

# Health Diplomacy Futures

## Capacity Building in the Global South

Tuesday, 30th September 2025 | 9:30 am - 5:00 pm IST

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

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### Agenda

9:30am – 10:00am	Registration
10:00am – 11:15am	Context Setting
10:00am – 10:10am	<b>Welcome Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India</li> <li>Dr Balvir Singh Tomar, Founder and Chancellor, NIMS University Rajasthan, India</li> </ul>
10:10am – 10:55am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, RIS, India</li> <li>Dr Rakesh Gupta, Additional Secretary to the President of India</li> <li>Dr R Balasubramaniam, Member - Human Resources, Capacity Building Commission, Govt of India</li> <li>Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, India (Virtual)</li> </ul>
10:55am – 11:15am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Charting a Collective Path: Investing in the Future of Health Diplomacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Angela Lusigi, UNDP Resident Representative, India</li> </ul>
11:15am – 11:30am	Tea Break
11:30am – 12:15pm	<b>PANEL – I</b> Health Diplomacy as a Catalyst for Global South-South Solidarity
	<b>Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Aparna Ray Pai, Joint Secretary (Policy Planning &amp; Research Division), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India</li> <li>Mr Dadang Hidayat, Minister Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi, India</li> <li>Ms Vinita Sethi, Independent Director, Former Lead Corporate Affairs, Apollo Hospitals; Past President - Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)</li> <li>Ms Archana Vyas, Director, Program Advocacy and Communications, Growth, Opportunity, and Empowerment, Gates Foundation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Lakshmy Ramakrishnan</b>, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Gulshan Sachdeva</b>, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, RIS, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health diplomacy and its importance for the Global South</li> <li>• Diplomatic, legal, and technical skills needed for health negotiators</li> <li>• Role of multisectoral collaboration (health, foreign affairs, trade)</li> </ul>
<b>12:15pm – 1:00pm</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PANEL – II</b> Building Institutional and Human Capacity for Health Diplomacy</p>
	<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof Fuad</b>, Education and Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi, India</li> <li>• <b>Mr Srinivas Seshadri</b>, Director - Strategy, Aastrika Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Professor Neeta Inamdar</b>, Dean, Faculty of Education, Symbiosis Centre for Higher Education Research and Policy Advocacy (SCHERPA), Symbiosis International (Deemed University)</li> <li>• <b>Ms Amrita Sadarangani</b>, Senior Director and Head, Global Research Alliances, Ashoka University, Sonapat</li> <li>• <b>Dr Anshul Chauhan</b>, Medical Consultant, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science (ICMR-NIRDHDS), New Delhi, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Sanjay Pattanshetty</b>, Director of Public Health, NIMS University Rajasthan, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programs and curricula for health diplomacy</li> <li>• Developing interdisciplinary courses or modules (Health + IR + Law)</li> <li>• Role of universities, Federations, Development sector, National Associations, Regional cooperation, and learning platforms</li> <li>• Strategies for scaling up local expertise and institutional readiness</li> <li>• Diverse career pathways in health diplomacy</li> </ul>
<b>1:00pm – 2:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2:00pm – 2:45pm</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PANEL – III</b> Leveraging Multilateral Platforms for Building Capacity in Health Diplomacy</p>
	<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Catharina Boehme</b>, Officer-in-Charge, World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Vivek Virendra Singh</b>, Chief Health a.i, UNICEF, New Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Mr Abhimanyu Saxena</b>, Health Portfolio Head, UNDP India Country Office</li> <li>• <b>Mr Oommen C. Kurian</b>, Senior Fellow, Head of the Health Initiative at the Inclusive Growth and SDGs Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi, India</li> <li>• <b>Dr Sonalini Khetrpal</b>, Senior Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Nimisha Goel</b>, Senior Program Officer, Primary Health Care, Gates Foundation, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of existing UN mechanisms supporting diplomacy training</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments in leadership training, negotiation skills, and regional capacity</li> <li>• Opportunities and mechanisms for Shared Leadership in the Global South</li> <li>• Global South countries positions and influence in multilateral health governance</li> </ul>
<b>2:45pm – 3:30pm</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PANEL – IV</b> Financing the Future: Mobilizing Investments in Health Diplomacy</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Hemang Shah</b>, Director (Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition), Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), India</li> <li>• <b>Dr Monika Sharma</b>, India Lead, Novo Nordisk Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Dr Karan Thakur</b>, Group Vice President, Corporate Affairs &amp; Sustainability, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited</li> <li>• <b>Mr LM Singh</b>, Managing Director India and Global Head, Partnerships, and Innovative Finance, Vital Strategies</li> <li>• <b>Mr T.S. Vishwanath</b>, Founder, Vek, Principal Adviser, ASL-Legal, Director General, Founding Member and Past President, Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Grace Achungura</b>, Technical Officer (Health Financing for UHC-HCF), World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office for India, New Delhi</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of Philanthropy in Strengthening South-South Cooperation</li> <li>• Challenges, and Gaps in mechanisms for financing education and research in health diplomacy</li> <li>• Targeted funding to build capacity in health diplomacy</li> <li>• Coordination platforms: supporting Global South coalitions</li> </ul>
<b>3:30pm – 4:00pm</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks &amp; Acknowledgements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Balvir Singh Tomar</b>, Founder and Chancellor, NIMS University Rajasthan, India</li> <li>• <b>Ms Preeti Sudan</b>, Former Union Health Secretary, Govt of India; Former Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India (<i>Virtual</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Monika Kochar</b>, Advisor-Health, DAKSHIN, RIS, India</li> </ul>
<b>4:00pm onwards</b>	<b>High Tea</b>