried forward by RIS since its inception in 1983, is converted into global public good. This is not merely diplomatic

assertion; it is the operationalisation of an ethical governance framework that prioritises human-centric development. This commitment is exemplified by our initiatives that bring together stakeholders from across the Global South to brainstorm innovative solutions in critical sectors like health, agriculture, and digital technology. These workshops serve as platforms for compiling compendiums of scalable solutions, ensuring that successful flagship schemes from India and its partners can be adopted and replicated to address common challenges.

Triangular Cooperation: India as a Strategic Nexus for the Global Good

- Triangular Cooperation (TrC) has gained momentum in the development cooperation landscape as it blends the strengths of the South South Cooperation with resources and expertise from traditional donors or multilateral agencies. Unlike SSC, which relies solely on exchanges among developing countries, TrC enables scaling up of projects, access to advanced technology, and broader funding. This model addresses capacity gaps while fostering inclusivity and innovation. India has strategically leveraged TrC through partnerships with countries like Japan, the US, the UK, and Germany as well as organisations like UNDP, to deliver capacity building, infrastructure, health, and digital solutions in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific. In view of its growing importance RIS organised two major deliberations on these issues. A brainstorming session on "Triangular Cooperation: New Modality and New Hope" was organised based on the RIS-GIZ study on Triangular Cooperation that aimed to foster interactive and open brainstorming among various triangular cooperation actors, including development cooperation agencies, think tanks, and civil society organisations.



Brainstorming Session on India's own successful efforts on financial inclusion and Innovation.

In continuation, RIS also organised a capacity building programme for Southern thought leaders and practitioners hailing from India and neighbouring countries – Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. These participants represented a wide spectrum, including academia, development practitioners, civil society, and other key stakeholders engaged in the evolving domain of cooperation. Key thematic areas addressed during the sessions included Triangular Cooperation's role in women's empowerment, implications of food standards in international partnerships, and practical challenges faced in implementation of Triangular Cooperation projects. In particular, engaging focus was on the India-Germany partnership for Triangular Cooperation in Africa; a case study that illustrated the operational dynamics and impact of such cooperative ventures.

Infusing LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) into the Global Ethos

A cornerstone of India's visionary leadership is the global promotion of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a concept introduced by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. LiFE

moves the needle on sustainability from a purely government-to-government policy framework to a people-centric global movement. It puts onus on environmental action by linking it to individual and collective behaviour, making sustainability a matter of daily practice rather than a distant protocol.

RIS has been integrating LiFE principles directly into its development cooperation efforts. Our deliberations on digital transformation, for instance, promote equitable digital access and fintech solutions that empower sustainable lifestyles. Similarly, our work on sustainable agriculture champions agro-ecological practices that align with LiFE by working in harmony with the nature. This philosophy is central to our research and will be a key pillar of upcoming capacity-building programmes, encouraging participants from the Global South to become ambassadors for a lifestyle that is both culturally rooted and globally responsible.

The Road Ahead: Architecting the Future

Looking forward, India's leadership role will only deepen, and RIS is poised to be at the intellectual forefront of this journey.

- *BRICS Presidency 2026*: India will use its presidency to champion urgent reforms in global governance and multilateral institutions, advocating for systems that are more representative, responsive, and equitable. RIS will drive this conversation through its extensive outreach and research.
- *Knowledge Sovereignty*: RIS will intensify efforts to build robust Knowledge and Innovation Networks across think tanks of the Global South, ensuring THAT world hears our narrative in our own voices – evidenced by our move to publish in Spanish, French, and Arabic. This directly advances our mission to share solutions beyond the English-speaking world, as seen with the successful launch of the Spanish edition of *Development Cooperation Review* in Buenos Aires.
- *SDGs and Ethical Governance*: RIS work on strengthening Health, Agriculture and Digital Solutions along with global cooperation will continue to demonstrate India's ethical governance models that can build resilience and equity. This includes continued cross-sectional initiatives that support resilience in agriculture and healthcare, leveraging best practices discussed in our international workshops.
- *Capacity for the Future*: The revival of ITEC-backed courses at RIS on topics like Science Diplomacy, Sustainable Development, and South-South Cooperation will train the next generation of Southern leaders, infused with the principles of LiFE and ethical partnership.

In conclusion, India is not merely navigating the currents of global change; it is charting a new course. Through its commitment to ethical governance, sustainable development, and a genuine partnership model – demonstrated through its advocacy for institutional reform and concrete, solution-driven collaboration – India is offering the world a vision of cooperation that is more humane, inclusive, and capable of meeting the profound challenges of our time. RIS will put its best in this transformative journey.



Launching of the Spanish edition of the Development Cooperation Review in Argentina.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Brainstroning Session on Triangular Cooperation: New Modality and New Hope, 24 April 2024.
- The Session on Shaping School Education for the Future of Work, 1 June 2024.
- Seminar on India's G20 Presidency as a Voice of the Global South, 16 April 2024.
- CEO Speakes Series: Complementarities between Think Tanks, 2 August 2024.
- CEO Speakes Series: Advancing Development in the Global South, 9 August 2024.
- Capacity Programme on Building Bridges through Triangular Cooperation, 19-20 September 2024.
- Workshop on Digital Technologies in Agriculture for the Global South, 30 August 2024.
- Webinar on Leads from Global South Presidencies of G20: Message for South Africa, 16 December 2025.
- Launching of Spanish language edition of *Development Cooperation Review*, 15 November 2025.
- Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture and Agro-ecological Approaches in the Global South, 22 January 2025.
- Webinar on Development Cooperation: Perspectives from the Global South, 28 February 2025.
- Workshop on Telehealth – Transformative Digital Health Solution, 8 August 2024.

Major Publications

Journals

- Development Cooperation Review Vol. 7 No. 1 January-March 2024
- Development Cooperation Review (Special issue on Spanish Language)
- Development Cooperation Review Vol. 7 No. 2 April-June 2024
- Development Cooperation Review Vol. 7 No. 3 & 4 July-December 2024
- G20 Digest

Discussion Paper

- #301: Global South Should Aim at a Comprehensive Package for Addressing Illicit Financial Flows by Nilimesh Baruah

Popular Article

- Global South Cooperation: Development Compact should be central to the Pact of the Future by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, *indiablooms*, Aug 19, 2024

2

Sustainable Development, LiFE, and Green Growth



The Sustainable Development paradigm emphasises balanced progress that addresses ecological limits, ensures intergenerational equity, and boost growth engines of the economy like innovation, entrepreneurship, urbanisation, while ensuring sustainability in all its dimensions. Adoption of Agenda 2030 was one of the watershed moments in the success of multilateralism, when all the countries agreed to work on a common framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are universal, interconnected and indivisible in nature. Trade, finance and technology form

the core component of sustainable development agenda. These components - identified as means of implementation - are necessary to address the challenges of poverty, inequality, climate change, and industrialisation. However, after a decade, as the global community struggles to navigate the existing challenges of pandemics, conflicts, and fractured globalisation, the means of implementation required for achieving the SDGs seem decapitated by such fragility. In such a fractured world where national governments are withdrawing from their commitments and more focused protecting their self-interest, it has become imperative to reemphasise the importance of collective development and shared prosperity.

The commitment to sustainable development at RIS is grounded in a holistic vision that integrates economic progress with environmental sustainability and social inclusion. This vision is articulated through two interconnected pillars: Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), and Green Growth which together provide a framework for advancing national and global development agendas in line with the SDGs. RIS approaches sustainability not as a standalone policy but as a cross-cutting thread embedded within economic planning, innovation systems, infrastructure design, and trade strategies.

The LiFE initiative represents a locally anchored and globally relevant approach to reorient production and consumption patterns towards low-carbon, resource-efficient systems. The UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2023 states that the industrialisation of the western world contributed 80 per cent of historical CO₂ emissions during 1800-2021. This model of growth is not just unfair but also unworkable for the planet. As countries in the Global South experience high economic growth, the risks of repeating the same trajectory are visible. Rising incomes often bring carbon-heavy consumption and lifestyle changes imitating the west. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi shared his ideas in the *Financial Times* that “the lifestyles of a few must not crowd out opportunities for the many still on

the first steps of the development ladder.” For the very first time the challenges of overconsumption and unsustainable lifestyles at the global level were highlighted. The concept of LiFE, which was first unveiled during CoP26 in Glasgow in 2021, emerged as a crucial component of India’s G20 agenda. In Varanasi, India, the G20 Development Ministers meeting agreed upon nine High-Level Principles (HLPs) on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development. The G20 Leaders further endorsed the implementation of these HLPs through international cooperation, financial support, and the development, deployment, and dissemination of technology.

LiFE and Green Growth: Can We Shape a New Development Paradigm?

LiFE and Green Growth within RIS’s framework has evolved into a coherent framework of LiFE Economy. This multifaceted paradigm comprises of five key facets:

- Promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns. LiFE places sustainable consumption at its core while addressing existing inequalities.
- Measuring well-being beyond GDP, incorporating factors such as natural capital, basic needs, inequalities, and negative environmental externalities.
- Embracing social enterprises and community participation for sustainable and equitable development, while promoting the localisation of efforts.
- Reorienting development finance towards non-discriminatory and ethical considerations, with a focus on resilient infrastructure financing, particularly for the Global South.
- Mainstreaming ethical and value-based economic systems, fostering technology development, and strengthening global governance.

RIS situates green growth and LiFE within a broader development paradigm that resists unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. It also argues against one-size-fits-all models and instead prioritises context-specific solutions for the Global South. During the year, RIS engaged in a wide range of dialogues, workshops, and collaborative initiatives to deepen the policy discourse on sustainable development.

These events advanced the debate on new development paradigms for the Global South, challenging orthodox economic models that prioritise growth without sufficient regard for ecological and cultural contexts. The LiFE initiative was highlighted as a homegrown contribution to reimagining development pathways that are both low-carbon and socially inclusive. The emphasis was on creating regional strategies that leverage indigenous knowledge systems and local governance structures, reducing dependency on external models and capital flows. The thematic explorations of the sessions and conferences include inequality, future of work, role of technology and digital public infrastructure, and the intersection of economic growth with social and environmental objectives.

Policy dialogues during the year called for moving beyond GDP as the primary measure of progress, advocating for well-being indicators that capture ecological health, and community resilience, and human capital. Deliberations underscored that economic growth alone is insufficient to address the challenges of climate change, inequality, and poverty, and must be accompanied by targeted interventions in skill development, public health, and social inclusion.

On Inequality and SDGs

Inequality, economic growth, and inclusion are interlinked and reinforces each other. They also



(From right): Professor Shobhit Mathur, Vice-Chancellor, Rishihood University; Dr Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India; and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

form the basis of SDGs as a cross-cutting theme. The World Inequality Report 2022, provides insights into economic inequality trends, their drivers, and implications. The report reveals that global wealth inequalities are even more pronounced than income inequalities. For instance, the poorest 50 per cent of the global population owns just 2 per cent of total wealth, while the richest 10 per cent controls 76 per cent. Similarly, the wealthiest 10 per cent of individuals receive 52 per cent of global income, whereas the poorest half earns only 8.5 per cent. In India, the debate around taxing the wealthy has been met with caution that such measures could dampen economic growth and trigger capital outflows, an example of the “law of unintended consequences”. For a developing country like India, the true measure of inclusive growth lies in poverty alleviation rather than solely addressing inequality.

On the one hand, there is an urgent need to fund social infrastructure and public goods such as healthcare and education to invest in human development and lift people out of multidimensional poverty, which often require

robust redistributive policies. On the other hand, taxing the ultra-wealthy in an era of excessive financialisation and unrestricted capital mobility creates a classic game-theory dilemma: the more countries that commit to a global tax mechanism, the greater the incentive for a single nation to opt out and attract capital flight. This conundrum underscores the difficulty of balancing equity with economic pragmatism in a globalised world.

Infrastructure Spillovers and Green Finance

A key area of RIS work has been the examination of dual role of infrastructure as a driver of economic activity and as a link between natural and physical capital and spillover effects of infrastructure on regional economic development. There are considerable economic benefits that accrue from infrastructure development, particularly in sectors like ports and logistics. Such investments not only generate immediate employment opportunities and foster new business creation, but lead to higher tax revenues due to the rise in economic activity. The spillover effects of these projects extend beyond direct outcomes; enhance property values and stimulate corporate growth, contributing to an increase in local, corporate, and other forms of taxation due to the uplift in surrounding regions. Empirical evidence from domestic and international case studies illustrate the past deficiencies in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework, which have historically hindered the effective execution of infrastructure projects. Challenges in risk-sharing between public and private stakeholders, difficulties in securing long-term financing, and regulatory uncertainties were identified as critical barriers. To address these shortcomings, strategies are needed for more transparent risk allocation, robust regulatory frameworks, and enhanced financial incentives to attract private investment

The discourse on green finance is pivotal to reconciling infrastructure expansion with



Mr Suman Bery, Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog at the Seminar on Infrastructure and Finance.

environmental balance. Environmental considerations are an integral part of the infrastructure investment. Measures like, adopting transparent risk-sharing frameworks, carbon taxation, mapping the loss of natural capital, strengthening regulatory mechanisms, and introducing innovative financing tools such as, blended finance are identified as essential to mobilise private investment while ensuring ecological safeguards, thereby embedding green growth principles into the infrastructure development agenda.

Strengthening SDG Framework through Capacity Building and Health Systems

RIS continued to play an important role in strengthening institutional capacity for SDG implementation, particularly within the Global South. The year marked the launch of collaborative training programmes focusing on the G20, SDGs and public policy, designed to promote knowledge exchange and facilitate documentation of sustainable practices at sub-national levels. These initiatives encouraged universities and research institutions to assume leadership roles in adapting global sustainability frameworks to local contexts.

The importance of climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and South-South cooperation featured prominently in these dialogues, reflecting RIS view that global sustainability targets must be translated into regional-specific action plans. The discussions also affirmed that partnerships between governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector are critical to achieving the SDGs.

Within the sustainable development framework, RIS also addressed the role of human capital in enhancing equitable growth. Dedicated sessions examined strategies for strengthening human resources for health, with particular attention to workforce distribution, skill gaps, and regulatory frameworks. The discussions underscored the need for comprehensive capacity building, education reforms, and improved service delivery mechanisms to ensure that health systems can meet evolving demographic and epidemiological challenges. In a global context, as per the WHO projections, which indicate that 99 per cent of the total needs-based shortage of health workers in 2013 originated in low and middle-income countries. By 2030, the demand for health workers is expected to reach approximately 33.3 million in upper and middle-income nations. There needs to be several strategic options for strengthening the health system from a supply-side perspective. These included the need for comprehensive capacity building for human resources, enhancing the regulatory framework for allied health professionals, implementing reforms in health professional education, and optimising service delivery mechanisms.

The work also extended to examining the role of digital health technologies and artificial intelligence in improving maternal care and vaccine delivery, particularly in resource-constrained settings. Case studies from across the Global South illustrated how innovations such as electronic immunisation registries, oral vaccines, and inclusive digital platforms can improve health outcomes when integrated with

community engagement and local knowledge systems.

Future Research Areas

This year RIS work in the area of Sustainable Development, LiFE, and Green Growth was further advanced through its publications. Through research outputs and policy engagements, RIS continued to shape the discourse on how sustainable development can be pursued in a manner that is locally grounded, globally relevant, and aligned with the urgent imperatives of climate change, social equity, and economic resilience. In the coming year RIS would take forward the research on the concept of LiFE and how to position it as a novel idea for scaling up local development with global sustainability imperatives. We will also explore the integration of LiFE principles into industrial policy, innovation ecosystems, and community-level initiatives, with an emphasis on ensuring that sustainability transitions are inclusive and equitable.



Professor Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics at the programme on Inequality, Economic Growth and Inclusion.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Interactive Session on Exploring the Future of Work, 9 May 2024.
- CEO Speaks Session: Exploring Global Dynamics , 3 June 2024.
- Seminar on Infrastructure Spillovers Green Finance: Towards Sustainable Development, 29 July 2024.
- Training-cum-Workshop on Advancing Collaboration: Inaugural Training Workshop on G20, SDGs, and Public Policy, 12 August 2024.
- Panel Discussion on Inequality, Economic Growth and Inclusion, 13 December 2024.
- Seminar on Media and Development Economy, 14 December 2024.
- Interactive Session on Alternative Development Paradigm, 30 January 2025.
- CEO Speaks Session: Human Resources for Health: Strategic Options for Transforming Health System in India , 24 July 2024.
- Workshop on Advancing Universal Health Coverage: Leveraging Technology for Maternal Care and Vaccine Delivery, 19 February 2025.

Major Publications

Discussion Paper

- #302: Beyond Lifestyle for Sustainable Development: Learnings from the Dayalbagh Model by Pami Dua, Arsh Dhir, D. Bhagwan Das, Ashita Allamraju, Prem Sewak Sudhish, Apurva Narayan, Sabyasachi Saha and V.B. Gupta

Policy Briefs

- #111 Inequalities and Development – G20 Action and UN Summit of the Future by: Dr Sabyasachi Saha
- #110 Adopting LiFE Globally for a Sustainable Future by: Amb Pooja Kapur

3

Trade, Supply Chains, and Economic Resilience



With international trade being a key driver of growth, disruptions in the external market, especially with major trading partners, affect India's trade policy. Such disruptions shift trade and investment flows to other countries, affecting India's export competitiveness. The current geopolitical instability, including tariff increases, supply chain disruptions, and cross-border tensions, underscores the need to diversify supply chains, foster economic resilience and adaptability, and refine the national trade strategy. As a prominent voice of the Global South, India's

trade strategy amid geo-political upheaval shapes the contours of bilateral and regional trade and economic cooperation. To reach the USD 2 trillion export target by 2030, India needs a comprehensive approach that promotes regionalisation and localisation of trade policy. As India prepares for the next phase of growth, the challenge lies in sustaining momentum, bridging systemic development gaps, and ensuring coherence between economic, technological, and institutional factors.

Changing Global Order and India's New Approach to Regionalism

Since 2024, with the United States' new presidency, speculation has surrounded potential tariff increases and trade wars, which may cause economic upheavals in the world economy. As a fallout of these developments, Indian exports are facing tariff escalation from the United States. Taking note of swift changes in the global order, RIS, in December 2024, hosted a seminar titled 'Trade, Tariff and Trump' where the dynamics of the United States' trade actions were explored. The implications of increased tariffs by the United States were further assessed in the report 'Trump's Trade Policies Peril: Global Economic Stability' and the article 'Global trade, Trump and India's role', which identifies several sectors that

might be affected by tariff escalation. Increased tariffs by the United States may have twin consequences, where on one hand, tariffs are imposed on competitors, countries like China, Mexico, and Canada, and India may create an opportunity for capitalising on the United States markets. On the other hand, India would face threats of losing the market with increased tariffs.

It has been discussed that sectors like pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, and shrimp are highly vulnerable, and other manufacturing sectors such as leather, textiles, plasticware, and base metal articles require proactive measures to deal with tariff imposition by the United States administration. The United States has targeted many such sectors in its subsequent announcements. Recently, the United States has further increased tariffs on India for importing Russian oil. Though India has defended its energy strategy, the increased tariffs would reduce India's price competitiveness while reducing the preference margin in the United States' market. An all-inclusive approach is required to define the bilateral relationship with respect to trade, investment, technology, and finance, while enhancing efforts to streamline the institutional frameworks with India. Apart from improving the bilateral relations with the United States, it is also important to identify alternative markets for exports. In one such effort, India has deepened its economic ties with Japan at the 15th India-Japan



Eminent Speakers at the Seminar on Trade, Tariff and Trump.

Annual Summit, where both countries have emphasised resilient supply chains and reduced dependency on volatile global powers.

Additionally, India's new approach to regionalism aims to boost high growth through trade. The paper 'Exploring Trade, GVCs, and Technology Goods in India's FTAs' empirically examines India's progress in trade with intermediate and technology-intensive sectors during the first wave of regionalism. However, to reduce India's overall trade deficit, further scaling up is required. This necessitates reviewing some of the agreements, like the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), which would enhance trade facilitation, effectiveness, and user-friendliness for inclusive growth, as highlighted in the article 'Towards free trade through AITIGA'. India's second wave of regionalism, characterised by the deepening of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), has expanded sectoral coverage to certain WTO-plus and WTO extra issues. Sectors such as public procurement, environmental provisions, labour standards, data protection, etc., have been introduced in trade agreements like the India-UAE CEPA, India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, India-United Kingdom FTA, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

In its recent FTA with the UK, both countries have included special provisions such as trade and gender, technology and innovation, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and Social Security Agreements. These new areas in India's bilateral trade policy may also be discussed while reviewing/upgrading existing FTAs with ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, Chile, Peru, and others. RIS has been continuously working with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other government bodies in evaluating many potential trade agreements through pre-feasibility and joint feasibility studies, along with sectoral inputs at bilateral and regional levels.

Deepening Value Chains through Domestic Reforms

The rise in global agriculture trade presents an opportunity for India to develop its food value chains, both regionally and globally, and emerge as a significant player on the world stage. One of the key factors driving agricultural trade in the Global South is the intra-industry trade in processed food. With the rising demand for both processed and non-processed food, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) region presents a significant market for the development of agricultural value chains and consumption. Though India has a trade surplus in the agriculture sector, as discussed in-depth in the paper 'Agricultural Exports and Trade Policy Responses: Leveraging New Opportunities and Addressing Persisting Challenges', it also has untapped potential that may be leveraged through the identification and establishment of regional value chains in the sector. RIS is working towards evaluating the prospects of regional value chains in the agriculture sector within the BIMSTEC framework. Preliminary results exhibit that the fruits and vegetables and processed food sub-sectors have a much higher intra-regional trade in BIMSTEC than the overall agriculture sector.

There has been clear evidence of its preparedness towards the 21st-century agreement. Though India has a different opinion on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for its developmental impact on developing countries, as pointed out in the papers - 'Intermingling of Trade and Environment Policy: Implications of EU-CBAM on India and LDCs' and news paper articles - 'Carbon tax's WTO test and opportunities for better India-EU trade terms' and 'Trump 2.0: Fate of climate policy amid shifting global priorities', it has been consistently working towards promoting green technologies through Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs) and renewable energy adoption

in the areas of clean technology and research and development. Additionally, India has been continuously working towards reducing the cost of trading through streamlined customs procedures and enhancing transparency through improvement in trade facilitation measures. The National Trade Facilitation Action Plan has helped in mapping the majority of activities related to Trade Facilitation Agreement articles, the benefits of which were also discussed in the CEO Speaks series with Dr Joshua Ebenezer, Principal Consultant at NuCov Facili-Trade, India. Other initiatives such as the National Single Window System and e-Sanchit, among others, have improved trading across borders, leading to an increase in the Ease of Doing Business, and play a crucial role in integrating the nation into global value chains.

Efforts, at both the micro and macro levels, are also underway to enhance India's role in regional value chains in the mineral and manufacturing sectors. Sector-specific domestic policies on pharmaceuticals, EVs, semiconductors, and textiles under the National Manufacturing Mission are carried out to build resilient supply chains for promoting India as a manufacturing hub in the world. In the area of critical minerals, the government aims at securing the supply of essential minerals to reduce heavy reliance on mineral imports through the National Critical

Mineral Mission, discussed in 'Strengthening India's Mineral Security: From Efforts to Action', and 'Securing supply of niche minerals crucial'. Other initiatives such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), under the Digital Public Infrastructure, as well as financial inclusion and digitalisation, are some of the notable domestic reforms undertaken by the government to make the Indian economy resilient. RIS has also been organising the CEO Speaks series, where many such development initiatives and issues are being discussed with experts like Late Dr Bibek Debroy, Former Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, and Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. These discussions have covered a wide range of issues and have also increased the policy space for MSMEs through financial inclusion, digitalisation, and participation in the One District One Product (ODOP).

Trade Localisation to Boost Exports

The domestic reforms are intertwined with the localisation of trade policy, which promotes exports at the district level. Through its Foreign



Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance and RIS faculty Members during RIS CEO Talk series.

Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, India has emphasised increasing participation in global supply chains through high-technology exports, e-commerce and specialised product export promotion with the ODOP philosophy. The District as Export Hub (DEH) initiative of the government provides a micro-level management of the production of goods in targeted sectors for identified exporting markets. At present, exports are highly skewed in a few states and districts, discussed in 'Districts as Export Hubs: A Micro-level Trade Strategy' and 'Micro-level Export Management in Foreign Trade Policy: Implementing Districts as Export Hubs in India'. The initiative provides an opportunity for farmers and MSMEs to develop and enhance production where they have a natural competitive advantage. The initiative focuses on agricultural products, toy clusters, and products with geographic indications. Product aggregation with regular quality checks and product packaging may be ensured to meet global standards for continuous exports in the long run.

For achieving the export target of USD 2 trillion (USD 1 trillion in goods and USD 1 trillion in services) by 2030, it is necessary to have comprehensive trade agreements dealing with traditional and new sectors, with targeted preparedness at the sectoral and district level



Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at RIS.

and a new strategy for the services trade to negotiate with precision. India's journey toward economic resilience is multifaceted. It involves navigating external vulnerabilities, investing in digital infrastructure, and expanding financial inclusion. These efforts are not isolated – rather interconnected pillars of a new economic architecture that prioritises inclusivity and global relevance. The country's response to external shocks, commitment to fair, inclusive and easy trade, and approach towards digital public infrastructure and financial inclusion reflect a multi-pronged strategy to build economic resilience.



Representatives from RIS and ICWA at the 4th Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue held in Berlin, Germany.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Seminar on Trade, Tariff and Trump, 31 December 2024.
- CEO Speaks Series: Navigating Economic Policies, 25 April 2024.
- CEO Speaks Series: Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran at RIS: Navigating India's Economic Adjustments, 3 October 2024.
- Dialogue 4th Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue, 19-20 November 2024, Germany.
- CEO Speaks Series: Dr Poonam Gupta (NACER) Discusses the Transformation of Policy Research, 17 October 2024.
- CEO Speaks Series: Insights on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, 1 October 2024.
- Workshop on Digital Public Infrastructure and Financial Inclusion, 22 August 2024.
- Visit of Mr Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, RBI, to RIS on 29 November 2024.

Major Publications

Reports

- Trump's Trade Policies Peril Global Economic Stability, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.
- MSME Digitalisation in India: Current Status and Challenges, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.

Discussion Papers

- #294: India's Experience in Insolvency Laws: Learnings for the Global South by Amol Baxi
- #298: Insolvency Laws and International Trade: A Perspective by Amol Baxi

Policy Briefs

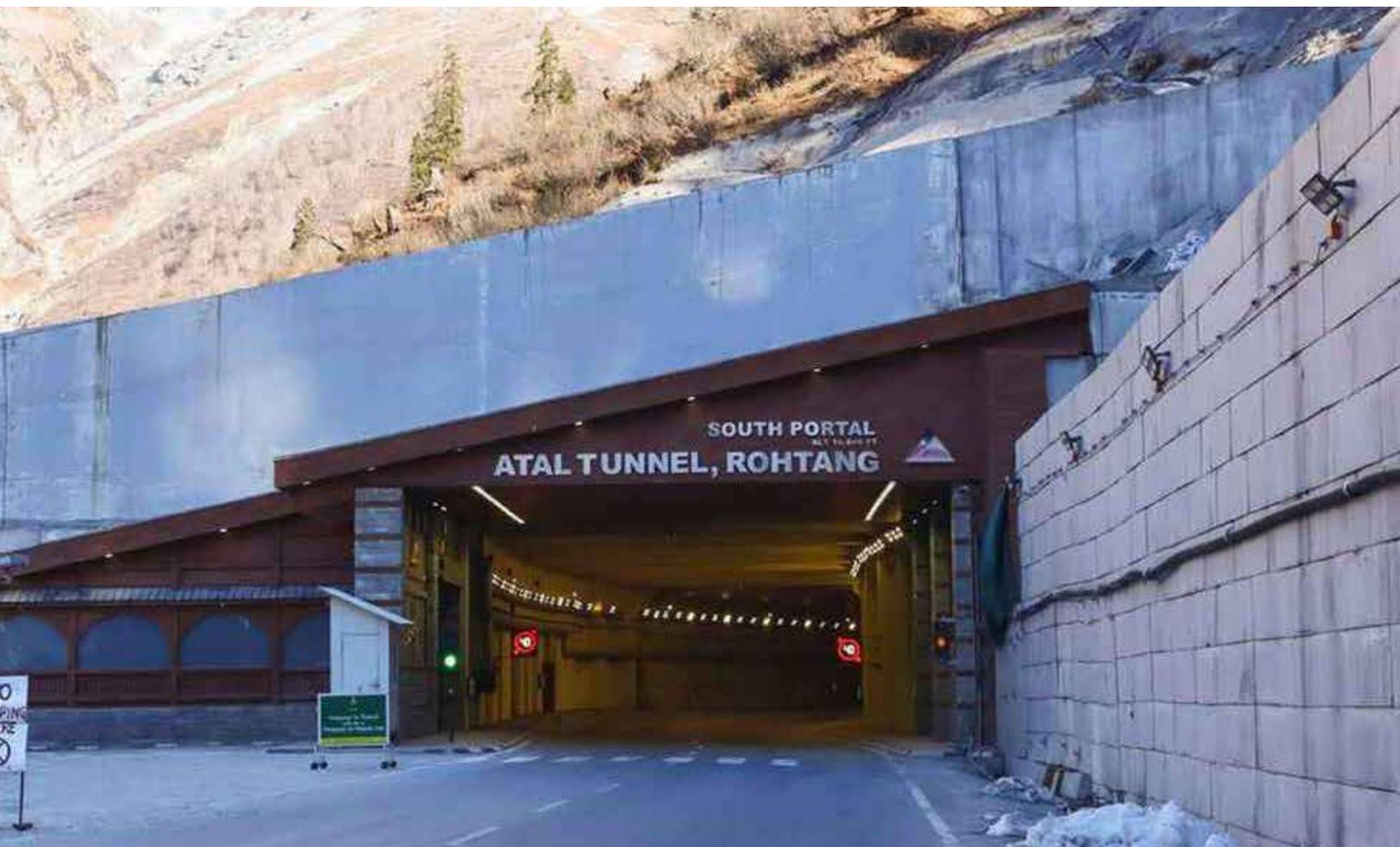
- #109: Districts as Export Hubs: A Micro-level Trade Strategy by Pankhuri Gaur
- #113: Strengthening India's Mineral Security: From Efforts to Action by Pankaj Vashisht

Popular Articles

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2025. Global trade, Trump and India's role. *The Indian Express*. February 18.
- De, Prabir. 2025. "Towards free trade through AITIGA", *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, 3 January.
- Kher, Rajeev and Gupta, Anshuman. 2025. Carbon tax's WTO test and opportunities for better India-EU trade terms. *Business Standard*, 27 March.
- Kher, Rajeev. and Gupta, Anshuman. 2025. Trump 2.0: Fate of climate policy amid shifting global priorities. *Business Standard*. 13 February.
- Vashisht, Pankaj. 2025. 'Securing supply of niche minerals crucial'. *The Hindu Businessline*. 23 January.

4

Connectivity, Corridors, Infrastructure and Finance



In today's evolving geo-political landscape, characterised by uncertainty and persistent supply chain disruptions, resilient and sustainable infrastructure has emerged as a strategic imperative for regional integration and sustainable development. With resilient infrastructure and improved connectivity resulting in reduction of trade costs, corridors have played a catalytic role in economic growth.

Contemporary global discourse on connectivity has expanded beyond traditional transport infrastructure to encompass digital, cultural, social,

and people-to-people linkages, making it a cornerstone of both economic diplomacy and development cooperation. Countries and regional blocs are increasingly investing in connectivity corridors and platforms that prioritise secure, efficient, and inclusive movement of goods, services, people, and data. Initiatives such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) reflect this reimagining of connectivity.

With dedicated research pillars on trade and connectivity, RIS has played a catalytic role in advancing discourse and convened multiple high-level multi-stakeholder dialogues and pushed numerous publications focusing on the same.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

In global policy circles, infrastructure is increasingly viewed as a vehicle for achieving trade integration, climate goals, digital inclusion, and regional equity. Recognising this imperative,

India has undertaken major efforts to enhance its connectivity infrastructure through initiatives such as the Gati Shakti, Bharatmala and Sagarmala that are aimed at increasing India's competitiveness in the logistics sector. India's infrastructure push in this context is about creating not only capacity but resilience and efficiency across sectors, with IMEC estimated to bring down logistics costs by up to 30 per cent and transportation time by 40 per cent by creating seamless trade linkages across continents. Enhancing port efficiency through technology innovation has been a priority for India with the introduction of Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047.

Connectivity and maritime transport are intrinsically linked, as maritime routes form the backbone of global trade and regional integration with over 90 per cent of trade being conducted through the sea routes. Efficient port infrastructure, coastal shipping, and transshipment hubs enhance multimodal connectivity, enabling seamless movement of goods across borders. RIS discussion paper



From left: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS; Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairman, RIS ; Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, DG, IIPA and Member Governing body, SIOS; Ambassador Sudhir Devare, Former Diplomat at IMEC conference held in New Delhi.

titled 'Assessing Performance and Productivity of Major Ports of India' analysed the operational efficiency of Indian ports and highlighted issues such as turnaround times, berth occupancy, and cargo handling capacities, proposing practical policy solutions to enhance port competitiveness, aligning with India's goal of becoming a global transshipment hub.

Despite nine Indian ports making it to the top 100 rankings as per the latest edition of Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence for 2023, Indian ports still suffered from structural deficiencies, in particular low productivity and inefficiency. In this regard, a popular article by RIS faculty in the *Hindu Businessline*, on "Navigating through India's Port Sector" threw light on India's ports industry.

Foregrounding human dimensions in its discussion paper "Seafarers' Well-Being and Mitigation of Challenges in the Ecosystem", RIS explored occupational hazards, mental health risks, and structural vulnerabilities in India's maritime workforce, proposing enhanced social

protection, training, and institutional reforms; are key to building sustainable infrastructure systems.

Underscoring its strategic role in enabling secure and resilient sea-based connectivity, ASEAN-India Center (AIC) at RIS published David Brewster's commentary, on "The Future of Regional Maritime Information and Intelligence Sharing in the Indian Ocean" exploring the evolving architecture of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the Indian Ocean. The piece emphasised the need for institutionalised, cross-national maritime information sharing to address transnational challenges. It highlights India's proactive role in fostering regional MDA mechanisms that enhance collective security and supply chain resilience.

With India's freight bill hovering around USD 100 billion, a figure that is second only to oil imports and with approximately 95 per cent of India's trade being conducted through maritime routes, such dependency on foreign-owned vessels requires urgent attention. Granting of infrastructure status to the shipbuilding industry



Distinguished speakers at the inaugural lecture of the Maritime Knowledge Series.

in India’s 2025-26 Union Budget and the INR 25,000 crore shipbuilding corpus are expected to boost the shipbuilding industry’s growth and provide impetus to ship ownership in India. Not only would indigenous ships help in reducing outflow of foreign exchange but also insulate against shocks, giving India a strong footing in the evolving geopolitical landscape. In this context, RIS, as part of the “CEO Speaks” series, hosted Mr. Krishnan Subramaniam, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, London, for a lecture, on “Rationalisation of Cargo Freight Charges – A Strategic Outlook for India” on 24 March 2025. The talk dissected the components of India’s freight bill and identified 41 cost categories that contribute to freight charges and identified actionable areas for regulatory rationalisation and AI-enabled freight optimisation.

Beyond strategic trade routes, RIS has also emphasised cultural and historical connectivity in its studies and deliberations. In an attempt to disseminate knowledge about India’s maritime legacy and with the broader purpose of increasing awareness among the general populace, the Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) at RIS in collaboration with India Habitat Centre, launched the Maritime Knowledge

Lecture Series on 14 January 2025. The inaugural lecture on “An Inspiring Heritage of Shipbuilding in India” by eminent speakers such as Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, former Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Cmde Ajay Agarwal (Retd.) from the Maritime History Society and Cmde Vineet Tiwari (Retd.), former Principal Director at the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy, trace footprints of India’s shipbuilding legacy from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation to INS Vikrant, underscoring how maritime innovation has long underpinned India’s global linkages and its position in early global commerce.

Following the overwhelming response and gathering of audiences (both in person and online), the second lecture in the series by Prof. Joy Sen, IIT Kharagpur on “History, Archaeology and the Future of Maritime Talent in India” was held on 18 February 2025, which highlighted the convergence of ancient navigational traditions with future needs in maritime spatial planning, capacity building, and sustainability, demonstrating how connectivity entails human capital, knowledge systems, and inclusive planning.



Mr Krishnan Subramaniam, International Vice Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS), London, with RIS Faculty members.

In addition to helping the economy grow vertically, infrastructure also enables horizontal growth among different classes of society. Harnessing technological revolutions to facilitate greater access, equity and inclusivity in India, development of digital public infrastructure (DPI) has played a vital role in people-centric development, with delivery of welfare schemes through direct benefit transfers. In this context, RIS discussion paper on “Equitable Development Transformation with Technology: Relevance of the Indian Experience for Global South” explores the potential role of technology infrastructure in equitable and inclusive development.

Economic Corridors

In recent years, economic corridors have evolved from mere transport arteries into strategic economic zones that underpin cross-border cooperation, integrate value chains, and foster regional stability. These corridors now extend beyond linear infrastructure to include energy pipelines, fibre-optic cables, fintech ecosystems, and frameworks for the movement of goods and people. As such, they serve as both enablers of trade and anchors of political trust in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.

IMEC, unveiled at the G20 Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, designed to connect India to Europe via the Middle East, integrates rail, road, maritime, digital, and energy linkages into a single, multimodal framework. Projections suggest that its completion could reduce logistics costs by up to 30 per cent and transport times by around 40 per cent, creating a faster, more resilient alternative to existing supply chain routes.

With the need for an alternative development paradigm, one that is deep rooted in the spirit of public-private partnership, IMEC has assumed greater significance, and RIS has been at the forefront of shaping policy thinking on the same. In August 2024, it co-hosted a high-level workshop in Bellagio, Italy, with the Bellagio Centre and Dalberg Consulting, bringing

together global experts to examine how IMEC can strengthen energy security, bridge infrastructure deficits, and promote sustainable investment flows. The findings, compiled in RIS report ‘India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor: Strategic Choices and Way Forward’, offered actionable recommendations on governance models, financing mechanisms, and institutional coordination.

Building on this momentum, RIS and the Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS) convened a major conference in New Delhi on 19 March 2025, positioning IMEC within the broader narrative of de-risking global supply chains. Discussions covered multimodal logistics, port modernisation, climate-smart energy partnerships, and digital trade facilitation through platforms such as MAITRI. Being a policy-oriented think tank, a Geographical Simulation Model (GSM) analysis of IMEC was presented by Mr Ikumo Isono from IDE-JETRO on 20 March 2025 at RIS projecting GDP gains by 2030 of 1.98 per cent for India, 2.76 per cent for the UAE, and 0.70 per cent for Saudi Arabia, underscoring IMEC’s tangible economic potential while supporting evidence-based decision-making.

By engaging with emerging corridor initiatives and anchoring regional dialogues, RIS has continued to play a crucial role in shaping the strategic contours of connectivity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. The ‘IMEC Conclave 2025, Enhancing Connectivity and Economic Growth Across Continents’, was also planned to be held in coming days by RIS in partnership with Council for International Economic Understanding and Dalberg Consulting to facilitated meaningful discussions and provide insights into the benefits of IMEC and its importance. Senior Cabinet Ministers Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Shri Mansukh Manadaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports would grace the occasion and share their valuable insights for implementation of the IMEC vision. IMEC is

hailed as a vision of prosperity, a vision that links India to the world, allowing the former to project its values, its enterprise, and its leadership in a multipolar world.

RIS hosted H.E. Ambassador Yannis Alexi Zepos, the former Ambassador of Greece to New Delhi, on 10 December, 2024. Owing to Greece's strategic positioning, Ambassador Zepos underscored Greece's crucial role in facilitating the IMEC framework as an entry point into the European region. Ambassador Zepos' portrayal of IMEC as a "peace project" resonated with RIS own framing of connectivity as a mechanism for cooperation amid geopolitical volatility.

Finance

The global financial order is undergoing recalibration as developing countries demand greater voice, accessible climate finance, and digital financial inclusion. RIS's contributions in the past year have addressed these themes across various platforms and policy levels, with issues of regional financial cooperation, fintech, financial inclusion and in the digital landscape having emerged as distinct pillars of research within the core pillars of trade.

RIS faculty represented as the co-chair of various T20 Task Forces, shaping critical recommendations presented to the G20 during the last three presidencies. Task force 3 (Reforming the international financial architecture) focuses on bridging SDG financing gaps, advancing climate-resilient investment mechanisms, and rethinking multilateral bank mandates. RIS brought special attention to the role of South-South cooperation, advocating for innovative finance anchored in contextual realities of developing economies. A T20 policy brief titled, "An Inclusive G20 Strategy to Scale 'Debt-for-Nature/Climate Swaps' for Effective Climate and Biodiversity Action in Developing Countries" authored by RIS faculty with collaborators from around the world was also accepted to be published under Brazil's G20 presidency.

Fintech is a rapidly growing segment of financial sector in India and other emerging markets. RIS work programme on fintech examines the wider adoption of fintech and its developmental implications. RIS faculty made a presentation on "Fintech and Cross-Border Payment Settlement" at the Eighth ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) Conference held in Singapore on 7-8 November 2024. RIS also made a significant intervention on India-UK trade in fintech and fintech-enabled services and how inclusive development addressing financial inclusion, digital empowerment and start-up ecosystem can be promoted and addressed. Presentations made by RIS identified sectors ripe for bilateral collaboration and regulatory harmonisation, while also cautioning against risks from fragmented fintech regulation.

Insolvency and bankruptcy systems also play a critical role in fostering economic resilience, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. Many countries in the Global South face challenges such as weak legal frameworks, limited access to credit, and high levels of informal economic activity. Not only lack of policies and regulatory mechanisms send negative market signals to potential investors, but also affects the level and quantum of trade that a nation can do. Effective insolvency and bankruptcy laws are essential to address these issues by providing a transparent and fair process for resolving financial distress. Many developing economies in the Global South are now coming up with their own policies and regulations in this regard, with India introducing its Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in 2016 to ensure transparency and provide an effective resolution mechanism. In this regard, RIS has released two discussion papers on the bearing of insolvency laws on international trade along with India's experience in insolvency laws and what the Global South can learn from it: India's Experience in Insolvency Laws: Learnings for the Global South; and Insolvency Laws and International Trade: A Perspective.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Interactive Session on Advancing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), 24 April 2024.
- Interactive Session on Geopolitics and Infrastructure Development, 10 May 2024.
- Interactive Session on Geopolitical Dimensions of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Insights from H.E. Ambassador Yannis Alexi Zepos, 10 December 2024.
- Conference on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): New Hopes and New Opportunities, 19 March 2025.
- Interactive Session on Geographical Simulation Model (GSM) and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), 20 March 2025.
- Inaugural Lecture of the Maritime Knowledge Series: An Inspiring Heritage of Shipbuilding in India, 14 January 2025.
- Maritime Lecture Series: History, Archaeology and the Future of Maritime Talent in India, 18 February 2025.
- CEO Speaks Series: Rationalisation of the Cargo Freight Charges – A Strategic Outlook for India, 24 March 2025.

Major Publications

Report

- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) : Strategic Choices and Way Forward, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.

Discussion Papers

- #300 Assessing Performance and Productivity of Major Ports of India by Prabir De and Arpit Barman
- #295 Seafarer's Well Being and Mitigation of Challenges in the Ecosystem by Chander Shekhar

AIC Commentary

- #52: The Future of Regional Maritime Information and Intelligence Sharing in the Indian Ocean by David Brewster

Popular Article

- De, Prabir. 2024. "Navigating through India's port sector", *The Hindu Businessline*, 30 November 2024

5

Bilateral and Regional Cooperation



In a rapidly evolving global landscape marked by interdependence, networked connectivity, and the rise of multipolarity, India's bilateral and regional cooperation has become a strategic necessity. Anchored in its "Act East" and "Neighbourhood First" policies, India has deepened engagement with Southeast Asia, the Bay of Bengal and the Mekong regions; and the wider Indo-Pacific. These partnerships span a wide range of areas, including sustainability,



Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, delivering keynote address at the 8th AINTT meeting, Singapore.

connectivity, cultural diplomacy, economic integration, and security frameworks.

Over the past year, RIS's efforts have been directed towards advancing regional dialogues, strengthening institutional mechanisms, and creating practical avenues for collaboration. Bilateral and multilateral engagements with ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation frameworks have played a pivotal role in shaping collective responses to emerging opportunities and challenges. At the same time, India's Northeast has gained importance as both a bridge to Southeast Asia and a focal point for development-led diplomacy. RIS approach to bilateral and regional cooperation through

key geographic lenses covers highlighting achievements and emerging trends, while also underscoring thematic priorities that will shape future partnerships.

Southeast Asia and India: Deepening Economic Integration

Southeast Asia remains central to India's Indo-Pacific engagements, with recent bilateral initiatives reflecting both strategic and cultural synergies across the region. The RBI - Bank Indonesia currency agreement is a milestone toward financial integration, complemented by



Panel discussion at Eighth AINTT.



Delegates at the Eighth AINTT meeting held at Singapore.

commitments to expand tourism through direct flights and greater people-to-people exchanges. With Malaysia, collaboration is growing in the area of food security, with a focus on joint research in climate-smart agriculture, agri-tech innovation, and food processing. The India-

Vietnam Global South Conference, held in March 2025, further reinforced this commitment, highlighting climate action and triangular cooperation as critical pathways for sustainable development.



Eminent Speakers at the Conference on BIMSTEC Synergies in Agricultural Trade: Promoting Regional Growth.

At the regional level, the 8th ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), convened in Singapore on 7-8 November 2024 reaffirmed ASEAN centrality and outlined pathways for deeper cooperation in connectivity, education, emerging technologies, and climate resilience, underlining the enduring importance of shared civilisational values and diplomacy in shaping ASEAN-India partnership. Parallel to this, Fintech cooperation with ASEAN partners, focusing on interoperable payment systems and financial inclusion, was also highlighted. Additionally, the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave (IPEC) showcased technology as a trade enabler, promoting standard harmonisation and efficient value chain integration.

Strengthening connectivity in all its dimensions remained central to RIS regional agenda. Consultations on the Trilateral Highway and Maritime Corridors addressed infrastructure

linkages between India, Southeast Asia, and beyond. Regional connectivity dialogues with ASEAN, under Malaysia's leadership, examine digital connectivity and institutional frameworks to facilitate smoother cross-border movement. The concept of Low-Investment Connectivity Models, which promotes AI-based solutions and telemedicine services to enhance accessibility in remote and border areas, was promoted.

Besides ASEAN, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) provides a natural bridge between India and Southeast Asia, facilitated by shared heritage and strategic geography. Work on integrating MGC into broader connectivity frameworks, particularly through the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, with proposed extensions to Cambodia, Laos PNR, and Vietnam, is being supported through dialogues and outreach programmes. The Bay of Bengal subregion is emerging as a vital growth pole



Dr Bibek Debroy with RIS faculty.

Table 1: Themes Highlighted in Bilateral and Regional Frameworks, Respective Aligned National Strategies and Policies and Key Focus Points

Sl. No.	Thematic Area	Aligned National Policies & Strategies	Key Focus Points by RIS
1	Advancing Green Transitions and Sustainability through Bilateral and Regional Cooperation	National Hydrogen Mission, National Bio-Energy Mission	Green energy diplomacy, climate-smart agriculture, circular economy, bio-economy, agri-tech cooperation
2	Inclusive, Tech-driven, and Future-Ready Value Chains through Bilateral and Regional Frameworks	PM Gati Shakti, Make in India, Start-up India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, ASEAN-India FTA	Sustainable industrial value chains, agri-business linkages, trade facilitation, RVC 4.0, MSME and youth inclusion
3	Strengthening Physical and Digital Connectivity through Bilateral and Regional Frameworks	Act East Policy , Sagarmala, Bharatmala , Digital India , PM Gati Shakti	Trilateral highways, port-led development, DPI interoperability, logistics networks, border connectivity
4	Promoting Cultural Diplomacy and Civilisational Links in Bilateral and Regional Partnerships	Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy , Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav , Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat	Shared epics and scripts, civilisational heritage, Northeast - Southeast Asia cultural bridge, people-to-people ties
5	Enhancing Security and Strategic Cooperation in Bilateral and Regional Frameworks	Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) , SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) , Maritime India Vision 2030	Maritime security, UDA framework, IUU fishing, strategic autonomy, regional order resilience
6	Enhancing Institutional Mechanisms and Thought Leadership	India @ 2047, Act East / AINTT / BIMSTEC Charter	Multilateralism, knowledge diplomacy, policy convergence, trilateral formats, thought leadership and convening role

Source: Compiled from various sources.



Participants at Second Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave (IPEC).

for the Indo-Pacific, with bilateral and regional initiatives driving connectivity, sustainability, and economic integration. With Myanmar, cooperation is advancing in rare earths, MSMEs, digital agriculture, dairy technology, and education, anchored by the Trilateral Highway as a backbone for growth. Energy collaboration has also gained traction, with proposals to develop Myanmar's Sittwe Port as a hub for green energy, including clean maritime infrastructure and green hydrogen production, thereby bolstering energy security in Northeast India.

The visit of a Bangladesh journalist delegation facilitated informed media discourse and

expanded public understanding of bilateral relations. During the SAARC Secretary General's visit, RIS proposed cross-border digital payment system to stimulate medical and general tourism from Northeast India and North Bengal. India's engagement with Nepal has expanded through diplomatic training programmes that introduced Nepalese diplomats to India's digital public infrastructure as a model for rural transformation. Engagements with the South Asian University deepened academic diplomacy and scholarly exchange.

At the regional level, BIMSTEC has become a platform for promoting climate-smart agriculture,

Box 1: Tangible Outcomes of Bilateral and Regional Cooperation

Informed policy frameworks through rigorous, data-driven research, evidence-based recommendations, and well-crafted policy briefs

Capacity development among regional diplomats, officials, researchers, and youth leaders, enabling them to engage more effectively in global and regional dialogues

Enhanced cross-border institutional linkages, fostering greater academic, developmental, and policy-level cooperation across diverse regions; and

India's soft power and strategic presence in key subregions, reinforcing the country's image as a partner committed to shared growth and mutual respect.

regional value chains, and digital tools, such as e-certification and interoperable payment systems. Meanwhile, Thailand's Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economy framework has been highlighted as a model for sustainability. The India-Japan collaboration in the Bay of Bengal has further advanced a trilateral vision, linking Japanese investments, India's connectivity goals, and Bangladesh's strategic location, thereby strengthening industrial value chains and facilitating trade. These initiatives underscore the immediate neighbourhood's role as a strategic frontier and a regional connector, blending connectivity, economic inclusion, and cultural diplomacy across the Bay of Bengal.



(From Left) Ambassador Mr Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General, SAARC; and Ambassador S.T. Devare, Chairman, RAC, RIS.

Sustainability and Security of the Oceans and Initiatives for Indo-Pacific

As far as the oceans are concerned, sustainability remains a guiding principle with a particular

emphasis on ocean governance and the blue economy. In 2024-2025, the Blue Economy Seminars, co-hosted by the United Nations



Policy Dialogue on 75 Years of India-Indonesia Diplomatic Relationship.



Dr Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India at RIS.

Environment Programme and the United States, provided an opportunity to foster dialogue on marine resource management and climate-resilient development. The evolving security landscape of the oceans demanded deeper collaboration. RIS engaged in maritime security dialogues with Indonesia and South Africa, focused on maritime domain awareness and cooperative surveillance. In partnership with the Korea Institute for International Policy Studies (KIIPS), a panel on the Quad and Indo-US relations explored convergences in the Indo-Pacific strategic architecture. Simultaneously, the Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series amplified ocean research and sustainable maritime practices, bringing together experts to discuss innovative policy options for coastal resilience and highlighting India's vision for SAGAR. Expert commentaries on Underwater Domain Awareness shed light on combating illegal fishing and addressing the ecological implications of maritime threats. The DAKSHIN Global South Centre emerged as a hub for research and policy advocacy, supporting Southern perspectives in global governance.

Focusing on Cultural Cooperation and Heritage Diplomacy

Cultural engagement serves as both a bridge and a catalyst for policy collaboration. Through the cultural cooperation dialogues with countries at the bilateral level and regional frameworks, cultural understanding has been enhanced. Youth Outreach in Nepal encouraged student-led initiatives on heritage conservation and regional cooperation. Policy-oriented research was advanced through briefs on cultural diplomacy, underscoring its role in foreign policy. Heritage diplomacy has been equally important. During a discussion with a prominent leader from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, as part of the CEO Speaks Series, RIS aimed to promote the preservation of maritime heritage and the integration of Northeast India's historical connections with the Mekong region. These efforts align cultural narratives with strategic infrastructure development. In November 2024, the India-Indonesia Policy Dialogue, held to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, celebrated shared cultural

narratives from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* alongside maritime heritage, while advancing cooperation in defence, maritime security, and economic connectivity as well.

Outcomes and Impact

Through these initiatives, RIS has significantly promoted India's position as a responsible and forward-looking connector in the Indo-Pacific and the Global South. The institution's sustained efforts have contributed to build informed policy frameworks, capacity development, enhance cross-border institutional linkages and strengthen India's cultural and strategic presence. Looking ahead, RIS will continue to deepen its geographic focus on Indo-Pacific, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), while also broadening the thematic spectrum of its

engagements. Priority areas such as sustainability and climate action, digital transformation and emerging technologies, physical and people-to-people connectivity, cultural diplomacy, and regional security will remain at the core of its agenda. At the same time, RIS seeks to amplify its role by promoting low-investment, high-impact digital and health-tech solutions, especially those that directly benefit communities at the grassroots level. It will also place greater emphasis on nurturing trilateral and minilateral collaborations that bring together like-minded partners to address shared challenges and unlock new opportunities. In doing so, RIS aspires to contribute to the shaping of a resilient, inclusive, and interconnected regional order, rooted in mutual trust, shared prosperity, and sustainable development.



Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies with RIS faculty.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Interactive Session on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in SAARC Region, 13 May 2024.
- Regional Conference BIMSTEC Synergies in Agriculture Trade: Promoting Regional Growth 25 June 2024.
- Panel Discussion on Quad and Indo-US Relations: Implications for the Indo-Pacific Region 10 April 2024.
- Interactive Session on Strengthening Higher Education in SAARC Region, 7 June 2024.
- Bangladesh Media Delegation Visited RIS, 7 May 2024.
- Lecture on International River Basins and International Cooperation, 15 April 2024.
- Policy Dialogue on India-Indonesia Diplomatic Relationship, 27 August 2024.
- Second Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave (IPEC), 26-27 September 2024, Kolkata
- CEO Speaks Series: Navigating the Blue Economy: From Ocean Science to Sustainable Futures, 11 July 2024.
- CEO Speaks Series: India's Cultural Connect, 12 September 2024.
- Interactive Session on Future Collaboration between Nepal and India 28 September 2024.
- Talk on India-New Zealand Relations: Trade Potential and Prospects, 7 August 2024
- India- ASEAN Should Embrace Re-globalisation: Dr Jaishankar: 8th Round of AINTT at Singapore, 7-8 November 2024
- Professor Anil Sooklal at RIS: India-South Africa Partnership, 18 December 2024.
- RIS-IDE-Indian Embassy Symposium on India-Japan Economic Relations, 20 November 2024 at Tokyo.
- Special Course for Nepalese Delegates on Global South and Development Cooperation, 21-29 November 2024.
- Maritime Lecture Series: Security and Growth for All (SAGAR) and the Developmental Partnerships, 10 March 2025.
- Seminar on Prospects of Blue Economy in India and Potential Avenues for Collaboration with the United States, 14 February 2025.
- International Conference on India-Vietnam Working for Global South , 19 March 2025.
- Interactive Session on Malaysia's Vision and Priorities as the Current Chair of ASEAN, 9 January 2025.
- Interactive Session on India-Myanmar Economic Relations, 25 February 2025.
- Special Course for Diplomats from Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, on 18 February 2025.

Major Publications

Reports

- International Conference on Bay of Bengal and India-Japan Economic Relations (Outcome Document), RIS, New Delhi, 2024
- India-Indonesia Partnership: A Renewed Understanding, New Opportunities and Critical Steps Ahead, RIS, New Delhi, 2024
- BIMSTEC Synergies in Agricultural Trade: Promoting Regional Growth (Outcome Document) RIS, New Delhi, 2024
- Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for ASEAN-India Cooperation, RIS-AIC, New Delhi, 2025.

RIS Policy Briefs

- #116: Myanmar-India Partnership for Clean and Green Energy by Sujeet Samaddar
- #114: Culture for Regional Cohesion and Global Engagement: The Case of ASEAN by Sampa Kundu

AIC Commentaries

- No. 49: Unraveling the India-ASEAN Cooperation Paradigm for Non Traditional Maritime Security Threats by Joeffe B. Santarita
- No. 50: Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Lessons from India and ASEAN Initiatives by Dr Kalpana Sastry
- No. 51: ASEAN-India Cooperation - A New Perspective Based on the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) Framework by Dr Arnab Das
- No. 53: Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for the ASEAN-India Partnership by Dr. S. Jaishankar
- No. 55: Unlocking the Potential of ASEAN-India Regional Value Chain (RVC) 4.0 by Dr Witada Anukoonwattaka
- No. 54: Towards a Resilient Partnership: ASEAN and India in a Transforming Global Landscape by Dr Kao Kim Hourn

AIC Working Papers

- No. 12: Building Up a Resilient Food Security Ecosystems: Potential Collaboration between Malaysia - India by Fatimah Mohamed Arshad
- No. 13 : Unraveling Myanmar's Security Landscape: Understanding its Implications and Distinctive Features, Sampa Kundu
- No. 14: 75 Years of India-Indonesia Relationship: A Historical Perspective by Amb Gurjit Singh

Popular Article

De, Prabir. 2024 "The coming 21st ASEAN-India summit and way forward", *The Economic Times*, 8 October 2024



6

Science Policy and Technology Governance



In today's interconnected and rapidly transforming world, as we grapple with complex global challenges ranging from climate change and public health crises to digital inequality and geopolitical tensions, the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) has become increasingly central to development and governance. Beyond development, science and technology are critical instruments of geo-political strategy, national security, and global influence. The rise of techno-nationalism, weaponisation of supply chains, and intensifying competition over frontier technologies are shaping global governance architecture and its dynamics. The Fourth Industrial Revolution has accelerated the proliferation of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI),

quantum computing, biotechnologies, etc. At the same time, the world faces transboundary challenges like climate change, global health threats, food security, biodiversity loss, digital inequality, etc. that demand scientific cooperation. It is in this complex landscape that the governance of science, technology, and innovation (STI) is evolving. Thus, the formulation of responsive and responsible science policy, along with robust technology governance frameworks, is essential to ensure equitable access, sustainable growth and international collaboration.

India's expanding scientific capacity and development-oriented policy focus, is uniquely placed to help bridge divides between the technologically advanced and lagging economies, between strategic competition and multilateral collaboration. It is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping global STI discourse. RIS has contributed significantly in advancing policy research on science&technology innovation and science diplomacy with a future-focused and development-oriented perspective, especially for the Global South.

STI Policy and Public Outreach

Over the past year, RIS's work in STI policy and governance has been marked by wide-ranging engagements which brought together policymakers, researchers, students, and

diplomats. From capacity building to theoretical explorations in science diplomacy and from policy advice on commercial space policy, dialogue on bio-similars to outreach on 5G connectivity, RIS has reinforced its commitment to shaping policy frameworks that are inclusive, accessible, and future-ready.

RIS is deeply committed to strengthening the intersections between science, technology, innovation and governance. This year witnessed the expansion of RIS's contributions to critical debates on STI governance, especially as they pertain to frontier technologies and innovations. Notably, the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture exemplified RIS's ongoing efforts to promote public outreach and informed scientific discourse. With over fifty lectures, STIP Forum continued to build scientific temper by organizing discussions on cutting-edge technologies as well as its access and equity. In April 2024, Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST offered insights into leveraging STI for inclusive development. His lecture *Connecting the Unconnected in 5G and Beyond*, highlighted India's contributions to rural telecom innovation such as the Low Mobility Large Cell (LMLC) and the 5G standard underlining how policy engagement with global forums like the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) can produce breakthroughs with far-reaching developmental impact.



Professor Abhay Karandikar at RIS

Capacity Building and Engaging Young Minds: Investing in the Future

RIS recognises that investing in the next generation of STI thinkers and practitioners is essential for shaping inclusive and sustainable innovation ecosystems. Several initiatives during the year served as a forum for capacity building among youth and early-career professionals. These include interactive sessions with undergraduate students from Shiv Nadar University. Focused on theorising science diplomacy, the dialogue engaged bright young minds to dive into diplomatic narratives. RIS faculty and expert panelists underlined the need for a more theory-driven understanding of science in foreign affairs.

Similarly, RIS hosted students from the Central University of Kerala, fostering conversations around international relations and India's position in the Global South. The session delved into RIS international cooperation agenda and its longstanding emphasis on connecting S&T with issues like economic diplomacy, development finance, and trade policy. Students interacted with RIS scholars on topics such as nuclear cooperation, AI in military systems, and India's G20 engagements, bridging academic inquiry with strategic foresight.

These engagements illustrate RIS's approach to capacity building. During the year, RIS also focused on capacity building of its faculty. RIS faculty attended the Geneva Science Diplomacy Week organised by UNITAR and Geneva Science Diplomacy Anticipator and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the World Academy of Sciences courses on Science Diplomacy held in Geneva, Switzerland and Trieste, Italy respectively. RIS faculty also represented RIS at Track 1.5 Dialogues, BRICS, and international projects like PRODIGEES and PREPARED.

Science Diplomacy

Science diplomacy continues to feature as a cornerstone in RIS's broader strategic vision. RIS hosts the DST Satellite Centre on STI Diplomacy. From shaping international conversations to conceptualising frameworks that focus on India's and Global South's perspective and their role in equitable global collaboration, RIS has actively worked in this domain. A Level 1 Course on Science Diplomacy has been developed by RIS for the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India, under the PM Karmyogi Mission. The course has been uploaded on the iGOT portal. To further capacity building in science diplomacy,



RIS representatives handed over the report "Expanding India's Commercial Space Sector Footprint Internationally" to the officials of IN-SPACe.

Director General, RIS delivered the Keynote Address on 'Global Leadership through Science Diplomacy' during the LEADS Programme organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) in July 2024.

The year's activities extended from theoretical explorations with students to discussions and contributions by academics, researchers and practitioners together with publication of an open access journal, *Science Diplomacy Review*. The fortnightly updates on science policy and diplomacy were published and shared with more than 8,000 stakeholders.

During the year, RIS newly launched the CEO Speaks series focused on researchers and practitioners in science technology and innovation policy, diplomacy and governance. Interactions with Professor Suma Athreye (IIT Delhi) and Dr Rudra Chaudhuri (Carnegie India), provided unique perspectives on how diplomacy, industry, and academia can converge to address global technology challenges. It delved into the geo-political dimensions of technology and showcased the interplay between data governance, digital public infrastructure, and global ownership of scientific commons. These dialogues underlined the growing field of technology policy and diplomacy in which RIS seeks to further research especially through collaborative frameworks that prioritises South-South engagement.

Policy Research in Emerging Areas: Biotechnology, AI, and Space Governance and International Collaborations

RIS research on biotechnology and bio-economy reflects both emerging global developments and national policy priorities. The programme has examined measurement frameworks for the bioeconomy, regulatory approaches to biosimilars, and governance of synthetic biology,

genome editing, and digital sequence information. These studies are closely linked to biodiversity frameworks and their implications for sustainable and innovation led growth. Engagements in this field aim to align technological advancement with ethical responsibility and equitable access. RIS conducted policy dialogues assessing biosimilar regulation frameworks. In this context, National Consultation on Biosimilars was held in October 2024. The discussions focused on Synthetic Biology, Digital Sequence Information, Bioeconomy, Gene Drives and Genome Editing, biodiversity, and CBD/CPB. RIS continues to provide academic and policy leadership across a range of emerging and frontier technologies. In this direction, RIS journal, *Asian Biotechnology Development Review*, contributors regularly, covering themes of contemporary relevance. These initiatives sought to elevate conversations on bioethics, regulatory harmonisation, and Global South leadership in biomedical innovation.

RIS work on Artificial Intelligence centres on the governance of emerging technologies, ethical frameworks, responsible deployment, and the socio-economic dimensions of AI adoption, including its impact on employment. The institution has been actively engaged in national and international discourse, contributing perspectives on AI regulation, ethics, and opportunities for collaborative AI. This engagement has not only been reflected in RIS's presence in high-level thematic discussions, but also in the recognition of its policy research. The Director General, RIS chaired a session on 'Collaborative AI Global Partnership' during the 2024 Global India AI Mid-Year Summit organised by MeitY, Government of India, in July 2024 in New Delhi. He also chaired a session on "Policy and regulatory measures for ensuring responsible AI growth" during the AI and Knowledge Management: Academia-industry Summit organised by the India International Centre in August 2024. RIS faculty member spoke on AI governance and ethics in a session on 'New Technologies Ethics' during the BRICS Civil

Forum held in July 2024 in Moscow, Russia. The Economic Survey 2023 24 drew upon RIS policy brief on AI and employment, highlighting its relevance to India's policy mainstream.

Commentary and analyses by RIS faculty on AI governance and responsible innovation have featured in national opinion platforms, reinforcing the institute's role in shaping both expert and public debate. Additionally, in the area of AI governance, RIS involvement at workshops and publications and projects explored the nuanced dimensions of ethics and access. RIS faculty's publication on AI Ethics for the Global South reflected awareness that technological governance must be locally contextualised while globally coordinated. RIS highlighted differential capacities in institutional oversight and the importance of centering human rights frameworks in AI policy tools. With the India AI Impact Summit scheduled to be held during 19-20 February 2026, RIS seeks to continue its work in AI and contribute towards greater public outreach and stakeholder engagement.

One of the most significant policy outputs during the year was the finalisation and submission of the report titled Expanding India's Commercial Space Sector Footprint Internationally. Commissioned by IN-SPACE, the study provided an in-depth analysis of market opportunities and policy strategies for India's ambitions to scale its space economy globally. This effort reinforced RIS commitment towards techno-economic diplomacy and marked a pioneering contribution to India's space economy policy.

RIS also deepened its engagement in international collaborative research on STI governance. Under the EU-funded PRODIGEES project, RIS has been contributing to research on digitalisation and sustainable development. As part of the PREPARED project under Horizon Europe, RIS has been engaged in developing ethical frameworks for research, with active participation in international research forums.

Access, Equity and Inclusion

Fundamental to RIS mission is the commitment to ensure that science, in all its forms, serves the public good. Whether interpreting India's G20 presidency through a development lens or socially-relevant and sustained innovation, as discussed earlier, RIS advocates for governance frameworks built on the foundations of access, equity, and ethics.

Further, RIS contribution in the Access, Equity and Inclusion framework has been the key to its work programme on science technology and innovation policy. Building on it, RIS focused on responsible innovation and frontier technologies. RIS faculty has contributed further to this discourse through publication such as Responsible AI Growth with Safety and participation in the National Bioethics Conference. RIS contributed to the discussions on AI in Healthcare, emphasising the need for inclusive and anticipatory governance frameworks that are ethically sound and practically implementable, particularly in emerging economies. Emphasis on issues of bias mitigation, data privacy, and the emergent social contract between AI systems and public health obligations is also integral.

Empirical and theoretical work at RIS on Scientific Social Responsibility, knowledge access, and open science governance reiterate this. Through platforms like the STIP Forum lecture series, peer-reviewed journals, and engagements, RIS persistently brings questions of inclusion into mainstream policy discourse.

Reinventing Policy for a New Technological Era

The activities carried out by RIS over the past year signals a deepened engagement with the dynamics of science, policy, diplomacy and governance. From capacity building, theoretical contribution to expanding India's footprint in commercial space policy, RIS continues to shape a unique policy research agenda that is both locally

grounded and globally relevant. In partnership with governments, academia, civil society, and industry, RIS remains committed to a vision of STI governance that is anticipatory, inclusive, and transformative. In doing so, it not only affirms India's leadership in setting global development agendas, but also holds space for the aspirations and priorities of the Global South.

In the future, RIS will continue to work on science and technology as enablers of inclusion and sustainability. RIS can play a pivotal role in

shaping inclusive and future-ready science policy and technology governance by fostering South-South cooperation, enabling evidence-based dialogue, and promoting ethical frameworks. At the intersection of research, diplomacy, and development, RIS will continue to serve India's strategic vision and contribute through its research to policy frameworks in balancing innovation with responsibility in an increasingly complex global order.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- 52nd STIP Forum Public Lecture: Connecting the Unconnected in 5G & Beyond, 9 April 2024.
- Interactive Session on Theorising Science Diplomacy, 23 April 2024.
- CEO Speaks: Advancing Technology and Innovation Policy, 17 May 2024.
- Interactive Session on Exploring International Relations and Technology, 9 May 2024.
- Interactive Session on Expanding India's Global Commercial Space Footprint to IN-SPACE, 20 November 2024.
- Workshop on Cyber Security in Digital Public Infrastructure, 5 December 2024.
- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Learning Together Towards Responsible AI, 28-29 January 2025.
- Roundtable on Biosimilars Regulation, 24 October 2024.

Major Publications

Journals

- Science Diplomacy Review, Vol. 6 No. 2
- Asian Biotechnology Review Vol. 29 No. 1, March 2024
- Asian Biotechnology Development Review, (July and October 2024)

RIS Policy Brief

- #112: Scientific Social Responsibility: Revisiting Policy Options for Global South by Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Journal Article

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. and Kumar, Amit 2025. "Responsible AI Growth with Safety: Exploring Global and National Policy Discourse". *Journal of Information and Knowledge*. 61(5), pp. 231-237.

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Traditional Medicine and Wellbeing



India's Traditional Medicine sector, also known as the Ayush sector, has evolved from being viewed primarily as a cultural lineage and a traditional resource of healing and wellness to being acknowledged as a progressive driver of national development. The contributions of this sector traverse across public health, economic development and global diplomacy. Through its doctrine of preventive and holistic care, it speaks directly to the public health priorities of our health system. It has witnessed an unprecedented expansion in its export of medicinal plants

and herbal formulations, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals; a bolstering of its service delivery chains; has redefined the wellness tourism segment in the nation, thereby contributing to rural livelihood, skilled employment avenues, diversification of trade and augmenting the GDP. Ayush has become an important instrument of the nation's soft power, creating an integral space for itself in global discussions on sustainable health systems and cultural diplomacy and enhancing the stature of India in South-South Cooperation.

In this larger backdrop, the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) at RIS focuses on the trade, industry, and policy dimensions of Ayush systems, contributes to a strong knowledge ecosystem within Ayush, influencing evolving health and wellness standards, and supporting India's push towards becoming a global leader in Traditional Medicine and its developmental path in India's healthcare system.

Knowledge Building

The Ayush sector's contribution to the knowledge economy of India has been an important one by ingraining the holistic concepts of wellness into the public health narratives of the nation. It has also displayed an adaptability towards emerging global standards and modern evidence-based frameworks, thereby laying the foundations of global collaborations, research-driven innovations and health security.

Ideas, data and evidence are important instruments towards shaping up the policy and market in Ayush. FITM's focus on committing to support meaningful knowledge creation that would aid policy engagement, academic discourses and strategic dissemination within the sector, by drawing upon intellectual academic contributions and analysis with respect to existing and emergent frameworks and global narratives around Ayush systems, continued through the two volumes of its flagship scientific publication -Traditional Medicine Review (TMR).

A spectrum of critical thematic areas were covered under the contents published in the two volumes, namely:

- Strengthening the discussions on embedding traditional healing modalities within contemporary wellness frameworks
- Touching upon critical issues of safety standards as well as determinants of viability for exports, of medicinal plants, such as preservation of bioactive integrity.
- Governance-related determinants (Policy & procurement) of market pricing volatility of herbal drugs, as estimated through an econometric study on Ashwagandha.
- Showcasing discussions on strategic market adaptation of Ayush formulations- via a re-positioning as 'superfoods' or preventive wellness tools.
- Insights into multi-disciplinary orientation by showcasing perspectives on the linkages between spiritual traditions and integrative science and systems biology.

Recognising the pertinent need of a narrative medium that acknowledges and showcases the role and impact of science, policy, trade and innovation in shaping up the national and global discourses on healing and wellness, FITM launched a monthly newsletter *Ayush Vaibhav* in November 2024. This publication intends to be a time-sensitive and dynamic medium of communication that spans across and connects multiple sub-sectors and consolidates and amplifies the voice of the Ayush sector. It aims to highlight international engagements, innovative breakthroughs, promote comparative learnings and sector-wide awareness and help in transforming information into insights.

Ayush Vaibhav is being seen as an important medium of outreach that tracks Ayush diplomacy, stakeholder engagement, technological innovations and public and private perspectives and narratives. It targets a diverse audience-including policymakers, domestic



Launching of Ayush Vaibhav.

regulators, academic and research scholars, and industry leaders. Five issues of the newsletter were published (November 2024–March 2025) which through its multiple ensemble of sections, showcased a multitude of topics, including but not limited to:

- Institutional and infrastructure strengthening within Ayush
- Ayush international diplomacy and trade
- Medicinal plant conservation and sustainability
- The widening scope of the regulatory framework and financial inclusivity for Ayush
- Focused agendas for policy
- Export analytics and market trends

Collectively, the two publications strive to broker knowledge towards Ayush thought leadership and real-time dissemination of policy and industry advancements and innovations, thereby amplifying its global engagement, while showcasing its robust contributions to the wellness economy and public health of India.

In addition to the above, a Pan-India Ayush Service Sector Study being carried out by FITM, undertakes a structured mapping of establishments across Ayurveda, Yoga &

Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy and wellness facilities. The study focuses on capturing the number, size and geographic distribution; revenue patterns and employment; the domestic–foreign client mix; and the therapy portfolios most commonly offered by varied categories of establishments in the Ayush Service Sector. The work is intended to inform MSME support, accreditation and quality pathways, wellness-tourism strategy and the evidence required for insurance inclusion of Ayush services by combining these operational descriptors with a standardised facility profile.

Forwarding India's Traditional Medicine Diplomacy

Ayush has emerged as an important element of India's soft power in forging health partnerships across the globe. The fact that the philosophy and practices of India's traditional medical systems finds a resonance in several nations of the Global South creates pathways for expanding regional and bilateral cooperation with these nations. Pharmacopeial exchanges as well as the growing segment of wellness tourism are testimony to the above. With an increasing presence of Ayush within bilateral MoUs and initiatives by the WHO at a global level, India is well-poised to

create a critical impact and even lead the way for global wellness. FITM's initiatives add the strategic value to India's Traditional Medicine diplomacy by linking Ayush to trade, industry and sustainable development.

FITM along with other constituent units of RIS, namely, Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative (DAKSHIN) and the ASEAN India Centre (AIC), hosted a roundtable on 'India-Indonesia Cooperation on Ayush and Jamu: Relevance of Sustainable Bioresource Management' at New Delhi on 23 January 2025. This was organised in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the University of Padjajaran and the University of Udayana, Bali.

This programme held on 23 January 2025, provided a forum for exchanging experiences and identifying opportunities in the fields of Indonesian indigenous healing (Jamu) and Indian Traditional Medicine (Ayush). It featured officials, industry stakeholders, and scholars from both countries. It explored a wide arena of domains such as integrative service models, wellness tourism and herbal resource management. It additionally tackled asymmetries in regulatory frameworks, focusing on the need for MoUs on pharmacopoeia recognition and for having access to streamlined markets. It also explored the potential for research collaborations with Indonesian institutes showing interest in Indian GACP protocols and the frameworks for supply-chain traceability.

FITM organised a high-level discussion with the Distinguished Ayush Scientist Chairs, the Secretary and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, and the Executive Director of the South Center (Geneva) in order to strengthen India's traditional medicine diplomacy and put research findings into practice.

In addition, through its presentation on Governance in Ayurveda from a Health Systems' perspective, FITM engaged with a vast network of national and international Ayurvedic

stakeholders on the World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) platform, in December 2024.

Apart from the above, FITM's study on Traditional Medicine in Africa, which is a multi-country policy and market landscaping exercise, focuses on important markets, regulatory frameworks, and opportunities for collaboration in Traditional Medicine between India and Africa. The study is anticipated to contribute to the increase of Ayush's presence in the African continent, by pinpointing trade/innovation avenues, pharmacopeial referencing opportunities, and priority regulatory alignments.

Policy and Multi-stakeholder Engagement

The centrality of Ayush within the preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare delivery vision of the Indian healthcare system is being increasingly acknowledged by all stakeholders. While at a policy level, the possibilities of broadening the scope of its engagement with respect to Universal Health Coverage and insurance coverage continue to be deliberated upon at the centre, state-level strategies at embedding Ayush within public health service delivery and institutional frameworks showcase policy innovations. FITM's work is a value addition towards this aspect of the Ministry's focus, by aiding the creation of evidence-based recommendations and strategic insights.

The Ministry of Ayush's initiative to formally include Ayurveda into the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was provided pivotal support by FITM. The Forum led a thorough costing process to establish unit prices for a large catalog of Ayurvedic procedures in close coordination with the Ministry's Strategic Purchasing Committee. The centrally sponsored health assurance program, which aims to assist more than 120 million economically disadvantaged Indians, was to incorporate these standardised rates.



Distinguished Panelists at the Roundtable on India-Indonesia Cooperation on Ayush and Jamu.

The development of package rates that seek to institutionalise the provision of Ayurvedic care within the framework of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was aided by this evidence-based approach. Additionally, FITM contributed informed inputs to stakeholder consultations, towards enhancing the final recommendations' acceptability and credibility.

Given FITM's position as a credible policy advisory, its critical participation and strategic inputs were solicited by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) towards a one-day national symposium in New Delhi for WHO Research Priority Setting for Traditional Medicine across regions of the world, in June 2024. FITM members contributed to the development of key narratives of the intellectual discussions in order to curate actionable objectives for TM research focused on strategic domains.

FITM's Policy Brief on 'Traditional Medicine in South Africa : Prospects for Ayush' provided the evidence base and workable plan for an Ayush presence on the continent that is led by standards. The brief reduces market-entry risk and directs offerings to satisfy consumer-protection and quality standards by outlining demand and the regulations – SAHPRA's

product requirements and AHPCSA's practice oversight. It helps in actionable insights towards coordinating standards, ensuring that MAPs supply chains are traceable and compliant, and collaborating on training and research. In order to strengthen India's traditional medicine diplomacy while protecting public health and boosting credible, higher-value Ayush trade, the brief prioritises actions that can scale, such as diaspora outreach, responsible wellness-tourism linkages, and regulatory-science exchanges. It positions South Africa as a template market.

Ayush is a dynamic contributor to India's developmental trajectory through its modus of economy and employment generation, diversification of global trade and strengthening global partnerships. In the backdrop of India's larger development cooperation and development economy frameworks, FITM strives to position Traditional Medicine as a strategic asset therein. Through its efforts aimed at connecting knowledge, policy and practice, FITM advances the cause of Traditional Medicine in diplomatic outreach, sustainable trade and health governance, and India's own stature as a knowledge economy that nurtures holistic well-being, nationally and globally.

Major Programmes Organised by RIS

- Roundtable Discussion on Relevance of Sustainable Bioresource Management, 23 January 2025
- Launching of the 'Ayush Vaibhav', 24 October 2024

Major Publications

Journals

Traditional Medicine Review

- Vol. 4 No. 1 April 2024
- Vol. 4 No. 2 October 2024

Policy Brief

- #115: Traditional Medicine in South Africa: Prospects for Ayush by *Namrata Pathak and Sanket Chavan*

Ayush Vaibhav

- Vol. 1 No. 1 November 2024
- Vol. 1 No. 2 December 2024
- Vol. 2 No. 1 January 2025
- Vol. 2 No. 2 February 2025
- Vol. 2 No. 3 March 2025

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Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Delivered remarks at the Brainstorming Meeting on the theme “Science, Technology and Innovation as drivers for Viksit Bharat @2047 organised by NITI Aayog, 9 April 2024.
- Made a presentation on ‘Intersecting Realms: Navigating Geo-Economics and Geo-Politics in a Globalised World’ at the Phase-V of the Mid-Career Training Program organised by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, 15 April 2024, Mussoorie.
- Delivered the Keynote address on ‘Going beyond GDP with LiFE: Revisiting Systemic Parameters and Modalities’ at the Second Research School of ICASSSD organised by International Centre for Applied Systems Science and Sustainable Development (ICASSSD), Delhi School of Economics, 20 April 2024.

- Panelist in the session on 'Viksit Bharat@2047: Interlinkages between Innovation, IP, and SDGs' at the CII Global Innovation and Intellectual Property Summit on 'Building the synergy among Innovation, IP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for futuristic growth, 'organised by CII on 23 April.
- Panelist at the Session on 'Accelerating Reforms to the International Debt Treatment System: Recommendations to the G20' organised by the China-West Dialogue at the Global Solutions Summit 2024 on 5 May 2024, Berlin.
- Speaker in the Session on 'Exploring Pathways to socio-ecological and economic transformation' at the Global Solutions Summit 2024 on 6 May 2024, Berlin.
- Speaker in the Session on T20 Task Force 4: Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development - The Role of WTO and G20 at the Global Solutions Summit 2024 on 6 May 2024, Berlin.
- Participated in the Roundtable at the GSI Summit on 'Ensuring G20-T20 Climate Action and Sustainable Development Continuity' organised by Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) on 6 May 2024, Berlin.
- Participated in the Council for Global Problem-Solving (CGP) Annual Meeting on 7 May 2024, Berlin.
- Participated in the Task Force 4 Meeting on Science and Digitalisation for a Better Future Digitalisation during the T7 Italy Summit on the G7 and the World: Rebuilding Bridges organised jointly with the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), in cooperation with LUISS University on 14 May at Rome.
- Made a presentation on 'T7 Italy Summit: Challenges of Digitalisation' at the session on Rebuilding Bridges: The Challenges of Digitalisation during the T7 Italy Summit on the G7 and the World: Rebuilding Bridges organised jointly with the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), in cooperation with LUISS University on 14 May at Rome.
- Panelist in the 'Colonisation through Trade' and moderated for the panel discussion 'Enabling cross-border rupee denominated barter trade' at the Symposium on Strengthening Atmanirbhar: Securing Domestic Industry & Technology on 16 May 2024, IIT Delhi.
- Discussant in the Seminar on LDC Graduation in challenging times needs a rethink organised by OECD Development Centre on 21 May 2024, Paris.
- Spoke in the session on 'Toward a post-ODA world: What are the concepts that matter? At the Future of ODA Workshop organised jointly by Center for Global Development (CGD) and Agence Française du Développement (AFD) on 23 May 2024, Paris.
- Panelist at the Road to Platinum Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference on "Asia Africa we Want: Empowering the Global South by Leveraging the Bandung Spirit" organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on 6 June 2024, Indonesia
- Panelist in the session on Global Election Year 2024 and Implications on "Fair Transitions: - A View from Parliaments at the Spring Meeting 2024 of Paris Peace Forum (PPF), co-organised with the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) on 9-10 June at Ben Guerir, Morocco.
- Moderated the Panel on Enhancing Global Development through South-South Cooperation at the NDB Seminar on Navigating New Horizons organised by New

Development Bank (NDB) on 11-12 June 2024, Cairo, Egypt.

- Panelist in the expert panel discussion on 'The Changing Dynamics of International Institutions in an Era of Multiple Crisis' on 12 June 2024, Cairo, Egypt
- Delivered the Convocation Address on "LifeStyle for Sustainable Development: Potential for University, Think-Tank Connect", at the 42nd Annual Convocation organised by the Mangalore University on 15 June 2024 at Mangalore.
- Delivered the Introductory Remarks at the Annual Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Forum 2024 organised by UNESCO on 17 June 2024, Paris
- Panelist at the Panel on Envisioning Desirable Futures Across Climate, Digital and Economic Landscape organised by UNESCO on 17 June 2024, Paris
- Delivered the Keynote speech at the Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the MOST Programme organised by UNESCO on 18 June 2024, Paris
- Participated in the BIMSTEC Meeting on the Future Directions organised by BIMSTEC Secretariat with Eminent Persons Group (EPG), appointed by the BIMSTEC Secretariat on 25 June 2024 (Online)
- Delivered a Talk on Impact of New Financial Institutions in Regional/Global Financial Growth, organised by NDC held on 2 July 2024 at New Delhi.
- Moderated a Session on Collaborative AI for Global Partnership at the Global India AI Summit, organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) held on 3 July 2024 at New Delhi.
- Speaker at the Swadeshi Sangam - Kal Aaaj aur Kal', organised by Swadeshi Jagran Manch held on 4 July 2024 at IIC, New Delhi.
- Speaker in the Sixth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tank (BNPTT) Technical Session -III (Food Chain) held on 10 July 2024 (online).
- Delivered a Lecture on Global Leadership thought Science Diplomacy and International Relation during INSA-NCCG LEADS-July 2024 programme organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) held on 11 July 2024 at INSA, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on INDICES FOR VIKSIT BHARAT: Indian Indices for Global Use at the 98th SKOCH Summit, organised by SKOCH on 13 July 2024 at IHC, New Delhi.
- Welcomed and Context Setting: Transformations towards Life Economy: Addressing Challenges of Inequality and Climate Change at the GALERI Side Event on the occasion of the 4th Development Working Group (DWG) Meeting of G20 Brazil on 17 July 2024 at Rio De Janeiro.
- Panelist in the Roundtable on Agenda for Modi 3.0 on Decoding Union Budget 2024 organised by CIEU held on 26 July 2024 at IIC, New Delhi.
- Speaker at the Roundtable discussions for ACIAR South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges organised by the Australian High Commission held on 5 August 2024 at Australian High Commission, New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Session on Finding Synergies between Blue Economy and Mountain Economy at the BIMSTEC Business Summit, organised by CII held on 6-8 August 2024 at New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Panel on Nourishing Growth: How Public Spending Decisions are Shaping Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in India and Africa organised by ICAE on 07 August 2024 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- Spoke at the Distinguished Person Lecture on Industrial policy, Green Transformation, and the Rise of the global south in the 21th

Century organised by Institute for Studies in Industrial Development on 9 August 2024 at New Delhi.

- Addressed the Inaugural Session of Training Cum Workshop on G20, SDGs and Public Policy in India at Mizoram Central University Hub held on 12 August 2024 (Online).
- Chaired the Panel Discussion on Policy and regulatory measures for ensuring responsible AI growth with safety, security and content integrity at the Summit on AI and Knowledge Management, organised jointly by the India International Centre, the University of Delhi and the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science on 14 August 2024 at IIC, New Delhi.
- Speaker at the G20 Brazil side event on synergies between climate and development organised by CEBRI on 10 September 2024 at (Online).
- Delivered a Lecture on 'Extent of China's financial commitments including grants, loans, currency swaps, trading in Renminbi' at the China Lecture Series, organised by Institute of Contemporary Studies Bangalore on 11 September 2024 at RN Kao Academy, Gurugram.
- Panelist at the Shaping South Africa's G20 Presidency workshop organised by ODI in partnership with the South African Institute of Internal Affairs (SAIIA) and Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance (NMSG) on 12 September 2024 (Online).
- Addressed The Board Members of Belgium largest Bank Belfius, organised by Accenture India on 27 September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Panelist at the Session on 'Back to classrooms? Strengthening the capacity of state actors on approach for climate change' at the multi-stakeholder convening - "The Rockefeller Foundation AsiaXchange 2024," organised by Rockefeller Foundation held on 1 October 2024 at Bangkok.
- Participated in the G20 Technical Meeting on Trilateral Cooperation organised by The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) in collaboration with collaboration of Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P., under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), held on 7 October 2024 at Lisbon.
- Moderated the Panel on 'Triangular co-operation with Asian partners' in the 8th International Meeting on Triangular Co-Operation: Linking Global Processes to Create Local Impact organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) held on 8 October 2024 at Lisbon
- Participated in the Inaugural Session of the 3rd Kautilya Economic Conclave "The Indian Era" organised by Institute of Economic Growth held on 4 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Cooperation in Tax Matters with Specific Focus on Two-Pillar Solution' in the in the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance conference organised by Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation held on 9 October 2024 at Moscow.
- Made a presentation on 'Innovative Financing for Resilient and Futuristic Infrastructure' in the in the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance conference organised by Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation held on 9 October 2024 at Moscow.
- Participated in the RBI@90 High-Level Conference on "Central Banking at Crossroads", organised by RBI on 13-14 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Delivered lecture on 'Global Trade and Connectivity: Innovation Approaches with IMEC' to the participants of 3rd Special Course for Central Asia Countries organised by MEA on 17 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Chaired the Panel on Inclusive India @ 100: People-Policies-Economy at the 23rd IASSI

- Annual Conference organised by Institute for Human Development on 26 October 2024 at Ranchi.
- Delivered special remarks on the occasion of Release of the IASSI-CESS Book on 'Intersecting Paths of Sustainable Development, Urbanisation, and Women's Empowerment' at the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference organised by Institute for Human Development on 25 October 2024 at Ranchi.
 - Participated in the Roundtable discussion on "Expectations from G20 Brazil Summit" organised by Vivekananda International Foundation on 28 October 2024 at New Delhi.
 - Provided Expert inputs at the T20 Summit Side Event on 'Global cooperation on Sustainable Development after the 2024 election year' organised by IDOS, IPEA, T20 Brazil, MGG and PRODIGEES on 13 November 2024.
 - Panelist in the panel on 'Beyond Aid: A G20 Roadmap for Climate and Disaster Finance' at a High level workshop in support of G20 Brazil on 'Innovative Strategies for Disaster Resilience: Fortifying Global South Economies Through Dynamic Governance Solutions', co-organised by Brazilian High Studies Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, IPEA, ERIA, MIGA-GSRC, CSIS, RIS, SIIA and NEPAD, on 13 November 2024, Rio.
 - Panelist at the T20 side-event on Launching the special G20 edition of journal, G20 Challenges and the Pro-Tempore Brazilian Presidency' organised by IPEA on 13 November 2024 at Rio.
 - Delivered a brief kick-off intervention at the Ministerial Dinner Roundtable with the global Think Tank community at the Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue organised jointly by ORF and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on 18 November 2024, New Delhi.
 - Delivered a Valedictory Address on 'Multipolar World and Multifaceted Partnerships: New Dynamics of Contestations and Cooperation' at the 17th All India Conference of China Studies conference on Understanding China in a Turbulent World: Geopolitical Contestation and Cooperation organised by Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi and MAHE, Manipal on 23 November 2024, Manipal.
 - Distinguished Discussant in the session on 'Influencing the regional and global discourse' at the CPD Journey: Commemorating CPD's 30th Anniversary organised by the CPD on 1 December 2024 (online).
 - Panelist in the International Conference on Deciphering Transversality of Water-Energy-Environment Nexus organised by India Water Foundation, 05 December 2024, New Delhi.
 - Panelist in the panel discussion "Emerging markets: The role of the global south in reshaping international affairs" at the 8th edition of the Global Boardroom, the Financial Times' flagship virtual event on 4 December 2024, New Delhi.
 - Made a presentation on 'India Geopolitical Challenges and Opportunities' at the 23rd Anniversary of Prabhasakshi on 6 December 2024, New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Launch Event of 'Anna Chakra', PDS Supply Chain Optimisation Tool and SCAN Portal organised by Department of Food and Public Distribution on 5 December 2024, New Delhi.
 - Made a presentation on 'India Demonstrates How International Climate Finance Should Work: The Role of Viability Gap Funding' in the plenary on 'Trade and Industrial Policies in a Time of Climate Action' at the Fifteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XV) titled "Unleashing an equitable green transformation in South Asia" organised by SAWTEE, 12 December 2024, Kathmandu.

- Provided inputs on the 'Indian perspective' at the Hearing in the framework of the European Economic and Social Committee opinion on the EU-India Strategic Partnership, external relations section organised by EESC, 12 December 2024. (Online).
- Made a presentation on 'Roadmap for Developed India: Targets and Challenges at Multiple Levels' at the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar University on 21 December 2024 at Ambala, Haryana.
- Chaired a Special Session on 'Trade Policy, FTAs and Value Chains' at the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar University on 22 December 2024 at Ambala, Haryana.
- Delivered a Lecture on 'India's Role in Shaping the New Economic Order' at the IBS Eminent Leadership Series organised by ICFAI Business School on 7 January 2025, Gurgaon.
- Moderated the Panel Discussion on 'Global Partnership for Green Ambitions: Technology, Trade and Resources' on the occasion of the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 on 'Scaling Clean Tech Manufacturing for a Net-Zero and Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat' organised jointly by CIEU, Dalberg and Bharat Climate Forum on 10 January 2025, New Delhi.
- Delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on 'Reimagining Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators: Towards Development Agenda for Viksit Bharat at 2047' at the International Conference on Aligning Science-Technology-Innovation Indicators for Effective G&D Governance (STiG-2025) on the occasion of the 4th Foundation Day of CSIR-NIScPR on 14 January 2025, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Viksit Bharat' at the BLITZ India Conclave on "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" and Launch of BLITZ India Business Weekly organised by BLITZ on 18 January 2025, Mumbai.
- Addressed the participants in the Webinar on 'IPPN Knowledge Café: How Can Integrated Policies Deliver the UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution' organised by UNDP and Integrated Policy Practitioners' Network (IPPN) on 22 Jan 2025.
- Made a presentation on 'Economic Security as an Element of National Security: Challenges and Opportunities for India', at the 48th Higher Air Command Course (HACC) organised by the College of Air Warfare on 24 January 2025, Secunderabad.
- Panelist in the sessions on 'Multilateralism and Geopolitics', and 'Technology and Digital Governance' at the Roundtable Discussion with Bruegel Scholars organised by NITI Aayog on 3 February 2025, New Delhi.
- Moderated the Panel on 'Leveraging Diplomacy to Secure India's Global Partnerships and Resource Demands in Priority Sectors' at the Conclave on "Towards Viksit Bharat@2047: Strengthening Economy, National Security, Global Partnerships and Law organised by NITI Aayog on 6 February 2025, New Delhi.
- Participated in the themed discussions on the 'Role of the Global South in Development Cooperation' organised during the Global South and Development Cooperation Programm organised by China Agriculture University on 10 February 2025, Yunnan, China.
- Participated in the NeST and IDOS discussions on the role of G20/T20 in development cooperation' organised during the Global South and Development Cooperation Programm on 11 February 2025, Yunnan, China.

- Key Speaker at Two-day brainstorming session on the “India Centric approach required in the S&T R&D ecosystem in the country” based on an India Centric Vision Organised by Vijnana Bharati, along with IIT, Gandhi Nagar.
- Made a presentation on ‘Mission LiFE-Promoting Sustainable Lifestyle’ at the Global Summit: Faith of Kumbh and Climate Change organised by the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Uttar Pradesh on February 16, 2025, Prayagraj.
- Panelist in the session on ‘Act East Act Fast Act First’ at the Advantage Assam 2.0 – Investment & Infrastructure Summit organised by the Department of Sports & Youth Welfare, Government of Assam, 25 February 2025, Guwahati.
- Delivered the Inaugural Lecture on ‘Idea of Economic Cooperation, Security and Global South’, at the SAU Thought Café – A South Asian University Lecture Series on 4 March 2025, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on ‘Trade Policy in Transition Times’, at the Panel Discussion on ‘The Geopolitics of Technology, Trade and Tariffs’, organised by The India Foundation on 17 March 2025, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on ‘Development Partnership and India’s Soft Power’, at the Seminar on ‘India’s Rising Soft Power: Strategic Dimensions and Global Outreach’ organised by Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar on 20 March 2025, New Delhi.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on Reforming Statistical System in India organised jointly with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on 17 June 2024, New Delhi
- Participated and organised International Conference on BIMSTEC Synergies in Agricultural Trade: Promoting Regional Growth along with IFPRI, PRCI and Michigan State University on 25 June 2024, New Delhi
- Participated in the International Conference on BIMSTEC Synergies in Agricultural Trade: Promoting Regional Growth and made a presentation in the session on State of Agriculture in the BIMSTEC Region: Opportunities for Growth on 25 June 2024, New Delhi
- Participated in the meeting to discuss action plan for improvement of Trade Statistics, organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) under the chairpersonship of Secretary and made a presentation on FTA Negotiations and Trade Data Gaps on 28 June 2024, New Delhi.
- Submitted report on International Conference on BIMSTEC Synergies in Agriculture Trade: Promoting Regional Growth to the Head of Capacity Strengthening, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) USA on 28 June 2024.
- Submitted drafts report on Agriculture Trade Linkages of India with the BIMSTEC Region the Head of Capacity Strengthening, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) USA on 30 June 2024.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the discussion meeting of the India Chile Joint Study Group, organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 23 April 2024, New Delhi
- Participated in the meeting on Joint Feasibility Study for exploring the trade complementarities between India & Uruguay and comprehensive study on expansion of India-MERCOSUR PTA, organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, GoI, on 4 July 2024, New Delhi

- Participated through Webex in the - 6th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tank (BNPTT), and made a presentation on Agricultural Trade in the BIMSTEC Region, organised by The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Secretariat Dhaka, Bangladesh on 9 July 2024.
- Discussion Meeting organised by the Ministry of Earth Science on Blue Economy and Potential Collaboration with RIS, New Delhi on 26 July 2024.
- Participated in the meeting to discuss India-Africa Trade Strategy at 19th edition of India-Africa Business Conclave under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, organised by Ministry of Commerce & Industries, New Delhi on 1st August 2024
- Participated as a representative leading the workshop discussions on Blue Economy for the Indian Ocean Region in the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Workshop organised by Australian Border Force in Perth, Australia from 26 August - 30 August 2024
- Participated in the Regional Agri-food Trade Dissemination Event, organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) along with CGIAR, Washington DC and made a presentation on Agriculture Trade and Investment in the BIMSTEC Region, at Bangkok, Thailand on 3 October, 2024.
- Participated in the review meeting to discuss action taken/progress made for improvement of trade statistic made discussion presentation and on Trade Data Gaps organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), at New Delhi on 7 October 2024.
- Participated as a panelist in the 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), jointly organised by the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and made a presentation on Connectivity and Regional Value Chains at Singapore on 7 November 2024.
- Participated in the 17th All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS) on the Special Theme -Understanding China in a Turbulent World: Geopolitical Contestation and Cooperation and made a presentation on Impact of Geopolitical Factors on Economy and Trade, organised by China Study Centre, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Academy of Higher Education (Institution of Eminence) at Manipal, Karnataka on 23 November 2024.
- Participated in the special session on Trade Policy, FTAs and Value Chains of the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA), organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala (Haryana) on 22 December 2024.
- Participated in the review meeting organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) regarding for discussion on trade statistic and made a presentation on Trade Data Gaps, New Delhi on 2 January 2025.
- Participated in the discussion meeting - Retreat for officials of Commercial Wings of Indian Missions at 20 identified Countries of significance to enhance India's export potential organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 6 January 2025.
- Participated in the review meeting organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) regarding for discussion on trade statistic, New Delhi on 10 January 2025.
- Participated in the National Seminar on Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Multidimensional Perspectives organised by UGC Centre for Maritime Studies,

Pondicherry University in collaboration with Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi & Indian Council of Social Science Research and made a presentation on Towards Mapping Untapped Economic Opportunities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Also Presented a paper on Economic Feasibility of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a Trade Hub of India, Pondicherry on 29-30 January 2025.

- Participated and discussed in the first Comprehensive Ayush Database Committee meeting organised by Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi on 25 February 2025.
- Participated as a Guest of honor in the National Conference on India and IORA: Pathways Ahead organised by International Centre for Indo-Pacific (ICIPS), Kurukshetra University in collaboration with ICWA and presentation on the Key Issues in Blue Economy in IORA, Kurukshetra, Haryana on 27 February 2025.
- Participated as a Lead Speaker in the Roundtable Discussion on 'Unleashing the Blue Economy Potential in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR): Way Forward for the IORA' and made a presentation on Harnessing the Blue Economy in IORA: Growth and Sustainability organised by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi on 25 March 2025.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Associate Professor

- Participated in the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Forum of the UNESCO in Paris on 17-18 June 2024.
- Addressed the Valedictory Session at the BRICS Civil Forum in Moscow on 3-4 July 2024.
- Delivered a Workshop on "New Development Paradigm of Lifestyle and Wellbeing:

Lifestyle for Sustainable Development", organised by The Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) of the Parliament of India in New Delhi on 9 July 2024.

- Joined Pre-budget discussion on Sansad TV on 23 July 2024.
- Participated as Speaker in the Webinar on "Science, Technology and Innovation for Economic Growth" - Side Event of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Science Summit on 13 September 2024
- Delivered a talk on "Research Methodology" organised by Sage Publishers at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on 13 September 2024
- Participated as Speaker in the Plenary Session at the INDIALICS Annual Conference organised by INDIALICS and KIIT in Bhubaneswar on 20-21 September, 2024

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- More presentation on "Finances Cooperation in BRICS" at BRICS Academic Forum held in Moscow on 22-24 May 2024.
- Participated in T20 Mid-term Conference and Contributed as a Co-Chair to Task Force-3 (Reform of International Financial Architecture) discussions organised by T20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 1-3 July, 2024.
- Participated in the Sixth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks (BNPTT) virtually on 9-10 July 2024.
- Made Remarks virtually on "Women-led Development as a Priority in G20 Indian Presidency" in the three-day National Conference on Women-Led Development: A Game Changer at Manipur University, Imphal on 17 July 2024.

- Participated as a speaker in the International Conference on 'Global Fintech Ecosystem and Fintech-Enabled Trade in Services' organised by University of Essex in Colchester, UK on 22-23 July 2024.
- Delivered lecture on "Blue Economy" to the Sri Lankan diplomats and officials at Sushma Swaraj Foreign Service Institute (SSFSI), New Delhi on 12 August 2024.
- Delivered lectures online to students of Woxen University, Hyderabad on the topic "Asia-Africa Growth Corridor-A Roadmap for Development Cooperation in Indo-Pacific" on 10 September 2024.
- Participated as a Panelist and Discussant in the sessions on 'Green Transport: Strategies and the Economic Future of Cities' and 'Green Infrastructure in BRICs Cities' in the BRICS Green Cities Forum held in Moscow, Russia on 18-19 September 2024.
- Made presentation virtually as a Panelist on "Blockchain Technology & Fintech: Applications in Financial Services" at the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024 held in Kolkata on 26 September 2024.
- Made presentation on digital payments to the visiting MPs and leaders from Nepal as part of Nepal Young Leaders' Programme at RIS on 28 September 2024.
- Made Special Remarks virtually at the seminar on "Nari Shakti: From Women Development to Women-led Development" organised by St. Joseph University, Nagaland on 30th September 2024.
- Made Special Remarks on 'Role of Digitalisation and Fintech Solutions: A Way for Inclusive Development of North-Eastern Region' at the Korea-India Forum Northeast Region Development held at New Delhi on 1 October 2024.
- Made presentation on "Cooperation in Tax Matters with Specific Focus on Two-Pillar Solution" at the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance Conference held at Moscow on 9 October 2024.
- Made presentation on "Fintech and Cross-Border Payment Settlement" at 8th ASEAN-India Network of THINK Tanks (AINTT) Conference held at Singapore on 7-8 November 2024.
- Contributed to the brainstorming session on Purvodaya states held at NITI Aayog on 12 November 2024.
- Made presentation on "Fintech and New Possibilities for India-Germany Financial Cooperation" at 4th Indo-German Dialogue held in Berlin on 19-20 November 2024.
- Finance" at the RIN Annual Meeting held at Bangkok on 27 November 2024.
- Delivered online lecture on "Emerging Global Priorities and Role of Education & Re-search Institutes" to the participants of the Short-Term Programme on 'Teacher Effectiveness and Professional Development' organised by Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak on 3 February 2025.
- Made presentation on "Regional Economic Corridors: India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor" and "Role of Digital Technologies in Promoting Inclusive Growth" at the Workshop titled 'Towards a New Discourse of Global Connectivity: The Gulf's New Horizons in Strategic Corridors and Partnerships' organised by the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Gulf International Forum in Istanbul, Turkey on 6-7 February 2025.
- Delivered lecture to IFS probationers on "Internationalization of Rupee and Digital Payment Architecture" at RIS on 17 February 2025.
- Made presentation on "Financing of Economic Corridors" at the International Conference on 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic

Corridor (IMEC): New Hopes and New Opportunities' organised by RIS and SIOS in New Delhi on 19 March 2025.

- Made presentation virtually on "Policy Landscape for Development: Recent Assessments and Future Outlook" at 'Yuva Fest 2025: Youth Engagement and Civic Responsibility' organised by Assam University, Silchar on 29 March 2025.
- Made a presentation on 'India-Malaysia Relations: Economic Achievements and Concerns' at India-Malaysia Trade Conference 2024, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Made a presentation on 'Role of India in Shaping Global Development and Relations' at India- Malaysia Trade Conference 2024, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Made a presentation on 'Comprehensive review of India Nepal Treaty of Trade' at ministry of commerce, government of India, 17 December 2024.

Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor

- Delivered lecture on 'Digitalisation and Future of Jobs: Challenges, Issues and Research Methods' during one week research methodology and data science course for PhD / PDF scholars in social science, organised by Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, 03 April 2024.
- Delivered an extension lecture on 'Distributional Implications of International Trade: Theoretical understanding and empirical evidences" at department of economic, Maharishi university Rohtak, 19 June 2024
- Made a presentation on " Position MSEs as Bedrock for Industrialisation: Lessons from India' at international conference on 'The Future of industrialisation in Kenya: Path way to Industrialisation in Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, organised by KIPRA, 26 June 2024
- Appointed as special nominee on the Board of Studies in Economics, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak
- Made a presentation on 'Strengthening India-Germany Bilateral Cooperation in Indo-Pacific' at 4th Indo-German 1.5 Track Strategic Dialogue on 20 November 2024, Berlin, Germany
- Participated as a lead speaker in webinar on President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India: 'New Chapter in India-Indonesia Relations, Organised by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Kolkata, 11 February 2025.
- Appointed visiting faculty of the School of International Relations and Peace Studies at Nalanda University.
- Made a presentation on India-Nepal Economic Relations at close door roundtable on Bharat-Nepal Relations: Economic Development, Trade and Commerce, jointly organised by RIS and NeNAP on 10 March 2025.

Dr P K Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Attended the National Workshop on Fast-Tracking and Reporting of Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the State Support Mission initiative of NITI Aayog', held on 20th February 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

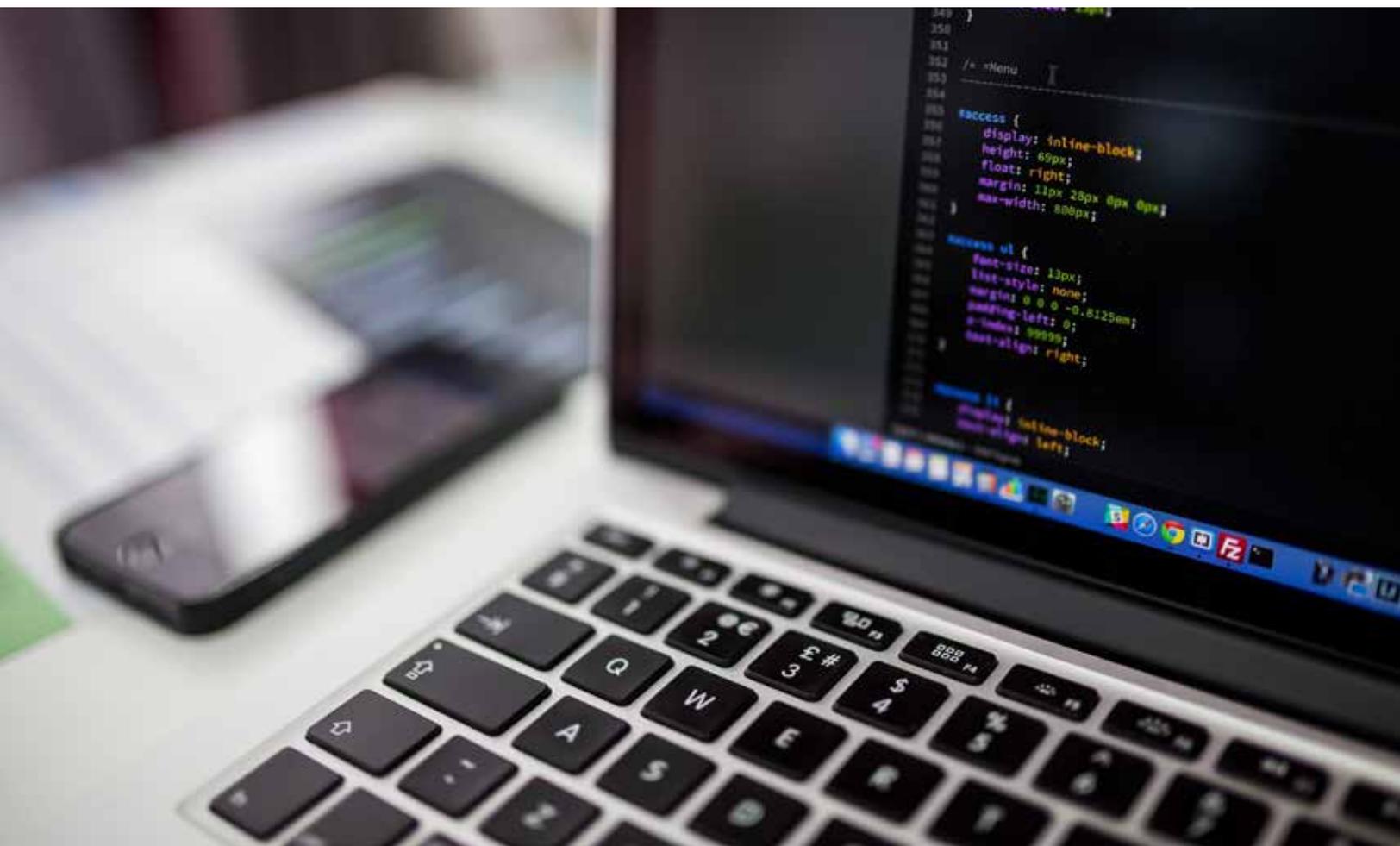
RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Publications

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. "COVID-19 Pandemic and the Emergence of Integrated Innovation System" in *Reimagining Innovation Systems in the Covid and Post-Covid World*, Lakhwinder Singh and K. J. Joseph, (eds), Routledge. pp. 104-120.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. Lifestyle change is need of the hour to reduce carbon footprint, *The Hindu*, 16 June.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. New Development Strategy of LiFE and Wellbeing: Lifestyle for Sustainable Development, in *Transformations Parivartana*, Second Issue, An Habitat Centre Publication, April 2024.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. Value and Ethics in Human Well-Being: Time to Go Beyond GDP, the *Journal of Governance*, January 2023.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. "India Offers an Alternate Development Path for Global South Nations" *Indian Express*, 6 September 2024.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. Development Compact: "A Human-centric Approach with Balanced Opportunities," *Blitz*, 9-15 September 2024.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. "COVID-19 Pandemic and the Emergence of Integrated Innovation System" in *Reimagining Innovation Systems in the COVID and Post-Covid World* by Lakhwinder Singh and KJ Joseph (eds).
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. "Muchkund Dubey: Warrior of the Global South". *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 59, No. 30, 27 July 2024.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin, Kumar, Amit. 2024. 'Responsible AI Growth with Safety: Exploring Global and National Policy Discourse', *Journal of Information and Knowledge*, Vol 61 (5), October 2024, P. 231-237.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. Special Issue on Trade Policy, FTAs, and Value Chains - An Overview. *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, Issue 46. Nov16, pp 31-32.
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9

Sukhomoy Chakravarty Library and Data Information Centre



The Documentation Centre houses an extensive collection of the latest specialised publications, reports, databases, e-journals, and articles, ensuring the provision of up-to-date information for RIS faculty and visiting scholars. The institute maintains a robust exchange programme with

several national and international organisations, continuously enriching its resource base by adding new publications and study materials on critical global issues.

RIS has established linkages with major global institutions such as FAO, ILO, OECD, UN, UNCTAD, World Bank, and WTO.

Working Papers, Discussion Papers, Reprints, and Occasional Papers, both in print and electronic formats, are received through exchange programmes or downloaded from institutional websites. The Documentation Centre currently holds over 23,547 books, including government publications and documents from other research institutions, both in print and electronic formats. It also contains 1,850 bound volumes of journals. The Centre subscribes to more than 429 print and online journals, including platforms like JSTOR, Elsevier-ScienceDirect, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley, and receives around 25 journals free of charge from prestigious sources. Additionally, the collection includes over 350 CD-ROMs and databases. As a member of DELNET, the Centre actively promotes resource-sharing. A regular Current Awareness Service is provided to faculty members.

The comprehensive collection is also accessible online via the intranet for easy reference.

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 RIS also has a rich 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.

RIS Database

RIS has developed the DevCoopIndia database, documenting India's development assistance to partner nations from 1947 to 2021. This database

encompasses the five modalities of Development Compact, namely Capacity Buildings, Grants, Concessional Finance, Trade and Market Access, and Technology Transfer. The overarching categorisation is further subdivided into sub-modalities, sectors, and activities. In addition to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), many additional ministries are involved in delivering development aid via several modalities and sub-modalities. The database includes bilateral aid and contributions to international institutions. The allocation for development aid in the fiscal year 2025-2026 is determined by the Revised Estimates for 2024-25, as outlined in the Annual Report for 2024-25.

Another database contains a wide range of macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, trade, investment, tariffs, and other relevant factors. Data is sourced from the national as well as a variety of international sources. In the context of trade and tariff databases, RIS effectively restructures data at the maximum dis-aggregated level. For example, the allocation of bilateral trade statistics for India is based on an 8-digit Harmonised System (HS) product classification, whereas for the rest of the world it is based on a 6-digit HS classification. The data is recorded at all nomenclature existing in the international trade classification. The level of disaggregation and time series level varies with different data sources. This database is updated at regular interval.

RIS Data Server

This institution 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. The server's databases are updated periodically, supporting evidence-based

RIS Main Website

www.ris.org.in

Centres**ASEAN-India Centre (AIC)**

<http://aseanindiacentre.org.in>

DAKSHIN: Global South Centre of Excellence

<https://dakshin.org.in/>

Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC)

<https://ris.org.in/cmec/>

Special Initiatives**Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum**

<https://ris.org.in/science-technology-and-innovation-policy-stip-forum-and-monthly-lecture-series>

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM)

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

Forum for India Development Cooperation (FIDC)

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

Forum For Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD)

<http://fisd.in>

Delhi Process

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

Global/Regional Networks**South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEP)**

<http://saceps.org.in>

BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT)

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

Think 20 (T20)

<https://ris.org.in/think-20>

BRICS Civil Forum

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

NeST Network of Southern Think Tanks

<https://southernthinktanks.org/>

IBSA Academic Forum

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

research by faculty members and eliminating the need for costly global data subscriptions.

RIS Website and Online Documentation Centre (www.ris.org.in)

RIS operates a vibrant website, regularly updated by its in-house team to ensure a user-friendly and content-rich experience. The website provides extensive information on RIS's core areas of research, including trade, finance, investment, development cooperation, global economic issues, regional cooperation,

South-South cooperation, health, agriculture, science and technology, and innovation. The website provides a free download facility of the wide range of publications brought out by RIS faculty 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 2024-25, two new web pages were been developed in-house and linked to the RIS website for their clearer and wider accessibility. The eight sub-domains and nine web pages are as follows:

RIS' website has gained recognition as one of the top research institute results on Google, enhancing its 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 organisations, 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. There has been a substantial increase in the number of hits in viewership.

WebEx Meetings

RIS is currently using Cisco WebEx as the primary platform for conducting online meetings, webinars, and virtual conferences. This platform has been chosen for its secure communication features, high-quality audio/video, and ease of collaboration for both internal and external conferences.

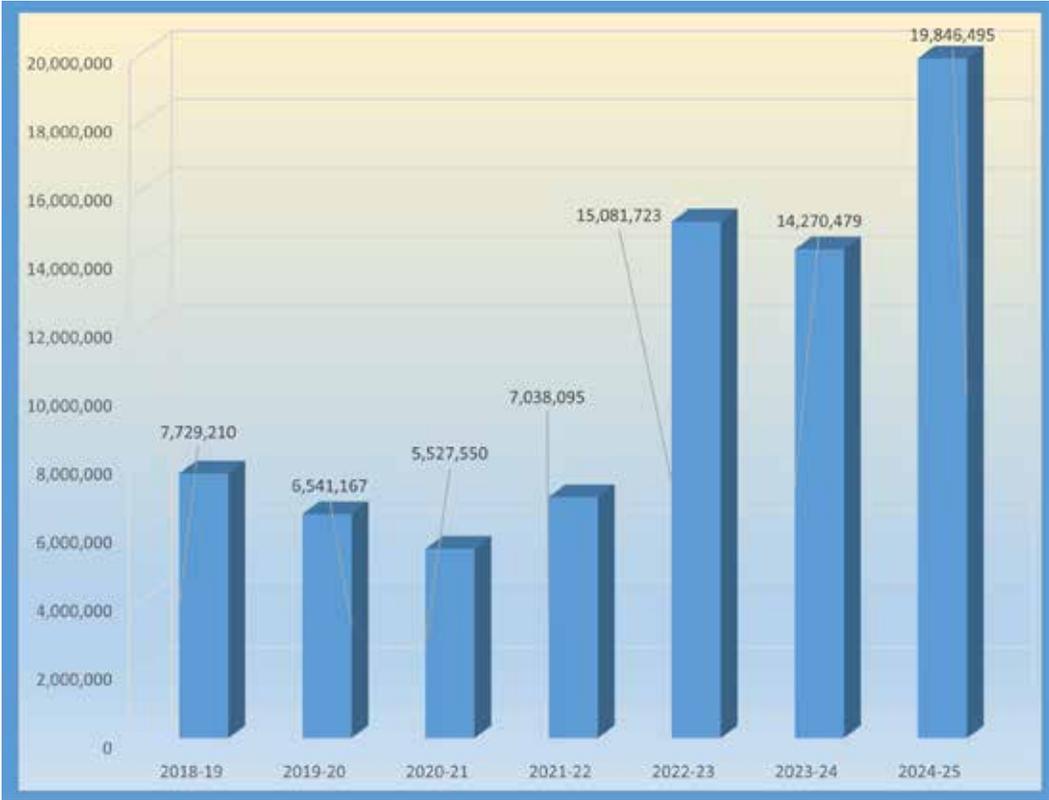
Social Media Outreach

Over the years this institute has deepened its outreach on the social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. RIS YouTube channel is constantly kept updated. There are around 14k followers on twitter. Video recordings of events are made available in YouTube for easy access. There has been consistent a rise in viewership and subscriber's base in YouTube channel. Around 1.69 k subscribers on found on RIS YouTube channel. The number of followers on Facebook is more than 5.3 k followers and its pages have been rated at 4.6 out of 5 on the basis of public opinion polls. RIS promptly updates both platforms with news of its activities, encouraging real-time public engagement.



Data from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

RIS Website Hits in Last Seven Years



Acknowledgement

As in the past years, our profound appreciation to the esteemed faculty and researchers at RIS whose unwavering commitment has driven the transformative research and broadened the institute's global influence. This RIS Annual Report is a testament to their expertise, offering an in-depth perspective on the institute's impactful journey and achievements over the past year. We further extend our acknowledgment to Dr Pankuri Gaur led by Professor S. K. Mohanty; Mr Vaasu Aggarwal led by Dr Priyadarshi Dash; Dr Pratyush Sharma and Mr Syed Arslan Ali, led by Dr Sabyasachi Saha; Dr Sampa Kundu led by Dr Pankaj Vashist; Dr Sneha Sinha led by Dr S K Varshney; and Dr Sarin N. S. led by Professor T. C. James for their significant contributions in this edition of the RIS Annual Report (2024-25) and the publication team at RIS comprising Mr Tish Malhotra, Mr Sachin Singhal and Mr Sanjeev Karna for arranging the production of this Annual Report.

Human Resource



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

Specialisation: International Economic Development and Cooperation

(Till 7 September 2025)



Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma

Director General

Specialisation: International Trade & Sustainability Development Issues and Agriculture

(Since 8 September 2025)

Faculty



Professor S. K. Mohanty

Distinguished Fellow

Specialisation: Global & Regional Economic Integration, Trade and Development Issues



Dr Prabir De

Professor, CMEC

Specialisation: International Economics, Trade & Transport Facilitation and Service Trade



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/
Coordinator AIC*

Specialisation: Trade, Technology, and Labour Market



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 Regionals

Distinguished Fellows



Mr Rajeev Kher
Distinguished Fellow
Specialisation: International trade and commerce



Dr J R Bhatt
Distinguished Fellow
(Honorary Since January 2023)



Professor Pami Dua
Distinguished Fellow
(Since 1 January 2025)



Mr Anil Jauhri
Distinguished Fellow
(Since 5 March 2025)

Visiting Fellows



Professor T C James
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)



Dr K. Ravi Srinivas
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: IPRs and global trade



Dr P K Anand
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: Economic growth and development



Cmde Sujeet Samaddar
Visiting Fellow
(Since 1 June 2024)



Dr Beena Pandey
Visiting Fellow
(Since 29 December 2024)
Specialisation: Social Sector, Gender Empowerment and Development Issues



Mr Amol Baxi
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: Finance and Insolvency Law



Mr G. K. Arora
Fellow
(Till 31 August 2024)

Fellow/Consultants



Dr Namrata Pathak

Consultant

Specialisation: Traditional knowledge



Dr Anshuman Gupta

Consultant

Specialisation: Environment and Climate Change



Dr Chaitanya Giri

Consultant

(Till 30 November 2024)

Specialisation: Space Domain Strategies, Planetary Science



Dr Sneha Sinha

Consultant

Specialisation: Science and technology studies



Dr Sayantan Ghosal

Consultant

Specialisation: International Relations, Social Protection Welfare Systems



Dr Anuj Diwedi

S&T Specialist

Specialisation: Science, Technology and Innovation, Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Monitoring and Evaluation



Dr Pushpak Kumar Roy

Consultant



Dr Sarin N S

Consultant

Specialisation : Traditional Medicine, Public Health, Health Systems and Policy Research



Professor Milindo Chakrabarti

Consultant

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



Dr P Srinivas Rao

Fellow

Specialisation: Agriculture, SDGs and G20



Dr Ivy Roy Sarkar

Fellow



Dr Rohit Saini

Fellow

(Till 3 September 2024)



Mr Sanket Chavan

Consultant



Dr Anupama Vijaykumar

Consultant



Mr Syed Mohammad Ali

Consultant

(Till 27 March 2025)

Mr Ali Haider Rizvi

Consultant

(Since 4 March 2025)

ASEAN-India Centre at RIS



Dr Pankaj Vashisht
*Associate Professor/
Coordinator AIC*
*Specialisation: Trade, Technology,
and Labour Market*



Dr Sampa Kundu
Consultant
*Specialisation: ASEAN Geopolitics,
Myanmar, Regional Cooperation*



Mr Vaasu Aggarwal
Research Assistant
(Since 9 December 2024)

Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC)



Dr Shishir Shrotriya
Coordinator, CMEC
(Since 2 May 2024)



Dr Prabir De
Professor, CMEC
*Specialisation: International Economics,
Trade & Transport Facilitation and
Service Trade*



Ms Anushka Tripathi
Research Assistant



Ms Shagun Verma
Research Assistant
(Since 29 July 2024)



Ms Namita Mittal
Research Assistant
(Since 22 November 2024)

DAKSHIN



Dr Gulshan Sachdeva

Coordinator DAKSHIN

(Since 26 November 2024)



Mr Atul Kaushik

Fellow



Dr Monika Kochar

Advisor (Health)



Dr Araypalli Sivasenareddy

Advisor (Agriculture)



Mr Venkatesh Krishnamurthy

Advisor (Digital)

(Since 27 June 2024)



Dr Pratyush Sharma

Consultant



Mr Amit Arora

Manager



Mr. Omegere John Patrick

Resource Person, Africa



Ms Chandni Sharma

Research Assistant

(Till 31 August 2024)



Mr Akash Singh

Research Assistant

(Since 1 July 2024)



Ms Tanya Singh

Research Assistant

(Since 22 October 2024)

Research Assistants

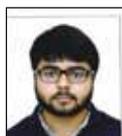


Mr Syed Arslan Ali



Ms Divyanjana

(Till 29 December 2024)



Mr Arpit Berman



Mr Kartik Kishore

(Till 4 November 2024)



Mr Sukrit Joshi

(till 2 September 2024)



Ms Vaishali Chaudhary



Ms Rana Amanat Singh

(Till 19 October 2024)



Mr Vimalendu Chauhan



Kanishk Rohilla

(Since 24 April 2024)



Mr Avinash

(Since 22 October 2024)



Amal K Saji

(Since 27 May 2024)



Ms Vanshika Goyal

(Since 17 January 2025)



Om Stutee

(Since 28 May 2024)



Riddhi Lakhiani

(Since 3 February 2025)



Mr Ayush Tiwari

(Since 3 June 2024)



Mr Tinu Kurian

(Since 3 February 2025)



Ms Sreelakshmi P

(Since 3 February 2025)



Ms Ananya Rastogi

(Since 1 August 2024)



Mr Sauhard Kaushal

(Since 4 November 2024)



Tanushree Sharma

(Since 2 December 2024)



Mr Lakshya Shankar Gaur

(Since 29 July 2024)

Adjunct Faculty



Professor Anil Sooklal

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



Professor Haribabu Ejnavarzala

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



Dr Benu Schneider

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



Professor Mukul G. Asher

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



Dr Balakrishna Pisupati

Chairperson, FLEDGE and Former Chairman, NBA, Chennai



Dr Satish Chandra Mishra

Executive Director at Arthashastra Institute Indonesia enhancing Indonesia-India relations



Dr Suma Athreye

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



Ambassador Amar Sinha

Former Secretary (ER), MEA



Professor Manmohan Agarwal

Formerly RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram



Professor Srividhya Ragavan

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



Dr Nicolas J.A. Buchoud

President, Grand Paris Alliance for Metropolitan Development



Dr T. P. Rajendran

Formerly Assistant Director General, ICAR and Visiting Fellow, RIS



Professor Kevin P. Gallagher

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



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)

Staff Members



Mr Anil Kant Sharma
Director (Finance and Administration)



Mr Mahesh C. Arora
Advisor (Finance and Administration)



Mr Arijit Banerjee
Consultant (Administration)
(Since 14 August 2024)

DG Office



Mrs Ritu Parnami
Private Secretary



Ms Gohar Naaz
Secretarial Assistant



Mr Baljit
Special Assistant

Publication Department



Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra
Publication Officer



Mr Sachin Singhal
Publication Assistant
(Designing & Web)



Mr Sanjeev Kumar Karna
Publication 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 Satya Pal Singh Rawat
Jr. Assistant



Ms Nisha Saini
Website Developer

Finance & Administration



Mr Anil Kumar
Section Officer (Estt. & Admin)



Mr Surjeet
Accountant (on Deputation)



Mr Amarendra Pattanayak
Consultant (Accounts)
(Since 9 April 2024)



Mr Yogesh
Consultant (Accounts)



Mrs Shalini Sharma
Receptionist



Mr Bhaskar Tiwari
Accounts Clerk



Mr Piyush Mathur
Accounts Clerk

Research/Secretarial Support



Ms Kiran Wagh
Secretarial Assistant



Mr Sanjeev Sharma
Private Secretary (On Deputation)



Mr Surender Kumar
Private Secretary



Mrs Bindu Gambhir
Stenographer



Mr Baidnath Pandey
Office Assistant

Support Staff



Mr J.B. Thakuri *(Staff Car Driver)*



Mr Raj Kumar *(Staff Car Driver)*



Mr Satyavir Singh *(Staff Car Driver)*



Mr Pradeep *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Raju *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Manish Kumar *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Raj Kumar *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Sudhir Rana *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Birju *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Pradeep Negi *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Avinash Kapoor *(MultiTask Staff)*



Mr Ramesh Singh Chaudhary
(MultiTask Staff)

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** (the entity), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2025, and Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the entity as at 31st March 2025, income and expenditure and its receipt and payment for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those SAs 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 the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on the financial statements.

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.

Head Office : 16, DDA Flats, GF, Panchsheel-Shivalik Mor, Near Malviya Nagar, New Delhi
Tel. : 011-41811888, 7862099205 E-mail : admin@gsa.net.in
LLP Registration No. AAS-8863 (Formerly known as GSA & Associates)
Branches at Delhi, Gurugram and Akhnoor (Jammu)



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

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.

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


Tanuj Chugh
Partner
M. No. 529619



Place: New Delhi
Date: 29-09-2025

UDIN: 25529619BMIVLG7982

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

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2025

Particulars	Sch. #	Amount in ₹	
		As on 31-Mar-25	As on 31-Mar-24
RDF/ CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES			
Research and Development Fund	1	19,00,26,358	18,29,58,394
Fixed Assets Fund (Non - FCRA)	2	12,51,57,640	13,63,08,128
Fixed Assets Fund (FCRA)	2	35,505	37,767
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	1,39,49,486	5,26,91,435
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	3	7,74,30,872	10,38,85,408
Unutilised Grant-in-Aid from the MEA, GOI	4a	-	-
Current Liabilities and Provisions (Non - FCRA)	4	2,88,32,424	3,88,49,637
Current Liabilities and Provisions (FCRA)	4	15,25,857	8,28,273
Total		43,69,58,142	51,55,59,043
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA)	5	12,51,57,640	13,63,08,128
Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)	5	4,36,801	4,39,063
Investment (Non - FCRA)	6	7,57,12,383	4,86,37,819
Investment (FCRA)	6	18,47,34,483	20,74,85,255
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	1,48,86,891	5,36,57,088
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	3	-	27,792
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	7	90,41,096	3,27,57,530
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (FCRA)	7	2,69,88,848	3,62,46,368
Total		43,69,58,142	51,55,59,043

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. 000257NH N500339

For Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Anil Kant Sharma
Director (Fin & Admin)

Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma
Director General

(CA Tanuj Chugh)

Partner

M. No. 529819

Place : New Delhi

Date : 29-09-2025

**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, 2025

Particulars	Sch. #	Amount in ₹	
		Year Ended 31-Mar-25	Year Ended 31-Mar-24
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	4(a)	14,15,11,574	14,88,55,672
Sponsored Projects Grant transferred to meet Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	11,11,91,003	14,99,30,593
Surplus amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		3,47,940	31,39,579
Income from Royalty, Publications, etc. (Non - FCRA)		-	3,54,827
Interest Earned :			
On Term Deposits (FCRA)		92,26,889	66,81,945
On Term Deposits (Non - FCRA)		70,950	21,21,416
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (FCRA)		34,950	5,31,005
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (Non - FCRA)		6,41,396	20,94,882
On Loan to Employees (Non - FCRA)		12,000	27,000
On Income Tax Refund (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		1,64,469	8,450
Other Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		3,64,618	-
Recoveries for Training Programs and Overheads from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		63,82,857	99,86,318
Payable Written Off		-	1,18,987
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - W.D.V. of Assets Sold/ Written-off (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	2	-	-
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)		1,71,79,275	1,60,59,892
Total (A)		28,71,27,722	33,77,10,566
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	8	11,11,91,003	14,99,30,593
Establishment Expenses (Non - FCRA)	9	10,03,64,986	10,60,21,518
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA)	10	4,64,32,651	4,08,03,011
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (FCRA)	11	5,648	5,078
Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	5	1,71,79,275	1,60,59,892
Deficit amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	48,86,195	9,11,832
Total (B)		28,00,59,758	31,37,31,724
Surplus/ (Deficit) transferred to Research and Development Fund (A-B)		70,67,964	2,39,78,842

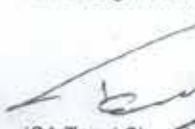
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

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. 000257/N/2015/00339


(CA Tanuj Chugh)
Partner
M. No. 529619



For Research and Information System for Developing Countries


Anil Kant Sharma
Director (Fin & Admin)


Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma
Director General



Place : New Delhi
Date : 29-09-2025

Receipts		Year Ended 31-Mar-25		Year Ended 31-Mar-24		Payments		Year Ended 31-Mar-25		Year Ended 31-Mar-24	
iii)	Projects (Non - FCRA) From various Sponsored Projects (FCRA) Total B	66,98,771	28,53,61,378	9,37,21,122	37,01,41,427	C Advances and Deposits i) Advances (Non - FCRA) ii) Advances (FCRA) iii) TDS on Sweep Transfer (Non - FCRA) iv) TDS on Sweep Transfer (FCRA) v) State Cheques Total C	4,94,941	1,02,615	5,98,102	9,05,340	3,39,852
C	Interest Received									1,03,429	1,331
i)	Interest on Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	12,000		26,000							13,49,952
ii)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (FCRA)	30,090		5,04,627		D Others i) Grants Refunded ii) Amount Received from LIC and Paid to Employees iii) Amount paid to RIS Provident Fund iv) Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refunded to GOI, MEA) Total D	3,75,69,026	23,63,566		78,66,611	34,97,629
iii)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (Non - FCRA)	9,49,305		13,61,793							
iv)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (FCRA)	65,05,255		50,64,251							
v)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (Non - FCRA)	80,804		20,94,882							
vi)	Interest on Income Tax Refund	1,64,469		8,450							
	Total Carried Forward		77,41,923		90,60,003				4,00,84,045		1,15,02,665
	Total Brought Forward		58,26,69,773		66,22,69,052				30,74,29,328		35,66,60,231
D	Other Income										
i)	Royalty	4,61,753		67,798		E Closing Balances i) Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA) ii) Cash in Hand (FCRA) Bank Balances: In Savings Account - Union Bank of India (Non - FCRA) In Savings Account / Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA) In Savings Account - State 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/ State Bank of India (Non - FCRA) In Fixed Deposits - State Bank	17,685			19,301	
ii)	Miscellaneous Income				67,799						
	Total D		4,61,753								
E	Advances and Deposits										
i)	Recovery of Loan/ Advances (Non - FCRA)	4,31,501									
ii)	Advances Recovered from Staff (Non - FCRA)										
iii)	State Cheques (Non - FCRA & FCRA)			35,000							
iv)	Amount Received from LIC and Payable to Employees	23,89,561		38,01,938							
v)	Amount received in Advance (Non - FCRA)										
vi)	Recovery of Loan/ Advances (FCRA)	12,35,001		3,389							
	Total Carried Forward		58,26,69,773		66,22,69,052						
	Total Brought Forward		58,26,69,773		66,22,69,052						
	Total		1,15,02,665		1,15,02,665						



	Receipts	Year Ended 31-Mar-25	Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Payments	Year Ended 31-Mar-25	Year Ended 31-Mar-24
vi)	Amount received on behalf of RIS PF			of India (FCRA)		
F	Total E	40,56,063	38,40,327	In Savings Account- State Bank of India (FCRA)	1,09,48,003	2,70,34,864
f)	Others			iii) Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non-FCRA)	1,21,056	92,539
i)	Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refundable to GOI, MEA)	16,468	49,525	Total E		30,95,66,472
ii)	Income Tax Refund	28,27,961			28,26,02,690	
	Total F	28,44,429	49,525			
	Total	59,00,32,018	66,62,26,703	Total	59,00,32,018	66,62,26,703

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. 000252/2015-16



(CA Tanuj Chugh)
Partner
M. No. 529619

Place : New Delhi

Date : 29-09-2025

For Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma
Director General

Anil Kant Sharma
Director (Fin & Admin)



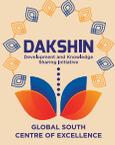


RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It 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. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FIRD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.



DST-Satellite Centre for Policy Research on STI Diplomacy at RIS aims to advance policy research at the intersection of science, technology, innovation (STI) and diplomacy, in alignment with India’s developmental priorities and foreign policy objectives.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda —

Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India

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