No. 151 May 2026

RIS Policy Brief

Advancing India Africa Blue Economy Cooperation

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1 Introduction

India and Africa's long-standing ties stem from ancient trade across the Indian Ocean and continue to thrive within the contemporary framework of South–South cooperation. Over the years, this relationship has evolved into a multi-dimensional partnership integrating economic development, cultural engagement, and collaboration in the Blue Economy. Maritime cooperation is a key and strategic pillar of India-Africa relations. The Indian Ocean has historically connected the two regions, and today it remains vital for global trade and energy flows. Spanning 70.56 million square kilometres and comprising approximately 20 per cent of the planet's total ocean surface, the Indian Ocean is the world's third-largest oceanic division, serving as the principal maritime corridor for trade, energy, and diplomatic engagement between India and Africa. Within this shared oceanic context, the foundation for a Blue Economy partnership between India and Africa becomes particularly gripping.

Africa holds a globally significant maritime position, both in terms of geography and strategic potential. As the world's second-largest continent, it is bounded by three major oceans, namely the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and Southern Ocean, and two important seas, the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Its extensive coastline stretches for nearly 26,000 nautical miles, while its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers approximately 13 million square kilometres, amounting to nearly two-thirds of the continent's landmass. Of Africa's 54 states, close to 30 are coastal, and nearly 90 per cent of the

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This Policy Brief has been prepared by Dr. Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS and Mr. Ayush Tiwari, Research Assistant, RIS. The authors are grateful to Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, for providing support to prepare this Policy Brief. Views expressed are personal. Usual disclaimers apply.

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continent's trade is conducted through maritime routes. In addition, Africa's maritime jurisdiction encompasses a continental shelf of roughly 6.5 million square kilometres, further augmenting its oceanic resource base. These geographical statistics represent the structural foundations of immense developmental potential, which remains substantially underutilised.

India's maritime geography also underscores its central strategic significance. Positioned at the intersection of Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia, the country commands a coastline of 11,098.81 kilometres and jurisdiction over 1,382 island territories. Its EEZ extends across 2.44 million square kilometres, while nine coastal states and four union territories collectively handle nearly 90 per cent of India's maritime trade. The Indian Ocean is not merely peripheral to India's development trajectory, but it also constitutes a core dimension of the nation's economic growth and strategic orientation. Approximately 880 million individuals in India and Africa rely directly on ocean-based activities for their livelihoods, underscoring the significant human and economic implications of Blue Economy development. The common and shared Indian Ocean provides a vast arena for collaboration on the Blue Economy, which is important for both the countries.

Against this background, this policy brief discusses the present policy framework for Blue Economy in India and Africa while highlighting the existing strategies that different African countries have adopted to enhance their Blue Economy. This further highlights the shared challenges and opportunities both regions can collaboratively work together for harnessing the Blue Economy.

2 Africa and India Blue Economy Landscape

Africa's Blue Economy operates within a vibrant, multi-layered policy framework that ranges from the pan-continental directives of the African Union to the evolving national strategies of coastal and island states. At the continental scale, the African Union's Agenda 2063 designates the Blue Economy as a flagship development initiative, describing Africa's oceans as an "untapped landscape" with the potential to drive regional and continental transformation. The Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy, 2050, refers to the Blue Economy as the "new frontier of African Renaissance," and the legally binding Lomé Charter of 2016 establishes a continental framework for maritime security, safety, and sustainable development. More recently, the African Union's Blue Wall Initiative and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy have operationalised these ambitions through specific sectoral targets, estimating a continental Blue Economy value of US$405 billion and 57 million employment opportunities by 2030 (Beaumont *et al.*, 2025). Africa's extensive coastline presents significant opportunities within the blue economy, which generated US$ 296 billion and supported 49 million jobs in 2018. Projections estimate that by 2063, the blue economy could reach US$ 576 billion and provide 127 million jobs, representing approximately 5 per cent of Africa's active population

(UNEP, 2023). Marine and coastal tourism, currently valued at US$ 80 billion, exceeds the global average. Strategic investments in this sector could increase its value to US$ 100 billion and create employment for 28 million people by 2030. The African Union's Blue Economy framework outlines five principal priority sectors. Statistically, it is reported that Africa's Blue Economy would contribute US$ 22 trillion by 2050, given the necessary emphasises on the sector is provided through the identified pillars (Matovu *et al.*, 2025).

Among these, fisheries and aquaculture are the most established. Small-scale and artisanal fisheries play a critical role, providing employment for nearly nine million individuals in direct fishing and an additional five million in subsistence fisheries. Although aquaculture is expanding rapidly, its production remains concentrated in a limited number of countries. Maritime transport and ports represent the second major pillar of Africa's Blue Economy. Over 90 per cent of the continent's trade is facilitated via approximately 100 ports along its coastline, supporting a global maritime industry valued at approximately US$ 1 trillion annually. Africa's marine transport sector accounted for 3 per cent of global trade, with a value of US$ 22 billion in 2018. With strategic investments in ports, shipping technology, and maritime education, this figure is projected to increase to $48 billion by 2063.

Marine and coastal tourism offers significant opportunities for sustainable development in Africa, with projected value-added exceeding US$ 100 billion by 2030. Ecotourism business opportunities in Africa include wildlife safaris, conservation tourism, sustainable agriculture, and culinary tourism. These ventures leverage the continent's exceptional biodiversity to provide distinctive visitor experiences. However, this sector remains significantly lower than its potential, accounting for only 5 per cent of global tourism value. Offshore energy, encompassing oil, gas and a growing share of renewable is regarded as the most transformative sector. Ocean renewable energy represents a significant, largely untapped resource for Africa, with the capacity to generate more than 100 per cent of current global energy demand. Marine Biotechnology and other emerging use of living marine resources, including marine collagen and seaweed-based industries, represent a promising yet high-value frontier.

At the national level, several African states have developed comprehensive Blue Economy strategies that serve as models for broader adoption, some of these are represented in Table 1. South Africa's Operation Phakisa is recognised as the continent's most advanced integrated ocean-economy program, aiming to generate ZAR 177 billion in GDP and create 1 million jobs by 2030 through public-private partnership investments in marine transport, aquaculture, and offshore energy (Ebarvia, 2016). Seychelles introduced the first sovereign blue bond globally in 2018, creating a debt-for-nature financing mechanism that has attracted significant international attention (Benzaken *et al.*, 2024). In Mauritius, where the Blue Economy contributes over 10.5 per cent of the GDP, a comprehensive ocean economy

roadmap encompasses shipbuilding, marine biotechnology, and renewable energy has been developed. Tanzania has emerged as a governance leader within the Indian Ocean region, as evidenced by its Maritime Governance Development Initiative and the Zanzibar Consensus 2023, which provides a framework for regional ocean cooperation. Ghana is pursuing wave energy development through the Seabased project, which has a potential capacity of 100 MW (Seabased, 2019). Mauritius is investing in floating solar photovoltaics, expected to contribute an additional 30 MW to national electricity generation. Furthermore, there is potential for deep seabed and seawater mining, which could significantly enhance economic value

Table 1: Flagship Instruments on Blue Economy in some African Nations

Country	Flagship Instrument	Key Sectors	Target
South Africa	Operation Phakisa	Marine transport, aquaculture, offshore energy, governance	ZAR 177B GDP + 1M jobs by 2030
Seychelles	Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework & Roadmap 2018–2030	Fisheries, tourism, deep-sea, blue bonds	World's 1st sovereign blue bond (2018)
Mauritius	Mauritius Vision 2030 / Ocean Economy Roadmap	Aquaculture, marine energy, shipbuilding, maritime transport	Double BE share of GDP by 2025 (>10.5% now)
Ghana	Wave Energy Development (Seabased Project)	Wave Energy	To reach the potential capacity of 100 MW
Egypt	Aquaculture & Tourism Strategy	Aquaculture (70–75% of Africa's total), coral tourism	US$ 7 billion per year coral reef tourism revenue
Nigeria	Nigerian Blue Economy Policy	Maritime trade (180 million tonnes/yr), oil/gas, tourism, floating dockyards	Africa's largest floating dockyard planned

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Kenya	National Blue Economy Strategic Framework	Fisheries, ports, tidal energy, tourism	National Adaptation Plan - small-scale fisheries priority
Mozambique	ODED / Offshore Gas Strategy	LNG (Rovuma Basin), fisheries, ports	Multi-billion USD LNG infrastructure investment
Namibia	Harambee Prosperity Plan (Oceans)	Marine diamond mining, offshore gas, wave energy	Global leader in marine diamond mining
Tanzania	Maritime Governance Development Initiative	Fisheries, seaweed (92 per cent of Africa's output), governance	Zanzibar Consensus 2023 - ocean governance model
Uganda	Uganda's Vision 2040 & National BE strategy of Uganda (2023-2027)	Fisheries, Aquaculture, tourism, oil & gas, energy & minerals, water transport & environment sustainability	To generate an annual value of US$ 25 billion

***Source*:** Compilation by Authors based on Beaumont *et al*. (2025); Benzaken *et al*. (2024); Mukherjee (2021); Matovu *et al*. (2025); AU-IBAR (2019); Seabased (2019).

if adequate investments are allocated to the exploitation of these renewable natural resources (AU-IBAR, 2019).

India's blue economy, based on sustainable utilisation of ocean resources, contributes approximately 4 per cent to the national GDP (EAC-PM, 2020) and supports 95 per cent of trade by volume via maritime routes. High-growth sectors, including fisheries, shipping, renewable energy, and tourism, offer considerable opportunities for economic diversification and employment generation (Mohanty *et al*., 2015). However, India is aiming at doubling the Blue Economy contribution by 2035. India has also developed one of the most comprehensive Blue Economy policy frameworks, establishing itself as a strategically significant partner for Africa's ocean development objectives. India's Blue Economy Draft Policy, 2021 (Ministry of Earth Science, 2021) introduced a national framework that identifies seven priority sectors: fisheries and aquaculture, maritime tourism, marine manufacturing and transport, offshore energy, seabed resources, ocean services, and coastal infrastructure.

Multiple flagship programmes underpin this policy framework.

The Sagarmala Programme, administered by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, advances port-led development through port modernisation, port-linked industrialisation, and the enhancement of coastal communities. The Deep Ocean Mission, with an investment exceeding Rs. 4,077 crores, supports seabed mineral exploration, marine biodiversity research, and ocean climate science. Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana, with a budget of Rs. 20,050 crores, seeks to transform India's fisheries sector. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) delivers real-time ocean data, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) monitoring, and tsunami and cyclone early warning systems, currently serving 13 Indian Ocean nations.

India's engagement with the Blue Economy extends beyond domestic policy to encompass active multilateral institutionalism. The Ministry of External Affairs convened the 1st IORA Blue Economy Dialogue in Goa in 2015, resulting in the Goa Declaration, which represented the first multilateral consensus on Indian Ocean Blue Economy priorities. India's ocean energy capabilities further enhance its strategic significance as a key partner for Africa. India's progress in Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) technology is especially pertinent to the tropical Indian Ocean coastlines shared with African states. India has also signed two contracts with the International Seabed Authority for the deep-sea exploration of polymetallic nodules and polymetallic sulfides in the Indian Ocean. The SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) idea, established in 2015, governs India's engagement in the Indian Ocean via collaborative development, marine stewardship, and regional security initiatives.

Its recent shift from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) has expanded this initiative geographically from the Indian Ocean to a global scope with focus areas covering collective global security, economic diplomacy, technological connectivity and environmental sustainability. These guiding principles closely align with Africa's Blue Economy objectives and multilateral governance priorities.

The institutional momentum supporting this partnership has developed systematically over more than a decade through the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) process. In 2008, the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation established commitments to collaboration in fisheries, aquaculture, and the exchange of applied maritime technology. By 2011, the framework expanded to include tourism harmonisation, acknowledging the economic links between coastal infrastructure and the broader Indian Ocean economy. The 2015 summit represented a pivotal moment, as both parties formally agreed to promote cooperation in the Blue and Ocean Economy. This cooperation includes sustainable fisheries, efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, hydrographic surveys, ecotourism, offshore renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction. Additionally, India committed to supporting

Africa's implementation of the African Union 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy in accordance with International Maritime Law, providing a substantive framework for ongoing structured engagement.

3 Areas of Cooperation

Strategic collaboration between India and Africa in the Blue Economy is projected to unlock several opportunities. Collectively, these regions contribute the largest share of the world's 13 million maritime jobs, as well as positions indirectly related to logistics, port management, and supply chain services. Given the well-defined priorities in African and Indian Blue Economy strategies the following are some of areas where the countries may deepen their cooperation:

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Fisheries, aquaculture, and marine resources represent a primary area for structured bilateral engagement, given Africa's substantial fisheries resources and India's expertise in aquaculture technology, cold chain logistics, and fisheries processing. Collaborative initiatives such as joint aquaculture development, technology transfer for hatchery management, and investment in post-harvest processing infrastructure, particularly in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Madagascar, could facilitate Africa's transition from an exporter of raw fish to a producer of value-added marine products. Seaweed farming represents a highly promising, regenerative, and sustainable place in aquaculture, offering significant environmental and economic benefits. Tanzania currently produces 92 per cent of Africa's seaweed, and India's processing and export capabilities could support the development of a joint value chain.

Furthermore, the leadership of fisherwomen in seaweed and small-scale fishing in East Africa indicates that gender-inclusive models of community enterprise could be integrated into bilateral cooperation frameworks. Technologies such as aquaponics, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, and recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) are well-suited for many African small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Consequently, companies specialising in these technologies or providing consultancy services in sustainable aquaculture may access significant opportunities within this emerging market.

Port Infrastructure Development

African ports have the potential to modernise and expand rapidly. The establishment of sub-regional maritime shipping companies and the development of efficient transport corridors could further enhance Africa's position in international shipping (AU-IBAR, 2019). India has offered its expertise in shipbuilding and highlighted shipyard development and port infrastructure alongside potential partnerships with Tanzanian institutions.

India's Sagarmala model of port-led development presents a directly transferable framework to address Africa's port infrastructure challenges. India's development cooperation through Lines of Credit exceeding US$ 1.1 billion for water infrastructure projects in Tanzania was highlighted. These projects, currently under implementation, are expected to

benefit over 6 million people across 24 towns. Continued collaboration in expanding water supply networks and infrastructure development remains a priority area. The existing lines of credit provided by India EXIM Bank, as demonstrated by the Dar es Salaam port modernisation project, present scalable financial instruments to support this partnership.

Offshore Energy

Africa's offshore energy sector offers a significant investment frontier for Indian firms. ONGC Videsh's 16 per cent stake in Mozambique's Rovuma Area 1 offshore project, is one of the world's largest liquefied natural gas discoveries and serves as a foundation for broader energy sector engagement. Further opportunities exist in Namibia's Orange Basin, Tanzania's offshore gas blocks, and the deepwater oil fields of Nigeria and Angola. In addition to hydrocarbons, offshore renewable energy has substantial potential. According to The International Energy Agency (IEA), Africa's ocean renewable resources could supply four times the world's current energy needs. This makes offshore wind, tidal, and wave power important long-term priorities, especially for South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

Marine Biotechnology

Africa's pharmaceutical market is expected to grow to US$ 70 billion by 2030. (Matovu *et al.*, 2025). India's established pharmaceutical sector, combined with its Ayurvedic research tradition, offers a robust basis for collaboration in marine biomedicine. The biotic resources of the Indian Ocean present significant opportunities for drug discovery and the development of treatments for tropical diseases. Targeting India's Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which has provided 40,000 scholarships to African countries since 2008, toward marine biotechnology researchers, fisheries processing technologists, and indigenous knowledge holders in both regions could further strengthen these collaborations.

Biotechnology companies can explore this relatively untapped market by leveraging Africa's extensive marine biodiversity. For example, although algae are largely absent from African diets and traditional medicine, they contain significant levels of calcium, iron, vitamins A, C, and K, potassium, selenium, and magnesium. Businesses that can effectively market these products across the continent may realize substantial profits.

Marine Research and Development

The Ocean Decade (2021–2030) provides a structured, multilateral framework for India and Africa to collaborate on scientific research, ocean expeditions, and the development of shared technologies for marine shipping and navigation. India's artificial intelligence and technology expertise could advance the African Union's Continental AI Strategy and Digital Transformation Strategy 2020–2030, with particular emphasis on emerging AI hubs in Mauritius, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, and Ghana. Expanding submarine internet cable infrastructure is also a shared priority; increasing Africa's internet penetration would accelerate

the digital transformation of blue economy sectors across the continent.

Marine Industrial Development

Africa encounters considerable obstacles in industrial development, including the limited capacity of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to expand circular economy initiatives, insufficient industrial infrastructure for specific circular economy activities within blue economy sectors, and the absence of supply chains necessary for establishing a market for circular products. Although rapid growth in this sector is anticipated, the African blue economy receives less investment compared to other regions. Notably, only Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles, have significantly integrated sustainable blue investment within their private sectors. These countries have leveraged their status as premier destinations for high-end beach-resort tourism, enabling the private sector to attract investment in blue economy activities. In contrast, most other African countries have not achieved similar outcomes. Indian private companies may invest in such African countries and jointly establish marine industries for the development of the sector.

A broader imperative for South-South solidarity underlies all these areas. India and Africa together have about 2.5 billion people. This provides both regions with strong social capital for blue innovation and for building more inclusive markets. Realizing this potential requires that India's engagement remain genuinely demand-driven, grounded in principles of trust, transparency, and equitable benefit-sharing, rather than replicating the asymmetric dynamics that have historically characterised North-South development cooperation.

4 Challenges

Significant structural impediments must be addressed for India-Africa Blue Economy cooperation to fulfill its stated objectives. The most pressing challenge is the crisis of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which results in annual losses of between US$ 10-23 billion for African economies, with approximately 3.1 million tonnes of fish illegally extracted from African waters each year. According to the UNEP (2023), Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing results in an estimated annual loss of US$ 10 billion in catch. Africa accounts for only 7 per cent of global fish production, which remains well below its ecological potential due to the lack of modern fishing fleets, cold chain infrastructure, and processing facilities. Among the 55 African Union member states, at least 35 experience a fish production deficit and rely heavily on seafood imports (AU-IBAR, 2019). This structural vulnerability is expected to intensify as population growth and rising middle-class demand increase regional seafood consumption.

Climate change presents an equally significant threat. Africa contains four of the world's most productive Large Marine Ecosystems, such as the Guinea Current and the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME). However, climate-driven impacts, including intense cyclones, ocean acidification, and thermal

disruption, are already reducing their productivity. For the CCLME alone, a 14.6 per cent decline in fish catch potential has been projected. If unsustainable practices and weak governance persist, fish stocks across the continent may collapse by 2050 (Belhabib *et al.*, 2019). These risks are further exacerbated by annual losses of over US$ 24 billion across the fisheries value chain, driven by overexploitation and enforcement failures.

Key technical challenges across all Blue Economy sectors include inadequate assessment of blue energy and marine mineral resources, as well as limited baseline data, both of which constrain investment and hinder the development of emerging sectors. Achieving sustainable governance requires integrated ocean management approaches, such as the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and Watershed Approaches (WSA), to effectively monitor ecosystem health, fisheries, pollution, and socio-economic impacts. Furthermore, piracy, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, illicit trafficking, and weak maritime surveillance systems continue to threaten the sustainability of maritime sectors, underscoring the need for enhanced regional coordination and robust monitoring mechanisms.

Institutional and governance challenges continue to impede the formulation and implementation of policies related to the blue economy. For example, many existing environmental laws and policies were established during a period when blue economy and climate change considerations were not integrated into development agendas. At the institutional level, the lack of a unified Blue Economy accounting framework among African states impedes accurate measurement and communication of the sector's contributions to GDP and employment, thereby weakening the policy rationale for sustained investment. Critically, coastal and lake communities, who are disproportionately poor, less formally educated, and largely excluded from decision-making, have not been effectively integrated into Blue Economy planning. This exclusion limits both the equity and effectiveness of continental strategies. The ongoing reliance on exporting raw commodities, rather than developing value-added products, remains a significant structural constraint on realizing Africa's Blue Economy potential.

5 Way Forward

A structured India-Africa Blue Economy partnership is the need of the hour, given shared geography, growing institutional ties, complementary economic strengths, and a common need for development. The progression of the India-Africa Forum Summit process, the commitments embedded in IORA's Blue Economy Action Plan, the governance reforms of the Zanzibar Consensus, and the scientific objectives of the Ocean Decade collectively indicate a movement toward a more structured, equitable, and institutionally grounded partnership in the Blue Economy. However, there are some low-hanging fruits which can be leveraged for India and Africa Blue Economy cooperation:

- ***Institutional Framework:*** Setting up a dedicated India-African Union Blue Economy Working Group within the IAFS framework, along with a ministerial review every two years, could help establish the governance needed to coordinate and sustain cooperation between the two sides across sectors. Additionally, designating Blue Economy focal points within respective diplomatic missions and relevant ministries could facilitate operational-level coordination.
- ***Monitoring and Data Sharing:*** A joint monitoring, control, and surveillance framework under the Blue Economy Working Group could address the IUU fishing crisis in a structured and legally robust manner. Expanding INCOIS ocean data infrastructure and early warning systems to all interested African coastal states, beyond the current coverage of Seychelles and Mauritius, would constitute a high-impact, cost-effective contribution to regional resilience. Marine spatial planning, modeled on South Africa's Operation Phakisa, could be extended with Indian technical assistance to additional coastal African states, thereby supporting evidence-based ecosystem management.
- ***Financial Collaboration:*** Establishing a dedicated India-Africa Blue Investment Fund, jointly anchored by India EXIM Bank and the African Development Bank, with private equity participation, would provide the necessary impetus to the development of Blue Economy sectors in both the regions.
- ***Capacity Building:*** The ITEC programme could be specifically directed toward marine biotechnology, ocean governance, and digital Blue Economy professionals, thereby strengthening the human capital base for a long-term partnership.

The current imperative is to mobilise political will to convert these frameworks into binding agreements, dedicated financial mechanisms, and inclusive, community-focused development programs. India-Africa cooperation in the Blue Economy represents the convergence of shared maritime interests, sustainable development goals, and strategic security needs. By aligning their initiative, regional and national, both regions are laying the foundation for a partnership that unlocks the immense potential of ocean resources for inclusive growth. This collaboration, spanning issues like maritime security, ecological stewardship, fisheries, renewable energy, and port infrastructure, etc. has the capacity to transform the Indian Ocean into a hub of prosperity and stability. As India's Vision 2047 and Africa's Agenda 2063 advance, the Blue Economy will stand as a cornerstone of their shared future, fostering resilience, innovation, and mutual progress across continents.

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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.

FISD 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 —

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