

RIS

Annual Report 2016-17

RESEARCH SHAPING DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



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REPORT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

The period under review has seen rapid rise in research and policy dialogues at RIS. The prominent issues that kept RIS engaged vigorously were related to launching of an intense work programme on Sustainable Development Goals, WTO, BRICS, IBSA, South-South Development Cooperation, IORA-Blue Economy, BIMSTEC, Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), ASEAN-India, South Asia Development Cooperation, Science Diplomacy, among others. They have been discussed in detail under the four pillars of the RIS research agenda, viz. Global Issues and Development Cooperation Architecture; Initiatives on Trade, Investment and Regional Cooperation; Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Integration; New Technologies and Development Issues; and other relevant sections of this Report.

Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj launched the RIS publication entitled '*India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward*' on 7 October 2016 in New Delhi. The Volume has 19 comprehensive papers, covering full spectrum of SDGs along with two cross-cutting themes, finance and technology. In collaboration with the NITI Aayog, UN office in India and different departments of the Central and State Governments, RIS has organised a number of national level consultations on different aspects of the implementation of the agenda of SDGs.

RIS also brought out two other major publications, covering issues related to BIMSTEC and IBSA, '*BIMSTEC – The Road Ahead*' and '*IBSA – Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability*'. They were launched by Gen (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs.

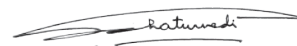
In the realm of capacity building, the Institute conducted its flagship programmes on International Economic Issues and Development Policy, South-South Cooperation, Summer School of International Trade Theory and Practice, Workshops on Trade Facilitation, and Regional Cooperation and Integration.

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS (AIC) has also been involved in carrying forward the process of strengthening and deepening ASEAN-India economic integration. Its work programme is also there in the Report. The major publications coming from the AIC include *ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report*, and appraisal of *India-Japan CEPA* and *India-Singapore CECA*.

Dissemination of research outputs emanating from RIS is a vital activity of RIS. This objective is achieved through the vibrant RIS Website as well as by bringing out different publications. During the year under review, the prominent publications coming out from RIS included Reports like South-South Cooperation 2016, Insights from South-South Capacity Building Programme, Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index, among others.

RIS continues to collaborate with various networks and think tanks both within the country and abroad for carrying forward its research agenda. These, among other include ERIA; IORA Secretariat; SACEPS partners (Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo; Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Nepal; Lahore University of Management Science, Pakistan; and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan); Asia Foundation; Observer Research Foundation; Sharda University; National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangaluru; Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Finance; Department of Science and Technology; Ministry of Ayush; National Institute of Disaster Management. We are immensely thankful to them for their active and effective association with the work programme of RIS.

I also take this opportunity to convey our thanks to Ambassador Hardeep Puri, Chairman and other Members of the RIS Governing Council and to Ambassador Sudhir Devare, Chairman and other Members of the Research Advisory Council. I am also thankful to my colleagues at RIS from the research faculty and from the staff for their valuable inputs and cooperation for undertaking different work programmes of the Institute. We are grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs for their continued support to the work programmes of RIS.



Sachin Chaturvedi

POLICY RESEARCH

A. Global Issues and Development Cooperation Architecture

Issues before the WTO

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr S.K. Mohanty, Dr Ravi Srinivas, Dr Sabyasachi Saha and Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Issues related to the world trade are prominent in the research programme of the RIS. Since the launch of the WTO, RIS has come out with many studies and has conducted a number of consultation meetings with stakeholders including with the Department of Commerce. The RIS has also brought out its flagship publication, the *World Trade and Development Report* focusing on major issues confronting WTO. Keeping in view the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, RIS aims to come out with a set of *Policy Briefs* on the conference agenda.

Issues in the WTO Ministerial Meet

In the meeting, to be held in December 2017, in addition to the old issues like moving forward on Doha Development Agenda (DDA), agricultural subsidies and food security, some new issues like investment facilitation, e-commerce and subsidies on fisheries are planned to be discussed. India's concern is in finding a relevant solution for agricultural subsidies and food security issues to ensure that trade rules do not hamper the capacity to provide support to farmers and to stock food for public distribution and facilitating in food security. India and many developing countries have pointed out that subsidies given by the developed countries cause distortion in trade. The question is, what sort of a solution would emerge and whether an amicable solution may emerge from this meeting, although progress towards that is a likelihood.

- **Doha Development Agenda (DDA)**, which is of much interest to the developing nations, is not moving forward. With global economy not doing well, protectionist tendencies are arising in many developed countries and there may be a shift towards bilateral/regional trade agreements if major push is not given to the DDA and countries may simply ignore it. Whether the interest in DDA can be revived with an action plan is a major issue.
- **E-Commerce** is particularly growing in developing countries like India and China, and this has resulted in proposals on bringing E-Commerce as a topic for WTO Ministerial Meet. India is careful on that and is not keen to encourage talks or proposals for negotiating a treaty/agreement under the WTO on E-commerce. Retaining the regulatory and policy space in this sector is important as India looks forward at E-Commerce beyond commercial interests and is interested to integrate that with initiatives in Digital India.
- **Subsidies on Fisheries** is the another issue that can be a key topic. Considering the long-term sustainability of the fisheries sector, subsidies which encourage irresponsible fishing and unsustainable fishing need to be questioned. But for a country, that has mostly small-scale fishermen and untapped potential in the sector, taking nuanced view is important to safeguard domestic interests. Hence, India is approaching to this issue with caution.
- **Investment** facilitation would be another new issue. Here too the question would be that of policy and regulatory space for countries. Hence, India is not showing interest to support the push towards debating this in the meeting as a new item to be negotiated.
- Thus, besides the issues discussed and unresolved in the Nairobi Ministerial meet, new issues are likely to be given a push that may include implementation issue of the TAF. It is likely that while old issues may not be resolved amicably, new issues may be put forth as key concerns for furthering discussions to start negotiations.

Impact of Fishery Subsidies on the Developing Countries

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Ms Pankhuri Gaur

The impact of fishery subsidies on trade, environment and development has been considered very prominent. Its negative impact on the natural fisheries stock has raised concerns in many international and regional fora. However, no consensus could arrive among member-countries. Well documented international efforts have emerged to eliminate environmentally harmful and trade distorting fishery subsidies, and issue would be upcoming in Buenos Aires Ministerial meet.

The impact of fishery subsidies on the marine environment and depletion of fishery stocks are major concerns. In 2014, according to the FAO, around 30 per cent of the global stocks were classified as overfished. It has been widely acclaimed that fishery subsidies contributed to economic losses and also impacted food security and environment.

The United States and New Zealand have propounded that fishery subsidies encourage expansion on fishing fleet capacity which is detrimental for conserving fish stock and affects whole food chain, and in a way entire marine living environment.

The rationale behind the fishery subsidies for industrial and artisanal fishing is the main issue. It has been observed that subsidies benefit also large-scale commercial or industrial fishing, but result in depletion of fishery stock. And such subsidies to artisanal fishermen contribute to their food and livelihood security without exerting pressure on fisheries stock. Thus, elimination of fishery subsidies issue has to be discussed separately for industrial and subsistence fishing.

To estimate fishery subsidies, it is very important to have a clear and precise definition. International organisations like WTO, FAO, OECD and APEC, have defined and classified fishery subsidies differently. There is a need to have a single global definition and methodology to help in achieving SDG target on reducing fisheries subsidies. This study aims at answering how fishery subsidies would impact fish stock. The impact of grants and financial aid in the form of fishery subsidies need to be examined in the context of fish stock. It also examines how extending subsidy to small and artisanal fishermen alone can help manage fishery stock at a biologically sustainable level for long run. This issue requires urgent attention and policy action.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As part of phase I, RIS has not only hosted National Consultations in India but also organized several side events with partner institutions and international agencies during key UN meetings in New York and Addis Ababa. RIS along with UN in India also launched a comprehensive volume on SDGs and India in 2016, covering all 17 SDGs and the means of implementation issues. The RIS Work Programme on SDGs has purportedly entered in the second phase with almost near to completion of the series of National Consultations jointly hosted by RIS with the NITI Aayog and the UN in India on specific goals to streamline policy discussions for country-level adoption.

In Phase II, of the work programme on SDGs is focussed on SDGs 2,3,4,5,8,9,10,14 and 17.

The core agenda in these research themes would be to explore framework for localization of SDGs, their district-level implementation and validation and recommendation on appropriateness of national indicators for reporting on national development and SDGs. To achieve the designed objectives, regional consultations in states would be organized and multiple platforms for interactions with State government officials would be explored.

SDG-3: Health

Prof. T.C. James and Dr Ravi Srinivas

This study aims to analyse problems faced by India in achieving SDG-3 of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages by 2030. It proposes to suggest corrective measures required at the governance levels to equip India to face current and possible future challenges towards universal health care. It explores possibilities of alternative approaches to development models focussing on wellness. In the contexts of the federal structure of the country, the study also looks into local specific policy and strategic responses for achieving SDG-3 targets. Particular challenge would be in developing a robust country-wide monitoring mechanism for indicators. Trans-border dimension of SDG-3 would also be explored.

SDG-4: Education

Dr Beena Pandey

This goal mainly focuses on quality, access, equity and inclusion (QAEI) at all levels of education. For India to achieve this within fifteen year timeframe, QAEI offers a viable model that would take care of education comprehensively. The study tracks progress of various schemes and projects of education and analyse different approaches adopted by Government to conceptualize Goal 4 targets by integrating them in New Education Policy for quality education. It also looks into present best practices in the field of education available within India.

SDG-5: Gender

Dr Beena Pandey

SDG-5 focuses mainly on promoting women's empowerment and access to employment, ensuring women's participation in decision-making and ensuring dignity, safety and freedom of women and girls. The study explores inter-linkages of SDG 5 with other goals especially related to poverty, health, nutrition, education, climate change, clean water, sanitation and energy security.

It would examine how SDG 5 and its targets finally translate into indicators and whether these would be effective and usable for monitoring. It examines existing legislation affecting/ relating to women harmonized to enhance being effective along with additional legislative measures or amendments for emerging needs. It also explores ways to facilitate effective convergence among different Ministries, undertakings, local bodies to avoid duplication of efforts.

SDG-8 and 9: Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Sabyasachi Saha and Ms Pratiba Shaw

To leverage, India's external sector for domestic economic growth, RIS has over the years focused on India's bilateral and regional trading

arrangements, covering trade in goods, services and investment. In the context of India's current challenges to boost manufacturing sector performance and job-creation, ongoing research at the RIS, focuses on studying experiences from emerging economies in terms of industrial policies and sectoral subsidies. Special emphasis has been given not only to labour intensive sectors but also to high-technology sectors for greater value-addition at both ends of the smile curve, characterizing global production networks. This sufficiently complements RIS research endeavours on SDG-8 and 9.

SDG-10 and 12: Reduced Inequalities and Sustainable Consumption and Production

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, and Ms Prativa Shauw

The philosophy of SDG-10 is to reduce inequalities, both global and national level the focus of SDG 12 to compel countries and societies to adopt sustainable practices of consumption and production. The many targets on global inequalities, particularly in the domains of special and differential treatments for developing countries, LDCs as per the WTO and equitable distribution of global resources through ODA, financial flows and FDI are the research forte of the RIS since inception. Ongoing research in similar areas under the pillars of Trade and Investment and South-South Cooperation would be strengthened further and reoriented to suit SDG objectives and to guide multilateral process, regional cooperation and national policies.

The RIS is involved in research related to national indicator framework on quality of economic growth for well-being of citizens beyond income- based measures. This has been extended to other emerging countries' contexts, particularly BRICS in the form of a template called 'BRICS Wellness Index' based on parameters of sustainable lifestyles, holistic health, sustainable energy consumption, waste management and recycling. RIS research on wellness index complements SDG- 12, which would get pointed attention of the RIS faculty.

SDG-14: Healthy Oceans/Blue Economy Strategy to Strengthen the Blue Economy

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Ms Pankhuri Gaur, Ms Sanura Fernandez, and Ms Upasana Sikri

The level of ownership of the SDG- 14 has been very high in many countries; and several countries have embedded basic features of the goal in their perspective development plans. Littoral and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have emerged as the major countries promoting SDG-14 for conservation of oceans and sustainability of their resources. However, the time frame stipulated for achieving this goal, and heavily loaded asks, including definition and methodological issues, for implementation of the targets are too ambitious. Still SDG-14 is expected to have elicited results within the time frame.

Blue Economy is emerging as an alternative development paradigm to foster rapid economic growth with conservation of resources, particularly ocean resources. Ocean resources are vital when land resources are depleting, provided there is a sustainable approach to ocean health. Economic benefits of ocean resources can efficiently be managed through the Blue Economy approach. Hence, it would be helpful to realign Blue Economy as a base working on pathways of SDG-14. The sustainability issue of oceans generally focuses on three dimensions – economic, environmental and social. Reviewing targets of SDG-14, it has been observed that this is more inclined towards environmental dimension, leaving social and economic dimensions slightly lopsided. The Blue Economy strategy can help balancing this asymmetrical development.

“Blue Economy” is for sustainable use of ocean and marine resources. There is a great deal of convergence between the mandate of SDG-14 and of Blue Economy, but the latter is more pronounced than former, therefore, considerable degree of convergence exists between them. Blue Economy includes traditional sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, mining, shipbuilding and marine transport, etc. and non-traditional sectors like non-traditional securities, deep-sea mining, non-renewable energy, marine biotechnology and various recreational services like pearl rearing, marine eco-tourism. SDG-14 appears to be a subset of Blue Economy.

The depletion of the marine resources has been a major concern and management of marine resources is vital for utilising resources in the future. It is, therefore, essential to meet the SDG-14 target, which would conserve and protect marine and coastal resources and would also help replenishing resources. This study focuses on establishing links between SDG-14 and Blue Economy, and countries can use outcomes of SDG-14 implementations in promoting activities related to Blue Economy in both goods and services. This would be the second volume of the RIS Report on Blue Economy.

SDG-17: Partnerships for the Goals

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, and Ms Prativa Shaw

SDG-17 would be the means of implementation for achieving remaining 16 goals universally in a comprehensive manner. This would require adequate provision of financial and other resources; appropriate, affordable and accessible technological solutions; capacity-building; accommodating global regimes particularly in trade and finance; stakeholder partnerships; and enhanced capacities and effective parameters for monitoring. As indicated earlier, RIS has been deeply involved since its inception in research on global issues pertaining to trade, investment, finance and technology to explore developing country perspectives and safeguard India's development priorities in the process of its integration with world economy. Financing for development, cooperation for capacity building, technology transfer, access and regulation of S&T along with parameters/indicators for

sustainable development have formed the core of several RIS studies. To strengthen, policy framework for local implementation, capacity-building, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data and monitoring, RIS has launched a new research programme on localization of SDGs in India to explore feasibility of district level planning, implementation and monitoring.

South-South Cooperation and Global Aid Architecture

Comparative Analysis of North-South Flows and Cross-border Cooperation for Agenda 2030

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti

This is a joint project of the RIS with the German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany, with funding support from the latter. The project is titled “Converging or diverging: Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the support of the Agenda 2030”. It has following objectives to identify fundamental and non-negotiable features of divergence between the OECD and the SSC approaches to Development Cooperation; to locate potential areas of convergence in providing global public goods in institutionalizing process of sustainable development through collective action; and to identify features of collective action in a polycentric institutional framework in respect of efforts to generate global public goods like Peace Keeping, International Solar Alliance, GAVI, the vaccine alliance, Research Cooperation and Internet.

The RIS team aims to develop conceptual framework for the study and for preparing case studies on Peace Keeping, International Solar Alliance, GAVI, the vaccine alliance. The final draft of first paper of this study has been readied and would soon be sent for publication.

Database on Indian SSC

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Dr Sushil Kumar

The RIS has been working to create a robust database, capturing India’s development assistance in the SSC framework; and time period for this database is from 1946 to till-date. This database would cover all key modalities of development compact like grants, lines of credit, technology transfer, trade and investment, capacity- building and humanitarian assistance. It also covers bilateral as well as multilateral flow along with flow of India’s development cooperation ministry-wise and also includes India’s development cooperation projects sector- wise.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

(Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi/Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti/Mr. Pratyush)

The theoretical model derived to foster South-South Cooperation remained so far as a normative one based on a number of non-negotiable

guiding principles – demand-driven, un-conditional, respect for national sovereignty, mutual benefit, national ownership etc. – that evolved through consensus among the Southern partners over the last six decades. It was also posed as a process complementary to the efforts at North-South Cooperation to expedite the promotion of convergence in average physical quality of life between the citizens of North and the South.

Given the good number of experiences gathered in terms of interventions in development partnerships through South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, the study aims to:

- to analyse the contours of South- South Cooperation/ Triangular Cooperation across the globe in terms of the components of “development compact”;
- to assess and evaluate the contribution of India’s development cooperation activities in enhancing mutual benefit among the partners and adding to achievement of the SDGs, without compromising the non-negotiable principles of non-conditionality, sovereignty of the partners;
- to identify effective roadmaps for implementing SSC activities in a multi-stakeholder environment through enhanced people-to-people contact in partner countries and
- to develop a positive (operational) theoretical model of South-South Cooperation based on the evidences gathered so far (secondary sources) and primary data collected from some selected interventions, involving India, drawing on the theories of collective action, property rights, transaction costs, principal-agent, asymmetric information and institutional analysis of development (IAD) framework.

Determinants of India’s Development Cooperation: An Econometric Analysis

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Prof. Manmohan Agarwal and Dr Sushil Kumar

The RIS is working on estimating key determinants of Indian development cooperation in two steps. The purpose is to explore various econometric techniques to analyze India’s development cooperation like Probit modeling and ordinary least square (OLS) estimation. The study covers India’s development cooperation with 135 countries from 2005 to 2014 based on the comprehensive dataset. It would first estimate likelihood of India in providing development cooperation to partner country. In the study, dependent variable is a dummy taking a value of one if India commits development cooperation to a developing country on the list of the OECD recipient countries there comprised of 153 countries. Second, the country to which India is providing development cooperation, the study would estimate the (log) amount of development cooperation in the constant of US\$ 2000 ; committed to a particular development partner. Independent variables for this model are GDP per

capita, development distance, people affected by disaster, population, distance, UN voting, commonwealth, bilateral exports, resources depletion, political right, control of corruption, (dummy variable Asia and Africa). The analysis has shown that the most important variable influencing India's development cooperation is the need in terms of the recipient's per capita income. Also, strength of political rights and export interests for grant of letters of credit are important.

Impact Assessment of SSC Projects

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Prof Milindo Chakrabarti and Mr. Pranay Sinha

As discussions on the impact of the SSC and its efficacy are multiplying, it is important for the Southern governments to have a framework for impact assessment. Since RIS is closely involved in the issues related to SSC, the idea of assessment framework fits well with the ongoing efforts. A curriculum may also be evolved to link 'Learning SSC' with the framework of impact assessment. Such a programme is planned to be offered as the Winter School in early 2018.

The objectives of the exercise are as follows.

- To develop a curriculum to offer a two-week training and exposure programme on impact assessment of development intervention to participants from developing countries.
- To create awareness about the need to develop a new framework for assessing the impact of SSC – different from that followed by DAC.

ITEC Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation

Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti and Mr Pranay Sinha

The curriculum for the ITEC programme on Learning SSC has been revised in concurrence with the recent research findings at the RIS and outside. The new curriculum would be offered from the upcoming session, beginning in November 2017.

Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS)

SIDS Role in the World Economy

Prof. S. K. Mohanty/ Ms Pankhuri Gaur

The Small and Developing Island States (SIDS) are viewed as economically vulnerable countries with low technical and human capacity, remotely located, excessively dependent on global trade, location susceptible to natural disasters in tropical and sub-tropical areas, effects of climate change, vulnerable coastline, little or no economies of scale in production, limited human and institutional capital with unequal distribution of income along with low domestic resources for financing major economic initiatives and many more among others. The challenges faced are not only limited to trade and investment but also extend to several other areas, including sustainable

development.

However, SIDS has maritime zones larger than their land territories, representing tremendous economic potential from Blue Economy. They have huge untapped natural capital in the form of large EEZ comprising biodiversity, fisheries, coral reefs, and various other marine resources. The most suitable approach for the SIDS can be Blue Economy which may balance growth and sustainable ocean resources use. These economies are anchored to one or two economies in terms of trade, investment and development cooperation; leading them vulnerable in dealing with the rest of the world. The study would focus on explaining how SIDS countries can make use of Blue Economy in nullifying their economical vulnerability, if at all any. It would also focus on how these countries can work on comparative advantages within the existing trade framework and make use of traditional and non-traditional resources available with them to be equally competitive to the rest of the world. This study undertaken by the RIS, and is likely to be completed in 2018.

Trade and Investment issues under G20

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

Trade and investment are not an end by themselves but important instruments to achieve developmental objectives, such as employment generation, poverty alleviation and so on. Trade and investment flows have assumed much greater importance in the era of globalization and enhanced mutual interdependence across nations and regions. Given the nature of these flows and the bilateral, regional and multilateral policy regimes and institutions that govern such flows have only highlighted tremendous governance gap, having important global implications that require high level policy attention. Since trade and investment have significant growth and developmental implications, it is important to ensure high level global attention, so that overall global economic performance through national level successful outcomes could be ensured. For this to happen, certain action points would have to be chalked out and placed before the G20 leaders.

Based on this, presentations were made at T20/G20 meetings in Istanbul, Antalya and Beijing in 2015 and Beijing in 2016. The presentations made in Turkey had a bearing on the Agenda of the Chinese Presidency of the G 20.

Agenda 2030 in G20

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi / Prof. Ram Upendra Das

This task has been taken up specifically under German Presidency of the G20. The 2030 Agenda covers all areas of work of the G20 as exemplified by the 15 Sustainable Development Sectors (SDS) mentioned in the Action Plan adopted by the Hangzhou G20 Summit this year. This Action Plan was prepared in the Sherpa track and supported by the Development Working Group (DWG). Most of the 15 SDS are also

covered by other Task Forces of the German T20 (except for Global Health - an issue which is not covered by the expertise gathered in the TF).

In consultation with the GDI, Bonn we propose to work on three systemic questions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that underline its innovative features, and that are also in the focus of the G20 when driving forward implementation and specification of the Action Plan. We need to build on previous and current debates in these three areas, and also provide new knowledge and proposals, which fit into the G20 context and its own debates. These include Implementation by G20 member states; Policy coherence across work-streams in the G20; and towards a transformative role of international cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda. These would be discussed at the T20 Kick-off event in Berlin on 30 November-3 December 2016.

Global Governance of Trade and Investment Issues and G-20

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

Trade and investment are not an end by themselves but important instruments to achieve developmental objectives such as employment generation, poverty alleviation and so on. Trade and investment flows have assumed much greater importance in the era of globalisation and enhanced mutual interdependence across nations and regions. Given the nature of these flows and the bilateral, regional and multilateral policy regimes and institutions, that govern such flows have only highlighted tremendous governance gap, having important global implications that require high level policy attention. Since trade and investment have significant growth and developmental implications, it is important to ensure high level global attention so that overall global economic performance through national level successful outcomes could be ensured.

For this to happen, research is underway to prepare a blue-print of certain action points that need to be considered by the G-20 leaders. RIS has been actively taking part in the G-20 processes and participated in the G-20 meetings held in Istanbul in February 2015; Antalya in November 2015 and Beijing in December 2015.

B. Initiatives on Trade, Investment and Regional Cooperation

India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)

Prof. S. K. Mohanty/ Ms Pankhuri Gaur/ Ms Sanura Fernandez

India and Mauritius' close cultural and historical linkages dates back to 18th Century. Both the countries have signed a number of bilateral agreements and MoUs. In November 2003, a decision was taken to set

up a Joint Study Group (JSG) for recommending conclusion of CECPA. The India- Mauritius CECPA negotiations were initiated in 2006, and the chapter on Trade in Goods was mutually agreed upon as well as signed. The historic Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) was signed on May 10, 2016 and this paved the way for the JSG report.

The CECPA talks between the two countries were resumed in 2016, and the first meeting after this was held from 12 to 13 September 2016 in Mauritius, and it was decided to update 2004 JSG report. From India, RIS was engaged by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) as the knowledge partner and was assigned responsibility of preparing draft report. RIS prepared chapters on background, investment, trade in services, trade in goods, general economic cooperation, and summary of recommendations and Mauritius counterpart provided their respective inputs. The draft report indicates immense potential for expansion of trade, investment, services and other areas of cooperation among the countries. A chapter focussing on possible welfare gains from the post-CEPA regime is being prepared and would be included in the report. This study is sponsored by the MoC&I and would continue till completion of the CECPA JSG report.

Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Ms Pankhuri Gaur, Ms Sanura Fernandez, and Ms Upasana Sikri

The scope of bilateral economic engagement between India and other regional players in the South Asia in trade, investment, aid flows and people-to-people interactions is much deeper and wider now than in the past. The India-Iran bilateral relationship is important in view of India's recent policy of Heart of Asia. Iran is vital for India's energy imports. India- Bangladesh cooperation goes beyond tariff liberalization to a bilateral trade agreement and an MoU for maritime cooperation. India and Maldives have signed a bilateral trade agreement. India and Afghanistan have signed a PTA and Strategic Partnership Agreement for strengthening their bilateral economic relations.

The study would include India's comprehensive bilateral economic engagement with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan. The objective is to examine the present level of bilateral economic engagement of India with selected South Asian economies and to identify key areas in trade and investment. This would explore possibility of bilateral comprehensive partnership agreement with them based on the India's competitiveness. The possibility of negotiation for EHS, PTA, FTA and CEPA would be examined. The key areas would be trade performance, trade potential, export competitiveness, long-term import interests, tariffs, NTBs, trade diversification, competition from third country, margin of preference and FDI. Such a strategy would delineate India's priorities in its trade relations with the South-Asian countries under consideration in terms of target products, focus sectors,

trade potential, investment opportunities, changes in trade policy, and so on. The study is likely to be funded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Expansion of India-MERCOSUR PTA

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Ms Upasana Sikri

India has a very low level of trade with the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region despite its continent specific strategy on 'Focus LAC' programme. In the recent years, the trade relation between India and Latin America has improved as the result of fallout of the strategy of LAC countries towards Asia. India lately has become an important trade destination for some of the large countries of the region viz. Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, etc. While India's exports to the region are varied, comprising medium and high technology products, imports from Latin American region are concentrated in agricultural and low technology products. The regional coverage of trade of MERCOSUR was extensive but substantially declined following suspension of Venezuela.

India and MERCOSUR signed a PTA in 2009 with a limited mandate. Despite reducing import duties on around 450 items in the range of 10 per cent to 100 per cent, India could not gain much from trade liberalization. India's usage rate of trade agreements has been the lowest with India- MERCOSUR PTA which stands at around 14 per cent as compared to country's average of 27 per cent. The recent negotiation mandates to work towards expanding coverage to 3000 items. There is growing preference among LAC countries to diversify their trade beyond the EU and the US. The LAC is also important for India from the view of Investment as the region receives the highest investment from the rest of the world, including India.

The study aims at focusing on the sectors where India can increase its trade with the regional grouping. The non-tariff barriers and tariffs are becoming major impediments to trade among the two and study would cover these dimensions in both the regions. Investment linkages need to be studied to understand the pattern and potential of investment flow between them. Since Brazil and Argentina are active in automobile and ICT, value -chains in South America, the study would focus on the possibility of India's engagement in those sectors. Moreover, the study would undertake extensive literature survey to analyze trade and investment pattern using COMTRADE, WIR, ITC Invest Map databases.

India-COMESA CEPA Joint Study Group Report

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Dr Priyadarshi Dash

The feasibility report of formalizing India-COMESA Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was decided to be undertaken by both. For the preparation of the Joint Study Group (JSG) Report, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) approached RIS to be its knowledge partner and be responsible for preparing draft report. Two teams from both the sides were to prepare the report. The

teams exchanged four chapters including macroeconomic overview of contracting economies, trade liberalization in goods, trade liberalization in services and investment liberalization.

The draft report indicated a large potential in key economic sectors for expansion of trade, investment, services and other areas of cooperation in India as well as in the COMESA countries. The study explored the magnitude of trade potential. It highlighted existing structure of tariff, non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, trade facilitation, and FDI policies and a roadmap for further reforms in different areas. While tariff reduction would result in substantial expansion of trade between India and COMESA; importance of reforms in rules of origin, trade facilitation, customs procedures, SPS and TBT measures has been emphasized. The possibility of trade in services between India and COMESA was also explored and some specific services sectors in the two countries were highlighted.

Both the parties have considerable competitive strength in different sectors, and there are ample of possibilities to negotiate for being benefiting from sectoral cooperation under the CEPA. It was planned to include two more chapters in the report before concluding the exercise. One chapter focused on possible welfare gains from the post-CEPA regime and other on varied other areas of economic cooperation. The whole process of concluding the Report is temporarily deferred due to launching of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) among the COMESA, EAC and SACU to form a large regional grouping in Africa. This study was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and would be completed soon.

Strategy to Project India as a Major Global Player in the LAC Region

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Ms Pankhuri Gaur, Ms Sanura Fernandez and Ms Upasana Sikri

India's focus was on Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) policy to promote trade with the region, and this was comprehensively discussed in the Foreign Trade Policy Report 2009-2014. Lately, LAC policy has been an important area for introspection and policy revision for India. Although it came into force in 1997, the regional-trade strategy has not brought any significant advantage to the country over the years. At present, trade between India and LAC as a whole constitute a miniscule proportion of India's global trade and investment flows.

On the contrary, China's 'Look West' policy of the 1990s, helped the country to have strong economic ties with the region. Both in terms of volume and coverage of engagement, China's economic linkage with the LAC countries has been stronger than India. In this context, it becomes important to make a comprehensive assessment of LAC policy of India in view of changing geo-political environment of China's rising presence in major markets of the world, including the LAC region and its aggressive trade and investment policies in the third market.

Considering the present trends of surging PTAs and FTAs in the post-Marrakech period, India seems to have embarked upon a policy of examining/strengthening its economic relationship with major trading partners and exploring possibility of strengthening its economic ties with different RTAs/countries in the region. Time has come to choose appropriate partners/RTA for deep economic cooperation to foster its long-term objective of promoting trade and investment in the region. Against this background, it is imperative to discern factors that thwart fostering trade and investment between India and LAC.

Simultaneously, there is a need to identify trade impediments acting as stumbling blocks and examine suitability of the existing mechanisms for harmonization of those barriers across the LAC region.

Can the lackluster performance in bilateral trade be attributed to FDI flows? Is China's continued presence in the region a threat to India's LAC trade strategy? To seek response to these issues, present study has following objectives: (i) to assess trade policies of the LAC countries in the context of India's economic interest with the region, (ii) to examine macroeconomic setting of the LAC region to reflect on the business environment of the region for undertaking economic activities in a more transparent manner, (iii) to analyze pattern, of India's trade engagement with the regional economies/RTAs and their trade relationship with other major countries of the world, (iv) to estimate product/sector-wise trade potential of India in the LAC region following competitiveness of the Indian export sector, (v) to identify sources, trends and potential in inward and outward FDI flows in the region, (vi) to compare and contrast the current FDI pattern of India in LAC, factoring the possible 'crowding out' effect of Chinese investments, and (vii) to evaluate country's long-term trade interests and elements that could form the contents of revised LAC trade strategy.

The study would adopt empirical approach for examining various hypotheses using disaggregated level of data. Emphasis would be to assess interdependence of economies for regional cooperation in the changing global economic landscape, particularly to the issues of trade complementarity, trade competitiveness, competitive trade liberalization policy by other emerging markets. The study aims at developing a roadmap for future cooperation on trade and investment cooperation between India and the LAC countries. Trade analysis at disaggregated level may help identify sectors for mutual cooperation. This study is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

India's FTAs / CECAs: Impact and future direction

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

Against the backdrop of the current narrative that the impact of India's FTAs have been far from positive, the study aims to make an objective assessment of various related aspects. The conceptual and empirical work is over and the study is under finalization. Some preliminary

findings were presented in two Consultation-Meetings with experts in the presence of Ms Nirmala Sitaraman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, GoI, Ms Rita Teatitia, Commerce Secretary and senior officials of the MoC&I, and MEA.

Joint Feasibility Study on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and India

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

Recognizing the potential complementarity between India on the one hand and the Economic Union of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation (EAEU), a Joint Study Group has been established to recommend the approach and process for economic cooperation engagements of India with this Economic Union. Given India's recent economic dynamism as well as the economic performance of the members of the grouping, it appears imperative to engage with them in a comprehensive way including trade in goods, trade in services and investment, as well as on other areas of economic cooperation. The need for the study also stems from the fact that this region has had much stronger economic linkages in the past and that can be strengthened due to the imperatives of energy security as well. RIS was approached by the MoC&I to serve on the JSG and conduct the study with their sponsorship.

The study has been conducted in collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Commission, Moscow. RIS participated in all the JFSG meetings held in India and Russia.

Policy and Implementation Measure to Enhance India-Myanmar Border Trade

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

Approximately 98 per cent of the North-eastern region's borders form India's international boundaries; it shares borders with China in the north, Bangladesh in the southwest, Bhutan in the northwest, and Myanmar in the east. The North-eastern region's locational advantage and rich natural resources provide a backdrop to its development as a base for cooperation not only with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) but also with other neighboring countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. More specifically, as part of India's 'Look East' and 'Act East' policy through Myanmar, regional economic integration with several ASEAN countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam can be made possible. Addressing the border trade with India which is the mainstay of Myanmar's economy, a beginning could be made to integrate India with not only Myanmar but as part of the wider strategy of India CLMV cooperation. To harness the potential and to evolve policy mechanisms MoC&I had requested RIS to conduct a study on the subject and sponsored it.

The study has been completed and was launched by Ms Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary, GoI in July 2016.

India as an Economic Hub for Integrating East and South-East Asia with the Rest of Asia

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

India's recent economic dynamism including its future prospects as the fastest growing economy in 2016 highlighted by various credible projections along with the emphasis of Indian policy making on the Make in India initiative, suggests that India can emerge as an economic hub for integrating East Asia, ASEAN on one hand with South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and even the eastern coast of Africa, on the other. However, this proposition needs to be posited in a broader framework, building on The Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (ERIA), 2010.

The proposed study has the following basic objectives:

- To provide analytical and empirical basis for making India as an economic hub for integrating different parts of Asia
- To identify dimensions and sectors across sub-regions where India can play such a role
- To suggest policy measures and modalities for creating enabling conditions for the above

To achieve these objectives some of the dimensions/themes that are being explored, but not limited to, include: (i) Conceptual Basis to Regional Value Chains; (ii) Potential Trade and Regional Value Chains in Manufacturing and Services; (iii) Infrastructure and Connectivity; (iv) India as an R&D Hub and (v) Mapping, Building and Harnessing Skill Complementarities.

Study on NTMs and their Trade Effects

Study of Non-Tariff Measures: Databases, Methodologies and Trade Effects

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Ms Pankhuri Gaur

The current state of knowledge on Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) is incomplete from the point of view of ordinary exporters and academic inquiry. Databases on NTMs are not amenable for quick assessment of trade effects because of selective coverage and lack of common format across countries. Despite tremendous efforts by the WTO, the analysis of NTM data is cumbersome and time-consuming. In terms of methodology, a significant level of contradictions exist over the definition and quantification of NTMs. As NTMs are the future trade policy instruments for bilateral and regional trade agreements, it is imperative to highlight its various aspects in a single study which would be handy for policy-makers, students and ordinary users. Although most part of the study would cover a critical survey of the literature, but the study aims to avoid unnecessary stretching of inclusive or

controversial academic narratives about the NTMs. The study would be completed over a year. Based on the findings of the initial months, some *Policy Briefs* can be attempted.

Empirical Assessment of Trade Effects of Non-Tariff Measures

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Trade policy orientation has significantly changed from tariffs to non-tariff measures and trade remedies. This is consistent with the falling tariff regime and growing protectionism in aftermath of the global economic recession in 2008-09. Increased imposition of non-tariff measures has seriously impacted on the future of international trade as the beggar-thy-neighbour motive would be self-defeating. In that light, a study on trade effects of non-tariff measures is timely and highly sought-after for policy-making. This study would initially focus on select developing countries for in-depth analyses, and based on the outcome, its scope and coverage would be extended in due course.

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in ASEAN-India Trade

Prof. Prabir De and Dr Durairaj Kumarsamy

The non-tariff barriers have hindered trade between ASEAN countries and India. This study would examine concerns of businesses with respect to imposition of non-tariff measures (NTMs), particularly related to Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The SPS and TBT Agreements of the WTO permit members to adopt product standards to protect plant, animal and human life, and also stipulate that standards should not be applied in a trade restrictive manner. Sometimes these technical regulations are difficult to comply with owing to complex requirements and administrative obstacles, besides inadequate access to information about applicable measures also impact trade. Consequently, NTMs applied by partner countries can have a negative impact on market access and keep firms from seizing trade opportunities. The study is being carried out for The Ministry of External Affairs and aims analysing intensity of NTMs faced by India in ASEAN and ASEAN in India for selected products. The study time span is from April 2016 to March 2018.

IORA – Trade and Fisheries

Economic Aspects of Fisheries in IORA Region

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Dr Priyadarshi Dash

The IORA has emerged as a vibrant regional grouping in the Afro-Asian region since the last decade. Due to the presence of five custom unions in the region, it has to pursue ‘open regionalism’ even though its Intra-Regional Trade (IRT) was 29.2 per cent in 2013. As the region is Intra-Regional, possibility of an FTA in IORA is limited. As an alternative policy strategy, regional economic activities can be concentrated at the sectoral level and visionaries of the region have identified fisheries

sector as a priority sector for cooperation. Contribution of the fishing sector to the economy of the member-states is significant in many respects, particularly for food, nutrition, employment creation and foreign-exchange earnings.

The on-going work programme of RIS on fisheries sector focuses on economic dimensions of the sector. The study is examining specific sectoral issues in the fisheries sector, such as livelihood security, food security, production structure, trade dimensions and feasibility of a regional institutional mechanism. There are several other economic issues which need detailed research, such as volatility in fish prices, sectoral subsidy issues (though it was discussed in the WTO), NTBs, discussion on regional standard on fisheries, food processing, etc. The work programme of the RIS on fisheries would also focus on these issues.

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)

IBSA Issues

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Sabyasachi Saha and Dr Beena Pandey

RIS has a strong focus on BRICS and IBSA and was very actively involved in Government of India initiatives during India's presidency of BRICS in 2016, and launched several publications; including BRICS Wellness Volume. It has also provided inputs to Ministry of Finance before the Xiamen Summit. Earlier it had brought out reports on the IBSA partnership, and a new report on the subject is also proposed before the next IBSA Summit, likely to be held in India. RIS would also hosting Ministry of External Affairs IBSA Fellows to further intra-IBSA research agenda and cooperation.

IBSA Fellowships

RIS has been working on IBSA related issues since latter's inception. In 2013, RIS planned to organize an Academic Forum for IBSA Countries. However owing to unavoidable reasons, the Summit was postponed. The IBSA Summit may take place sometime in early next year.

We would also be hosting at this point five IBSA Fellows, who would also launch their research programmes in addition to being the part of ongoing research activities at RIS.

Social Innovation and Integration among IBSA Members: Motivation for Triangular Cooperation

Dr. Beena Pandey

This study would focus on the current facets of IBSA in terms of global strategies, protagonist on SSC, S&T commitments and social sector commitments which occupies a prominent place in different Communiqués and Declarations since the inception. It aims to explore lessons that can be learnt from each other's experiences and how to synergize their complementarities in a mutually beneficial manner.

The broad focus of the study is on the trilateral cooperation as a role model for effective South-South Cooperation. It would explore innovative approaches adopted in dealing with issues related to social development, expansion and retention of education, poverty alleviation, public health- care services and wage employment. It would also draw upon the experiences from structural interventions through policy initiatives taken for inclusive growth to address concerns in attainment of SDGs by 2030 in all IBSA countries.

Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

The idea of Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) emerged in the Joint Declaration issued by the Prime Ministers' of India and Japan in November 2016. The RIS in partnership with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta and the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) in Tokyo would develop the document after consultations with ASEAN and African think-tanks. Broadly, AAGC is anchored on the following core pillars: i) Enhancing capacity and skills; ii) Quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity; iii) Development and cooperation projects; and iv) People-to-people partnership. Currently, RIS in association with its partner institutions is carrying out extensive research on these major themes, which would eventually constitute the basis for identification of most viable propositions and modalities of their implementation. As part of this exercise a comprehensive volume is also been planned, which would have contributions from domain experts from trade facilitation, health, agriculture, blue economy, human resource development, historical linkage and disaster management. The AAGC study would be brought out as a special publication.

B. 8 India-Africa Development Cooperation

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Mr. Pratyush

RIS-FIDC, in association with the DPA, and a study on some of the success stories of India's development cooperation in Africa. The study provided inputs for the agenda of the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in 2015.

FIDC is uniquely placed to bring the best knowledge, experience and expertise of development cooperation from both Southern players. FIDC helps to integrate best practice into India's development cooperation, bringing in experts in the field ranging from academics, think-tanks and practitioners, and selecting the best policies for India to incorporate into its own development assistance.

The study focussed on grass root level capacity-building projects successfully implemented by India in the region, which effectively showcase the transformational nature of India's development cooperation programmes in the developing countries. The idea was also to discuss the viability of carrying out Small Development Projects

(SDPs) in various African countries similar on the lines of SDPs carried out by India in Nepal and Bhutan.

Blue Economy Forum

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Ms Pankhuri Gaur, Ms Sanura Fernandez and Ms Upasana Sikri

Blue economy has emerged as a commonly acceptable development paradigm which has effectively blended economic growth with sustainable development. Since the early 1990s, the global debate has enabled the world community to acknowledge efficacy of the idea of Blue Economy. Both developed and developing countries have accepted and promoted concept of blue economy as a new development model for littoral countries, including small, medium, large, LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This development model started with the basic premise that oceans and ocean-related activities are important for economic and social development of coastal nations, and these activities form the core of the Blue Economy. Several activities, including the traditional ones like Maritime fishing, shipping, maritime trade and those that are deeply entrenched in almost all sectors of the economy are forming a part of the blue economy. These activities have spread into core sectors of agriculture, minerals, construction, energy, manufacturing, services, among others. Further, Blue Economy sectors are comprehensive in nature, combining both goods and services activities generated within each sector. There are multifarious issues involving Blue Economy, but it is still emerging as the most dynamic sector in the world economy in many countries. Its canvas has been large, but knowing one's Blue Economy in all its dimensions is a formidable task. With a view to take policy action, conservation, protection and sustainable use of ocean resources are the core issues for national, regional and global debate. The Blue Economy paradigm internalizes sustainability in a holistic and mutually-reinforcing path and thus provides convincing solutions to address inefficiency in marine resource use and enhancing frontiers of marine economy.

The Blue Economy Forum (BEF) aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering open dialogue on promoting the concept in the IORA region. The Forum would also focus on: conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of Blue Economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies. Research findings of the Forum would be disseminated in the form of reports, monographs, policy briefs, statistical profiles and the newsletter. In addition, the Forum would undertake studies on cross-cutting issues including role of SMEs, women empowerment, vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and private sector participation. The Forum would facilitate linkages among policy-makers, academicians and business community in the IORA and other regions. While the Forum considers all marine and associated sectors crucial for promoting blue economy in the IORA region, some sectors

are fisheries & aquaculture, offshore & deep-sea mining, renewable ocean energy, marine manufacturing, coastal tourism & urbanization, ports & shipping, marine biotechnology and marine services may assume priority in the initial years of the forum's activities. Academic activities of the Forum would cover traditional as well as emerging segments of these sectors.

Issue of IUU Fishing in IORA

Prof. S. K. Mohanty/ Ms. Pankhuri Gaur

While fishery sector is widespread in littoral countries, these states are facing challenges of depleting fishery stocks. Large fishing communities in these countries are highly dependent on fisheries for food and livelihood among others. The risk to fisheries stock around the world has been a matter of concern which has been emphasized in the Global Agenda 2030 in form of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-14. The rate of decline in the fisheries stock has been tremendous in several IORA countries, including SIDS countries. Reduction of fishery stock has culminated in shrinking of wild fish catch, which has implications for income, employment, nutritional value and trade for local population. According to an estimate by the FAO, the share of fish stock pertaining to biological sustainable level has fallen to 68.6 per cent in 2013 from 90 per cent in 1974 across the globe and the experience of IORA is not different from it.

Some of the reasons for decline in fishery stock are overfishing and overcapacity in the fishery sector. Both of these are naturally associated with Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing prevailing in different regions of the world. Developing countries are the major victim of the IUU fishing. Among others, intensification of IUU fishing activities has led to increased number of species under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There are several issues relating to estimation of IUU fishing at the global and regional levels, and no consensus has been reached in the estimation of IUU fishing.

The study aims to focus on identifying implications of IUU fishing on production and trade sectors in the IORA. It would examine economic, social and environmental costs associated with IUU fishing in the region and the nature of fleets involved in IUU fishing in different flag states. It would also focus on policies in countries like the U.S and the EU for reducing extent of IUU fishing. The need for hampering practices, like IUU fishing, which are responsible for the depletion of fisheries stock, especially in the IORA. This study is an initiative by the RIS and likely to be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

Blue Economy as Alternative Development Strategy

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Ms Pankhuri Gaur, Ms Sanura Fernandez and Ms Upasana Sikri

Human civilizations since centuries have been depended on oceans for food, fisheries, minerals, medicines, recreation and tourism; and most importantly for trade among regions of the world. In the race

for rapid economic growth, coastal countries have over-exploited ocean resources particularly fisheries, oil & gas, coral reef etc beyond biological and ecological limits. This unsustainable practice of resource utilization may result in extinction of important fish species, depletion of marine biology, marine pollution and adverse climate change effects. Blue economy is a paradigm that intertwines objectives of economic growth with environmental sustainability and emphasizes regeneration and replenishment of marine resources. This work programme would focus on: (a) identification and valuation of blue economy sectors, (b) estimation of blue trade, (c) economic contribution of different sectors such as fisheries, deep sea mining, coastal tourism, marine biotechnology, ocean energy, marine services, etc to national income, (d) regional initiatives for cooperation in blue economy, and (e) legal and regulatory aspects of blue economy. The findings of the studies would be presented in the form of a report, book volume, discussion papers and policy briefs. Some dialogues are to be initiated in some sectoral studies.

Blue Economy and Non-Traditional Security Issues: Strategizing Mitigation of Potential Security Threat

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

In the broad paradigm of national security, the focus on 'Non-Traditional Security' is increasing; owing to non-military security threat, targeting livelihood security of many. Non-Traditional Security (NTS) threats could be perceived beyond war and conflict where economic security of millions is involved. The threats involve political and socio-economic dimensions. Such challenges often threaten survival and well-being of the people and generally originate from non-military interventions. These challenges arise due to human-induced disturbances and the effects of such disasters are often pronounced due to lack of timely intervention. Such concerns hinder inclusive growth and increases fragility of the state, creating space for perpetuation of misery among people. India is presently confronted with many NTS issues and blue economy can partially provide lasting solutions to many of these. Among several, blue economy can address areas such as food security, energy security, water security, health security, environmental security and livelihood security, etc. Some of these can be addressed effectively by managing blue economy with appropriate policy strategy. In the 21st century, the coverage of NTS concerns are becoming more pronounced with continuous attempts to evolve 'global exclusion' of countries from global main stream activities with the emergence of Mega Regionals. In such a turbulent global economic situation, India may not be able to effectively handle blue economy in many sectors, and hence, international cooperation would be required. India has built-up large capabilities in several sectors and may seek support in many others from the other countries neighbouring Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Evolving a comprehensive regional strategy with India's initiative can help India and the IOR to address several NTS concerns.

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus

PACER Plus and Development Prospects of Pacific Island Economies

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Island economies are small and vulnerable to natural and economic crises. The economic structure of island economies is heavily skewed in favour of certain sectors – mostly marine resource sector such as fisheries, tourism, shipping, and so on. Pacific Island economies including Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and others are dependent on Australia and New Zealand for trade, investment and security.

The PACER Plus is a new trade agreement claiming comprehensive structure of commitments for trade expansion, investment promotion, enterprise development, and social development through development cooperation. Along with its merits, PACER Plus has some provisions which can potentially affect development prospects of the island economies in the Pacific. This work programme aims at generating useful information on the development prospects of the island economies in relation to the ongoing regional trade integration in the Asia-Pacific region.

Services for Export Promotion

Leveraging Services for Growth and Export Promotion

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

The contribution of services to exports and GDP growth in developing and emerging economies has been noticeable since the past two decades. Along with the growth in the size of services sectors, the scope for structural diversification in the economy is significant. In India, strong growth in software services exports fuelled faster growth and job-creation in India in the 2000s. Other emerging markets in Asia have also experienced similar growth in services exports. Against this backdrop, there is a need for undertaking an empirical study on the role of services for trade and economic growth in developing countries with specific reference to India. The study would explore on the evolution of services sector and its interlinkages to other sectors of economy.

C.Trade Facilitation, Connectivity and Regional Integration

ASEAN-India Special Commemorative Summit

The ASEAN India Centre at RIS has been entrusted assist ASEAN Division of the MEA in preparation of the ASEAN-India Special Commemorative Summit to be held in New Delhi in January 2018. The AIC would undertake following activities: (i) ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit – to join as its knowledge partner, (ii) ASEAN-

India Business and Investment Summit – to conduct a session on trade and regional value chain, (iii) ASEAN-India Textile Meet/CEOs Forum/MGC Business Conclave – to develop concept note; and (iv) Leaders Retreat during IASCS – to develop a concept note on maritime cooperation.

Emerging Production Networks between India and ASEAN

Dr Prabir De, Dr Durairaj Kumarsamy and Ms Sreya Pan

The ASEAN-India FTA has emphasized in generating for production networks among ASEAN countries and India. This study for MEA aims to explore possibilities to build cross-border production networks in those industries in which India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities matching with the demand or supply capacity of the ASEAN countries and vice versa. Besides, it is also attempting to identify challenges in building production networks. In particular, it identifies gaps in connectivity and trade facilitation in promoting production networks between ASEAN and India, and would provide possible remedies. A chapter from the study has already been provided in the MGC Report, and final report would be ready by November 2017.

ASEAN-India Connectivity Development Assessing the Impacts of Economic Corridors in India

Dr Prabir De, Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy and Ms. Opendra Kaur

India's Northeast is the land-bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia. It has been witnessing a series of corridors, some are being planned and some are being developed. One of the objectives of this study is to assess potential economic benefits that North-east India would expect. The study is developing an economic geography model to be tested with sub-national data, and would assess the impact of economic (transport) corridors in India with special reference to Indian states in terms of growth. Four important corridors, connecting India with eastern neighbours, have been selected – (i) BCIM-Economic Corridor, (ii) East-West Corridor (part of Golden Quadrilateral project), (iii) Trilateral Highway, and (iv) Kaladan multimodal transit transport project. The study span is from August 2016 to March 2018. A draft report would be ready for discussion in November 2017.

Regional Integration and Cooperation

India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Relationship: Way towards a Stronger ASEAN-India Partnership

Dr Prabir De and Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

India's economic engagement in Myanmar and CLMV has expanded in recent years. Feasibility of a sub-regional cooperation is being discussed. This study aims to: (i) identify challenges that India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral relationship has been facing in the context of ASEAN-India partnership; (ii) present strategies and policies to be undertaken to strengthen trilateral relationship; and (iii) publish research findings for

the attention of policy-makers, and dissemination of research findings. This study is jointly carried out in collaboration with the ASEAN Studies Center (ASC), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. It started in August 2016 and would end by March 2018. Two workshops have already been conducted. Presently, an outcome document is being compiled, and a book would be published in February/March 2018.

South Asia Development and Cooperation Report

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Prof. S. K. Mohanty

South Asia is one of the largest, dynamic and fastest growing regions in the world. It has got strong productive capacity to grow since many economies in the region have significant saving-investment ratio, and expanding fixed capital formation. It is also one of the highest recipients of personal remittances. The SAARC member-countries face challenge of identifying ways of achieving regional integration on a fast track basis with full implementation of the SAFTA, and region also lacks considerable vigour in attracting inward FDI from the rest of the world. The next stage of cooperation in South Asia includes move to evolve a seamless SAFTA [the proposal is for creation of a South Asia Economic Union], increased focus on an investment cooperation strategy, and production integration and technology cooperation.

The RIS has always been in the forefront for promoting economic integration of the region and has conducted several studies. It has even contributed in preparing initial draft for the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) treaty and the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS). The *South Asia Development and Cooperation Report* is a flagship report launched in 1999. The fifth report in the series was launched in 2015. The next is likely to be completed by mid-2018. It is to be evolved with the support from RIS partner institutions in different South Asian countries. The South Asia Development and Cooperation Reports have created a niche in the region and beyond in terms of providing conceptual and empirical basis for the South Asian economic integration process.

SACEPS Work Programme on “Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector: Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia”

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Its objective is to undertake research studies to analyze structural factors that are underlying persistent mass poverty and high inequality in South-Asian countries.

A workshop of South Asian experts was organized on 5 December 2016. Several new areas of research have emerged from the Conference by the experts. The paper highlighting Indian context is being prepared by a designated research team at the RIS. The volume has been planned as a major academic contribution with lead from RIS to make an effective impact on policy-thinking for longer term vision on manufacturing sector development, regional cooperation and broad-

based employment creation. The contributors are advised to make elaborate comprehensive contributions covering related dimensions.

An edited volume would be published subsequently. The project is supported through a grant from Asia Foundation.

Strengthening South Asia with Strong Regional Economic Governance

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

As South Asia is becoming an emerging region of the world, its economic strengths need to be revived with prudent economic policies. The regional partners would be encouraged to take fresh policy initiatives to push economic agenda towards more comprehensive economic cooperation in the region, if the region is being recognized as a high performer. To achieve this, strong, regional governance initiatives with new regional economic institutions to induct economic dynamism in the region are required.

The intra-regional trade (IRT) ratio of 5 per cent in the region is a fallacious norm for describing ground realities existing in the region in terms of IRT. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka have bilateral IRTs with the region ranging from 15-90 per cent in recent years. By any standard, these figures are very high in terms of international comparison. Recent simulation exercise suggests that with extra-ordinary efforts, IRT of the region can reach 6.2 per cent. Present level of 5 per cent Regional Trading Arrangement (RTA) is consistent with the structure of the South-Asian region. These achievements of the region were not emphasized in the literature.

The study aims to suggest that strong and composite governance architecture can appreciate specific achievements of the region. With proper documentation, tangible gains of the region over the decades may be brought to public domain. The regional governance architecture may be outlined with a view to foster regional cooperation in a strategic manner for achieving high regional growth through production, investment and trade linkages. Based on the experiences of other regional groupings, several new regional economic institutions may be formed to deal with specific economic functions like macroeconomic stability, financial system stability, financial cooperation and development finance and physical infrastructure.

Towards Conclusion of the RCEP Negotiations: Implications for India

Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Ms Pankhuri Gaur

With the uncertainties associated with the revival of TPP in future, it is a great opportunity for India to be in the RCEP to intensify integration with the region. As India is graduating towards upper middle-income country, it requires a large market for attaining its increased trade needs. The RCEP being the most dynamic Mega Regional in the world economy, India's integration with the region is of paramount importance.

There are divergent views in the literature about the implications of RCEP on India. It is argued that RCEP is a comprehensive forum for negotiations where a large number of issues are discussed, including trade in services, removal or liberalization of tariff and non-tariff barriers, intellectual property rights, etc. There are apprehension that India may lose out in the process of RCEP negotiations in many fronts. Many members from the regional grouping require further liberalization from India in the manufacturing trade sector. There has been fear from some quarters that Indian agricultural and manufacturing sectors are likely to be adversely affected. This may deteriorate existing trade imbalances with the region. India's expectation to integrate liberalization in trade in goods and services in the RCEP negotiation is gradually fading. However, the negotiation process is not over yet and the impact analysis may be examined after the negotiations is over.

There are several positive elements in the literature. India has already signed several bilateral CEPA with the RCEP regional economies. With several such cases, overall trade situation improved after the implementation of these agreements. Chinese fear of competitiveness in the manufacturing sector is gradually diminishing because of raise in wages in the country is closely associated with growing economic prosperity. Increasing trade deficit of India with the region needs to be examined more analytically. With the changing policy focus on the manufacturing sector, there is growing demand for imports, for exports, industrialization, and critical domestic consumption. Nature of trade such as intermediate/final, technology intensive, dynamic products, etc. needs to be examined instead of focusing on volume of trade. Trade negotiations in RCEP require some reorientation. In the manufacturing sector, India is not going to lose out completely in the Post-RCEP regime. In the services negotiation, apart from mode 4, efficacy of other modes, 2 and 3, may not be examined.

In the existing literature, there is huge gap in understanding implications of RCEP on India. To address knowledge gap, a detailed study is required to examine various dimensions of the RCEP negotiations and its impact on India.

D. New Technologies and Development Issues

Main areas of research activities

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Ravi Srinivas and Prof. T.C. James

- **Intellectual Property Rights and Access (medicines, seeds)**
- **Traditional Knowledge including Traditional Indian Medicine**
- **Science, Technology and Innovation (including technology governance)**
- **Biotechnology and Biodiversity**
- **Health and Health Policy**

Responsible Research Initiative (RRI) Practice

This is a three-year project, funded by European Commission. It was initiated in 2016 and would end in 2019. This is co-ordinated by Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA), Norway. Its key objectives are to examine how Responsible Research and Innovations are understood and translated into practice in different countries and what is the response from funding agencies and S&T policy -makers to RRI as a concept and issues in putting to practice key elements such as ethics and public engagement.

Real Time Wide Area Radiation Surveillance System

This is a project on alternative mechanisms for incentivizing innovations in pharmaceutical sector and evident policy-making in health, including measure impact and evaluation of options in health policy. This five year project (2014-2019) is funded by European Research Council and is co-ordinated by the University of Central Lancashire, UK. The amended contract for undertaking a research project as part of Phase II has been finalized, and to be approved by the ERC shortly. As RIS would coordinate the project, a study is to be undertaken in Kerala (in Ernakulam District) as part of Phase II of project. Institutional ethics clearances have been obtained. Clearance from ICMR is being sought. The RIS is forming an ethics committee to oversee this study in Kerala and is likely to begin in December.

MOEF&CC Project on Developing Guidelines for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has awarded this project to RIS under the UNEP-GEF Phase II Capacity Building project. Its objective was to develop guidelines and methodologies for socio-economic assessment of LMOs in India. The time line for this was 2014-2017, and RIS has submitted its revised final report in June, which has been accepted by the MoEF&CC.

RRI - Horizon

This project is co-ordinated by Institute of Advanced Studies, Vienna and is for three years.

Science Diplomacy

This is a DST-sponsored three-year project to map Indian scientific Diaspora for leveraging their expertise for national development. The RIS and NIAS (Bengaluru) would jointly undertake this project.

The proposal is a joint initiative of RIS&NIAS. The project proposes to realize the potential of science diplomacy in areas of critical importance for national development; create synergy between S&T policy and foreign policy and; effectively use science for diplomacy. The three year project envisages 1) enhancing capacity in science diplomacy through various initiatives 2) utilization of expertise of NRI/

PIO scientists, experts in selected fields, 3) providing policy inputs in developments in S&T and 4) conducting research on strategic affairs in science and technology. The key objectives of the proposal are : i) creation of an international database of NRI/PIO scientists, technocrats, experts; ii) developing networks and iii) science diplomacy for strategic thinking.

FAO Study on Review on the Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in Asia Pacific Region

The UN-Food & Agriculture Organization requested RIS to undertake a Desk Review on the Status of Agricultural Biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific Region and to prepare a Status Report. The Draft report would be sent to UN-FAO for review. Based on the comments, report would be revised.

Study on India-Africa Cooperation in Seed Sector

Dr. T.P. Rajendran and Dr Amit Kumar

India-Africa seed sector has promises for improving trade with various African nations. This discussion paper analyses the external orientation of the Indian seed industry, institutional architecture for enabling trade of vegetable crop seeds, explores African seed sector for its dynamics and identifies challenges in the seed sector collaboration between the regions. It also brings forth a set of prescriptive recommendations and forward looking plans to strengthen the India-Africa cooperation in seed sector.

Study on Clinical Trials in India for WHO

Prof. T.C. James

The clinical trial regulations in India underwent an overhaul in the recent years following the intervention of the Supreme Court (SC) of India in Swasthya Adhikar Manch V Union of India & Ors. Several changes have been made to the regulations following Expert Committee suggestions. These changes have been implemented in field in the past couple of years. The impact of these changes is not yet known. The Study proposes to understand the changes made to the clinical trial regulations and its impact in the field. The Study proposes to cover the following areas: the laws relating to clinical trials in India, the decision of the Supreme Court of India in Swasthya Adhikar Manch V Union of India & Ors: the context, content and directives, the Regulations relating to clinical trials in India before the SC judgment and the Changes made subsequent to the judgment.

The study will have the following components:

- Overview of the current Clinical Trial Guidelines;
- Clinical trials registered with the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSO) and their numbers over the years;

- Examination of the numbers of clinical trials approved in India before and after the SC judgment;
- Working of the new regulations: Conduct of a field study to get responses of Hospitals, Clinical Research Organisations, Experts and CDSO;
- How does the Indian law compare with Regulations of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), European Medicines Agency (EMA) and UK and Approaches of ASEAN countries;
- What are the principles of good clinical trial governance and are these elements incorporated in India's approach?;
- Do the regulations require a special approach for neglected diseases?; and
- Identify areas for action.

This is being done through literature survey and field study. The literature survey is almost over and the Team is on to field studies. A report on completion of the first part has already been submitted to the WHO. The final report will take note of the changes that have recently been made in the guidelines and suggestions for a pro-industry and pro-patient policy and regulatory regime. Financial approval for continuance of the study is awaited from the WHO

Study on Indian Pharmaceutical Industry and Access to Medicine in the TRIPS Regime – WHO Project on Access to Medical Products

Prof. T.C. James

The study focuses on how the new Intellectual Property regime has affected pharmaceutical industry and also in accessing affordable medicines in India and other developing countries. The scope of the study extends to the history and growth of Indian pharmaceutical industry during three phases – (i) from pre-Independence days to 1972, (ii) from 1972 to 2005, when there was no product patents and (iii) from 2005 to the present; visible trends in the sector post 2005, the current status of the industry, issue of access to medicines in India and other developing countries in the present scenario, innovation in pharmaceuticals as reflected in patenting.

A Position Paper on Access to Medical Products, Research, Innovation, Trade and Intellectual Property would be ready soon.

Study on Integration of Traditional Medicine in General Health Care in India

Prof. T.C. James

India has very rich resources of Indian systems of medicine. A separate ministry of AYUSH has also been formed. Internationally also India has been expounding the cause of traditional medicine in various fora

such as World Health Organisation and World Intellectual Property Organisation. In multi-lateral fora such as BRICS also we have been advocating for proper integration of Traditional Medicine systems with general healthcare. However, there has been no systematic study on the current status of the same in India and in some of the leading countries such as China. In order to give strength to India's diplomatic efforts in this regard, it is necessary to have adequate data and policy perspectives on the subject.

It is, therefore, proposed to take up a study covering the following aspects: regulatory systems in India and select countries like China, South Africa, USA and EU; current status of use of TMs in these countries; international agreements and guidelines on the use of traditional and herbal medicines; status of the traditional and herbal medicine industry.

The study will include literature survey, comparative analysis of regulatory regimes, statistics of the use of traditional medicines and trade statistics of traditional and herbal medicines imports and exports with India's major trade partners. The final report will have policy suggestions on (i) integrating the ISMs with national health care, and (ii) enhancing trade potential of ISMs

Study on Traditional Medicine in Select Countries

Prof. T.C. James

Globally, traditional medicine is witnessing a renewal and wider use among public. With WHO showing keen interest in traditional medicine now and with the recognition that traditional medicine can play an important role in primary, secondary and tertiary health care and as a complementary and even alternative therapy for non-communicable diseases, it is important to understand how the traditional medicine is used, regulated and promoted in selected countries and regions. This will help India to understand the scope for enhancing trade in goods and services related to Indian Traditional Medicine in those markets.

It is proposed to conduct this research on traditional medicine with respect to select countries from the Latin America, Africa, SAARC and BIMSTEC Regions. While SAARC and BIMSTEC are chosen as regions in terms of their economic and cultural linkages with India, to understand the role of traditional medicine outside the Asian continent, two other regions namely, Latin America and Africa, where traditional medicine systems prevail, have been identified.

The period envisaged for the research project is six to nine months. Comparative analysis of policy frameworks, regulation, IP policies and role of traditional medicine in the respective national health systems will be done. The outcome of the initiatives would include a major report, three or four policy briefs and academic outputs such as journal articles.

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM)

Prof. T.C. James

The FITM has been established in the RIS with the participation of the Ministry of AYUSH to contribute towards pragmatic policy-making in the area of Traditional Medicines (TMs). As an initiative arising out of a partnership between the Ministry of AYUSH, academia, industry and civil society, the FITM has three broad following objectives.

- To undertake studies on the various issues pertaining to Indian Traditional Medicine (ITM) such as IPRs and regulatory frameworks for traditional medicinal knowledge including protection and access to traditional medicinal knowledge in India and in other countries;
- To examine the SPS/ TBT and other regulatory policies, including NTBs, by countries that impinge on the commercial prospects of Indian Systems of Medicine; and
- To monitor global developments (including global institutions) in the field.

Study on Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions

The study aims to examine adequacy of legal provisions presently available for protecting TK, GR and associated traditional knowledge, and TCEs in India, including in the digital world. It aims to assess their adequacy to prevent biopiracy and likely to propose changes/additions required in the existing laws, if any. Three Scoping Papers on the three components of the Study are being prepared. These include: Scoping Paper on In-depth Study on Protection of Traditional Knowledge; Scoping Paper on In-depth Study on Protection of Genetic Resources; and Scoping Paper on In-depth Study on Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions

Detailed report would be submitted to the Ministry of Ayush.

Study of China's Policy Initiatives for Mainstreaming of TCM Domestically and its Promotion Globally

The study aims to study China's initiatives in mainstreaming Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCMs) in its public/universal health-care system, in promoting TCMs globally and in using IPRs to protect and promote TCMs domestically. It aims to make a comparative assessment of India's strengths and weaknesses *vis a vis* China, along with lessons drawn to be incorporated/adapted for promotion of the Indian Traditional Systems of Medicines (TSMs). The study would result in a detailed Report by the end of 2018.

Research Fellowships under the FITM Programme

The objective of the Fellowships is to conduct in-depth inquiry and research on subjects related to Indian Traditional Medicines (ITMs) and

prospects and challenges. The publications, including books, aim to provide policy -related research inputs on promotion of ITMs. Invited Talks by domain experts on varying subjects related to ITMs also form a part of this project. The RIS would manage grant of Fellowships and publications.

Trade, Technology and Growth in Developing Countries

Prof Ram Upendra Das

The relationships and causalities between trade and growth as well as trade and technology are often analysed in a binary framework of theoretical and empirical explorations. The study attempts at building a conceptual framework, substantiated with empirical evidence on the inert-linkages among trade, technology and growth. This is aimed at arriving at policy implications especially in the developing countries of South and South-east Asia whereby synergies across trade, technology and growth can be tapped for shifting the development frontier in these countries.

POLICY RESEARCH INPUTS

MoCI

- Provided substantive inputs to DGFT on Mid-Term Review of Foreign Trade Policy
- India-Iran Negotiation for PTA
- India-Sri Lanka Negotiation for Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)
- India-MERCOSUR Negotiation for PTA
- 'Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan' proposal submitted to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Report on 'India Trade and Investment Agency (ITIA)', Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry..

MEA

- Small and Island Developing States Economic integration in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), (IORA CEPA)
- Note for Ocean Conference: SIDS and LDCs on SDG-14 provided to MEA.

NITI Aayog

- Inputs on SDGs emanating from various consultations were made available to NITI Aayog and also for preparation of VNR.

Others

- Proposal for Study of China's Policy Initiatives for Mainstreaming of TCM Domestically and its Promotion Globally was submitted to Ministry of Ayush under the FITM.

- In-depth Study on Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions, proposal was submitted to Ministry of Ayush under the FITM.
- National Workshop Report on the RRI submitted to DST, Govt of India.

FOSTERING POLICY DIALOGUE: CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS

‘Sustainable Development, a part of our rich tradition’ — EAM

Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, launched RIS publication entitled '*India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward*' on 7 October 2016 in New Delhi. The Volume has 19 comprehensive papers, covering full spectrum of SDGs along with two cross-cutting themes, finance and technology.



Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj launching the RIS volume titled '*India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward*'. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Shri S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS.

The Hon'ble External Affairs Minister stated that India attaches high priority to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations in September 2015, and which would have great significance for well-being and progress of humankind. I would like to underline India's strong commitment to holistic implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which mirror substantially our own flagship programmes and priorities. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India; and Ms Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs also addressed the gathering. As desired by the Hon'ble Minister, the copies of this RIS publication on SDGs have been made available to all Hon'ble Members of Parliament of India in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

India has already set for itself ambitious targets for implementation of SDGs in several areas of economic progress, inclusion and sustainability, said Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, on the occasion. "The role of State governments is central to implementation of these programmes as well as in designing convergence with the SDGs to effectively influence all social and economic parameters to achieve SDGs. Keeping this perspective in view, NITI Aayog has been in the forefront on articulation of India's approach to implement SDGs. In this context, RIS, jointly with NITI Aayog, UN Office in New Delhi; and State Governments has been organising a series of Consultation Meetings to evolve a cohesive policy framework for effective implementation of the SDG agenda", he added.

BRICS Economic Forum

RIS, in association with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Reserve Bank of India, successfully organized the first- ever BRICS Economic Forum in Goa on 13 and 14 October 2016. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the BRICS countries attended the meeting, besides, senior policy-makers, academicians and senior bankers.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed all. Shri Sameer Khare, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, set the context of the meeting. Dr Subir Gokarn, Executive Director (India), International Monetary Fund (IMF) delivered the inaugural address. Dr Urjit R Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India also addressed the participants

The inaugural session was followed by four technical sessions on BRICS and Multilateral Institutions – BRICS and Financing for Development, BRICS and Innovation Economy and BRICS and Financial Markets. A panel discussion with BRICS Central Bank Governors on Global Norm Setting, Policy Coordination and Crisis Management and a Roundtable with BRICS Finance Ministers on Cooperation for Sustainable Development was also organized.



Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India speaking at the BRICS Economic Forum.

A special conversation session with Mr. Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India, was also organised in which Mr Shaktikanta Das, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, was also present.

Consultations on India and FTAs, and Way Forward

India has embarked upon regionalism as part of its trade and economic integration policy in a major way, and has entered into several agreements, ranging between early harvest schemes and FTAs/CEPAs/CECAs. However, there are different perspectives on various dimensions of these arrangements. Some reports indicate that FTAs have positive impact on the Indian economy in terms of improving welfare effects, while others argue that Indian approach lacks credible strategy. In this debate, major limitation is terms of perceptions which are not based on clear empirical analysis. Moreover, signing of mega-FTAs like the TPP and other such agreements have thrown up new challenges for multilateralism.

As part of its work programme on India's strategy towards FTAs and related issues, the RIS organised Consultation Meetings with trade policy experts and senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 14 April 2016 and with media on 1 May 2016. Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, chaired the session.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed all and highlighted the nature of extensive work done by RIS. Followed by a presentation on the RIS' perspectives on FTAs by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS. Issues being grappled with were presented by Mr Arvind



Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry speaking at the consultation on 1 May 2016. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Ram Upendra Das, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Amb. Shyam Saran, Ms. Rita A. Teatota, and Mr. Arvind Mehta.

Mehta, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Further, interventions were given by Mr G. K. Pillai and Mr Rahul Khullar (former Commerce Secretaries) and Ms Rita A. Teatota, the present Commerce Secretary. Noted experts from the premier institutions across the country presented their respective viewpoints. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, also addressed the opening session.

Ms Nirmala Sitharaman raised issues regarding increasing India's foreign trade. She informed that the present Government aims at enhancing FTA boons, and thus India intend to seek more market access from partner-countries with whom FTAs have been signed and would find ways to increase its goods and services exports in view of the criticism that FTAs have increased only imports.

She reiterated that the government would expedite domestic reforms and would work towards removing infrastructural bottlenecks, besides ensuring regular power supply, especially to small and medium enterprises (accounting for more than 40 per cent of India's exports) to gain more from FTAs. Means to increase India's agricultural exports were also discussed.

On the question of why FTAs are not getting concluded (fast), the Minister said, "Each deal is going through the process. There is no overarching reason for a deal not to go through, in fact, if there is one overarching reason affecting the negotiations, it would be our keenness for a deal to go through."

Creation of a social safety fund was also discussed. The fund would help sectors suffering from adverse impacts of FTAs. Experts opined that India should re-work on its strengths in trade in services.

Excerpts of Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman on India and FTAs

Ms Nirmala Sitharaman said that India has a clear picture of how to move on the trade front, and is certainly not aimless when it comes to trade negotiations.

She informed the media that we are not moving unduly fast on the FTAs as investment for job -creation ; national interests are our priorities. She hinted out at the protectionist measures of many developed nations. She referred to protectionist measures of many countries in the G-20 and said if India (also a G-20 member) takes any measure which is (the rich nations) perceived to be negative; they would go on campaigning to brand India as a protectionist. “But if they [rich countries] take protectionist measures, they don’t want to talk about it”.

Ms Sitharaman emphasized that the “huge trade-distorting” agricultural subsidies of rich nations had not been properly discussed at the World Trade Organization. She also referred to subsidies “given by China to its industry” and said this was hurting Indian manufacturers in different sectors, including steel.

In the backdrop of competitive devaluation of currency by several countries including China to boost their exports, she cited persistent contraction in India’s exports, and added that she personally felt that the Indian currency needs to be devalued a bit. However, it is up to the RBI to take a final call.

Regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, she said India is not an obstructionist in 16-country grouping, but would not yield on offers it has made for opening up goods and services in the agreement and would keep pursuing them.

In fact, in the RCEP, India’s offer on Mode 3 services that allow foreign commercial presence is more liberal than other nations, as it has apprehensions only on opening- up financial, insurance and legal services.

Launch of BIMSTEC and IBSA Reports

The RIS brought out two major publications, covering issues related to BIMSTEC and IBSA. ‘BIMSTEC – The Road Ahead’ and ‘IBSA – Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability’ which were launched by Gen (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd), Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs,



Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India launching the RIS Reports ‘BIMSTEC – The Road Ahead’ and ‘IBSA – Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability’.

Government of India, on 9 December 2016 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made welcome remarks. Dr V.S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS gave introductory remarks. Shri Alok A. Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA, extended vote of thanks.

The IBSA countries defend multilateralism and peace, promote respect for sovereignty, encourage development of people, and support trade and economic initiatives between the South and developed countries. The BIMSTEC constitutes a significant building block for eventual establishment of a Bay of Bengal Economic Community.

2nd International Conference on Cultural and Civilizational Links between India and Southeast Asia

The ASEAN-India Centre at the RIS in collaboration with the Indian Mission to ASEAN; ASEAN Secretariat; Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Indonesian Foreign Ministry, organized the 2nd International Conference on 'Cultural and Civilizational Links between India and ASEAN' at Jakarta on 19 January 2017. Amb. Suresh K. Reddy, Ambassador of India to ASEAN, made introductory remarks. General (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, gave Keynote Address. Special Address was given by Mr A. M. Fachir, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. Mr Vongthep Arthakaivalee, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN and Mr Nguyen Quoc Dzung, Dy. Foreign Minister, Vietnam gave respective point of views. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, gave valedictory address. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, extended vote of thanks.



Participants of the conference on Cultural and Civilizational Links between India and ASEAN.

This Conference was the follow-up of the 1st International Conference on “ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions”, held at New Delhi on 23-24 July 2015. The 2nd Conference was also the first event to commemorate celebration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue partnership. The Conference was conducted in four sessions to identify emerging challenges to ASEAN-India strategic partnership through people to people connectivity and cultural relations, and to identify feasible policy options to overcome challenges from the perspective of ASEAN community blueprints.

International Conference on Indo-Bangladesh Multi Sectoral Cooperation

The RIS jointly with the Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, Nehru Memorial Museum Library (NMML) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, organized an International Conference on ‘Indo-Bangladesh Multi Sectoral Cooperation’ at New Delhi on 23-24 January 2017. Mr M. J. Akbar, Hon’ble Minister of State (MOS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, chaired the inaugural session. Mr Mozammel Haque, MP, Hon’ble Minister of Liberation War Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, was the chief guest. Mr Arindam Mukherjee, Secretary, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies delivered the welcome address. Ms Sripriya Ranganathan, Joint Secretary (BM), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered keynote address. Mr Syed Muazzem Ali, Hon’ble High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India and Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi, were the guests of honour. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS was one of the lead speakers on “India Bangladesh Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities”. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Hon’ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India, chaired the session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi also addressed the participants on way ahead in the valedictory session. Justice A. H. M. Shamsuddin Choudhury,



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi speaking at the conference. Also seen in the picture Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India.

former Judge, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, chaired the session. Mr Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of States (Independent Charge), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, was the chief guest.

BRICS Academic Forum

The RIS and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organized a four-day Conference of BRICS Academic Forum in Goa during 19 and 22 September 2016. Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, inaugurated the Conference on Emerging Geo-Political Order: Challenges and Opportunities for BRICS. In his inaugural address, Shri Parsekar said that BRICS has gained assertive power as geo-economic collective and has emerged as a leading force in the global economy. Thus, BRICS in future has to play a pivotal role in international law, multilateral decision-making and strengthen representation of emerging and developing nations in the institutions of global governance, which is presently very low. He also lauded the initiative of the BRICS to create a developmental bank to cater to the needs of partner nations.

Mr Sunjoy Joshi, Director, ORF, made welcome and opening remarks. He suggested that the BRICS must strive to play an effective role in global management. The world, he said, is facing various challenges which BRICS shall respond.

Mr. Samir Saran, Vice-President, ORF was moderator. The session concluded with the remarks of Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS.

The Academic Forum deliberated on issues — Emerging Geo-Political Order: Challenges and Opportunities for BRICS; Opportunities and Challenges for BRICS in the Emerging Global Trade Architecture and the potential for Intra-BRICS Trade Expansion; International



Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa inaugurating the BRICS Academic Forum. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Mr. Vladimir Davydov, Mr. Luis Fernando Lara Resende, Mr. Sunjoy Joshi, Mr. Samir Saran, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. Zhao Zhongxiu and Mr. John Pampallis.

Finance and Technology Transfers to Developing and LDCs for Development; BRICS Partnership-Scripting a New Development Paradigm; Common Health Challenges and Prospects for Cooperation among BRICS; BRICS Cooperation on Managing New Security Threats; Regulating the New Commons and Related Global Public Goods: A Vision from BRICS; Exchange of Views and Sharing of Experiences on Implementation of the SDGs; Future of Energy: Implications and Opportunities for BRICS; Gender, Development and Politics – Towards a New Leadership Vision from BRICS; Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises, and the Informal Sector – A BRICS Proposal for Growth; and the Future of BRICS.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi moderated the session on Exchange of Views and Sharing of Experiences on Implementation of the SDGs. He laid down a framework for access, equity and inclusion for Sustainable Development. He emphasized that the recently signed SDGs would define how our economies are going to work in future. He recommended setting-up of an institutional architecture for SDGs implementation. He also elaborated that Wellness Index is the way forward. In fact, BRICS Wellness Index was proposed by the RIS in the BRICS Wellness Workshop. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS, made a comprehensive presentation on BRICS and global trade architecture.

The BRICS Academic Forum is a track-2 platform for academicians from five countries to deliberate on issues of crucial importance to BRICS and came up with ideas and recommendations. Scholars from each member nation spoke on themes of importance. In addition, a large number of scholars from BRICS countries participated in the deliberations.

Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Smt. Mridula Sinha in her valedictory address said that the BRICS summit is yet another international forum working for humanity. She mentioned that BRICS intensifies cooperation and linkages with other nations, and thus annual events like this play a crucial role. Hon'ble Governor highlighted that under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India is boosting trade and economic engagements. The rich knowledge and resources of BRICS countries make it possible to expand trade. She said that BRICS nations are resource houses of traditional arts and crafts and these should be considered in promoting trade among BRICS countries.

Talking about SDGs, she said that no nation can make sustainable progress without women's participation and when women are given the right educational opportunities, they become committed to setting goals and achieving them.

Mr Sunjoy Joshi, Director, ORF, in his remarks highlighted that the success of the SDGs would depend on BRICS success across a range of sectors like education, health, etc. He also informed about setting-up of BRICS digital archive as a starting point for BRICS think-tank.

IORA Blue Economy Dialogue

The RIS, in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organised the IORA Blue Economy Dialogue on “Economic Potential and Commercialisation Aspects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean on 4-5 November 2016 in New Delhi.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Amb. Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS chaired the introductory session.

Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh, (Retd.) Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the inaugural address.

The Blue Economy Dialogue fostered informed debate on the economic potential of blue economy in the IORA region in the following five crucial sectors – renewable ocean energy; fisheries; deep sea and off-shore mining; coastal tourism & urbanization; and maritime & strategic dimensions.

Towards BRICS Wellness Index

The BRICS Wellness Forum was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and RIS in Bengaluru on 10-11 September 2016 to promote partnership in traditional medicine systems.



Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh, (Retd.) Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India releasing the IORA Policy Brief “Fisheries Sector in IORA: Driving Force in Region's Blue Economy.” Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Amb. Sudhir Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS; and Ms. Renu Pall, Joint Secretary (IOR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Shri Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India; Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for AYUSH; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder, Art of Living, inaugurated the workshop.

Mr Ajit M. Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India; Mr Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH; Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr H. R. Nagendra, Chancellor, S-VYASA Deemed University; Mr O. O. Salagai, Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Public Relations, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation; Mr Zhu Haidong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine; and Prof. James Campbell, Head of Department, School of Natural Medicine, University of Western Cape addressed the inaugural session.

Shri Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, mooted for a world organisation of traditional medicine. He said, "We must take initiative to form such a forum under the World Health Organization, as BRICS countries represent 40 per cent of the world's population, and India is a leader in traditional medicine along side China. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik said the Ministry's objective is to strengthen existing research institutions and ensure a time-bound research programme on identified diseases for which these systems have an effective line of treatment. "AYUSH effort is to tackle the current challenges like dengue and chikungunya with integrated medicines," he added.

Shri K. R. Ramesh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, said wellness should not be the prerogative of only the rich people. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said that there is no need to fear traditional medicines to treat people. He emphasized, "There is no need to be prejudiced towards the age-old systems of medicine. They were discovered thousands of years ago and our ancestors proved their worth centuries back. The entire world is looking at India, thanks to yoga and other health-related concepts. Many foreign countries are adopting our traditional medicines as well as yoga. It is time we highlight them in India too."

"India could share its traditional wisdom in a systematic and scientific manner with the rest of the world. The need of the hour is to marry traditional medicine with modern therapies," Sri Sri pointed out.

According to Mr Ajit M. Sharan, India is charting a new path in AYUSH. The potential of traditional medicine and the research capability is taking a new dimension. The way forward would be evidence-based research. In this, India has already signed up pacts with China and Russia. The need of the hour is to link a pact for IPR in traditional medicines.

Dr H.R. Nagendra said, “India needs a policy for an integrated health system. The health-care delivery system should not be restricted to allopathy alone as it does not ensure total healing and cure. Ayush and even Chinese medicines are effective systems, which can tackle growing burden of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart ailments, migraine, epilepsy, asthma among others.” Although the Ministry of AYUSH was formed on 9 November 2014, efforts to integrate traditional medicine into mainstream system had started way back in 2006, he informed.

While Brazil hoped to set-up an Ayurveda research centre to counter western influences, India is working on globalizing Ayurveda and has set -up an Ayurveda chair in many of the varsities in Trinidad & Tobago, Hungary and Thailand and would soon have one each in Russia, Indonesia, Slovenia, Latvia and Armenia.

Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, said that the Centre should look at mainstreaming of AYUSH medicines and making them available to common man through Jan Aushadhalayas (generic drug stores). “That way we can ensure that traditional medicine is made available to all, especially to those who do not go for it as they don’t get medical reimbursement for it,” she underlined.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi mentioned that wellness should be used as an alternative to GDP as a measure of progress of the nation. He also stated that export of traditional medicines is a major challenge and there is a need to set -up global standards in terms of sanitary and phytosanitary measures for this. On this occasion, the RIS Volume titled ‘Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index’



Shri Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India; Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH; and Shri K. R. Ramesh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka along with members of BRICS countries releasing the RIS Volume, 'Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index' during the inaugural session of the BRICS Wellness Workshop in Bengaluru.

was also released. It ponders on two fundamental yet related questions in this regard. First, it explores narrative on traditional knowledge, concept and philosophy of wellness in BRICS. It also tries to redefine contemporary relevance of such systems and attempts to connect them with modern economic processes for greater effectiveness and adoption as a strategy of development. The volume proposes a new framework for wellness measurement in the BRICS not only to guide policy-making, but also to gather a new following and momentum for integrated approaches to development at the level of citizens.

The first plenary session on 'Experience Sharing on Traditional Medicine by the BRICS Countries' was chaired by Mr Ajit M. Sharan. Mr Anil Kumar Ganeriwala presented an overview of the Ministry of AYUSH. Dr Rajiv Vasudevan, MD and CEO, AyurVAID Hospitals talked about integration of traditional medicine. Dr Isaac Mathai, Chairman, Managing and Medical Director, SOUKYA, presented his views about wellness facilities in traditional medicine in India.

Mr Erick Goncalves Schulz, Parliamentary Front in Defence of Integrative Practices in Health, Brazil; Prof. Cecilia de Mello e Souza, Psychology Institute, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mr. O. O. Salagai, Mr. Zhu Haidong, Prof. James Campbell and Mr. Marquard Franklin Simpson, Manager, Faculty of Community and Health Sciences shared their country experiences for healthy living.

Prof. Pulin Nayak, formerly Director, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi and Prof. Rasigan Maharajh, Chief Director, Institute for Economic Research on Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa co-chaired the second plenary session on 'Wellness Indicators for BRICS'. Dr Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India; Dr Amanda Gcabashe, Specialist Traditional Medicine, Special Projects Business Unit, South African Bureau of Standards, Pretoria, Dr Cecilia de Mello e Souza; Mr Erick Goncalves Schulz; Dr Anita Karilio Arkas, President, Ayurveda Russia-India Association, Member of the Councils of Traditional Medicine, Ministry of Health and the Committee on Health Protection, State Duma of the Russian Federation participated in the discussions.

Prof. Sukhdev Swami Handa, Chairman, Scientific Body of Pharmaceutical Commission of Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), Ministry of AYUSH chaired the third session on 'Trade and Economy, Value addition, manufacturing and trade, trade classification, regulation and standardisation of bio-resources'. Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Dr André de Mello e Souza, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA); and Prof. Rasigan Maharajh, South Africa were panelists.

Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University; and Mr Zhu Haidong co-chaired the fourth session on 'Wellness and SDGs: Nutrition and Health; Access and Implementation.' Dr Nandini K. Kumar, former Deputy

Director General, ICMR; Dr Amanda Gcabashe; and Dr Anita Karilio Arkas were participants.

Mr. Naveen Raj Singh, Secretary Tourism, Government of Karnataka and Dr André de Mello e Souza co-chaired the fifth session on 'Wellness and Medical Tourism.' Dr Isaac Mathai, SOUKYA; Dr C. K. Katiyar, CEO, Emami Group of Companies, Kolkata; Mr Jose Dominic, MD & CEO of CGH Earth, CGH Group of Hotels; and Mr K. V. Ramesh, MD, Kairali Ayurvedic Group gave their expert comments.

Mr Jitendra Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Punjab, chaired the sixth session on 'WHO Strategy for Traditional medicine.' Dr Zhang Qi, Coordinator, Traditional Medicine, World Health Organisation, Geneva presented an overview of WHO Strategy. Prof. James Campbell; Prof. Huo Junsheng, Director of Department of Food Science and Technology, National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Mrs O.M. Drapkina, First Deputy Director on Scientific and Medical Work of the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation; Prof. Sukhdev Swami Handa; Prof. Raisur Rahman, Adviser, Unani, Ministry of AYUSH; Dr Manoj Nesari, Adviser (Ayurveda), Ministry of AYUSH; Mr Arvind Varchaswi, Trustee, Sri Sri Ayurveda Trust were panelists.

Over 150 delegates from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) participated in the workshop.

'Need To Address Barriers to Exports for Greater India-Japan Economic Cooperation'– Nirmala Sitharaman

The AIC at RIS organized Seminar on Promotion of India's Exports to Japan under India-Japan CEPA on 6 October 2016 in New Delhi. The RIS-AIC report entitled '*India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal*' was also released by Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge), Government of India.

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired the inaugural session. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Dr V.S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS, made a brief presentation about the report, which gives a comprehensive investigation on issues related to trade in goods, services and investment. Dr S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, also delivered special addresses. The seminar deliberated on issues including Bringing Value and Volume to Indian textile and apparel exports to Japan; Promotion of Indian Sea Food Exports; The business opportunity arising from Japan's decision towards greater use of generics by 2020 – How can Indian companies respond?; and Promoting greater trade and cooperation in IT and IT enabled services in an increasingly digital era.



Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge), Government of India releasing the RIS-AIC report on India-Japan CEPA.

‘BRICS to broaden Agenda to focus on Inclusive Development’– Shashi Tharoor

The FIDC, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and RIS organized the BRICS Civil Forum on 3-4 October 2016 in New Delhi. This was important track II, earlier to the 8th BRICS Summit, hosted by India during its Chairmanship in October 2016 in Goa. Dr Shashi Tharoor, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS and Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Chairperson, FIDC made welcome remarks.

Representatives from BRICS countries, civil society organisations, policy-makers, academicians and senior officials of the government participated in the two-day long deliberations. “BRICS is an alternative forum standing up to the dominant communities shaping the world policies. BRICS countries with 3 trillion population represents about 40 per cent of world’s population and contributes 20 per cent to the world GDP and are emerging as dominant forces. Today ignoring BRICS is ignoring turn of the history”, said Dr Shashi Tharoor while inaugurating the forum. He also highlighted the importance of BRICS civil forum in shaping the global agenda and new world order. The existing system should make room for us or collapse, Dr Tharoor added. Speaking about the role of civil society in BRICS, he said that civil society has an important role of influencing the agenda of the summit by having a cohesive idea among them and conveying it to government. BRICS countries have already created the New Development Bank, and there

is further need to create knowledge hub among them as there is a need of globalized connected networked world.

Mr Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, said that the deliberations would enrich knowledge of the government. He also reiterated that BRICS is a forum of new ideas, shaping global narratives. He also stated that India has invited BIMSTEC countries and want to know what they expect from BRICS countries in regard to new global agenda.

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, while chairing the inaugural session said that BRICS countries are not super powers but they are shaping the world order. These countries would decide what would be the shape of new institutional order and this new order can't be decided until the action of the government is supported by the network amongst the people from different spheres of society. Government can do better if it reaches out to people through civil society.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS emphasized that from among almost 100 pre-BRICS events, the Civil Forum had the largest presence from BRICS member- countries and this was possible due to the civil societies engagement. He said that civil society has unique ability to get all actors together. He also informed that in India, FIDC is the important instrument which has evolved in development cooperation framework. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organizations.

Prof. Anuradha Chenoy of JNU and Chairperson, FIDC, said BRICS multilateral model has capacity to change global governance. The BRICS is open to civil society and civil society extends its active support to BRICS to dismantle supremacy of global powers, in humanitarian assistance, mutual benefit, multi-polar system, meeting of sustainable



Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs delivering inaugural address at BRICS Civil Forum.

development goals, inclusive growth, pluralism and multi-culturalism.

Hon'ble Kevin Rudd speaks at the RIS on the Asia-Pacific Community

The Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI), in collaboration with the Asia Society India Centre, and RIS, organized a special discussion regarding future of regional governance in Asia, and the possibility for an Asia-Pacific Community to take on a shape in New Delhi on 6 April 2016.

Hon'ble Mr Kevin Rudd, ASPI President and former Prime Minister of Australia discussed the need of a pan-regional institution in the Asia-Pacific that can manage peace and security. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, moderated the conversation. Amb. Shivshankar Menon, India's former National Security Advisor; MsPreeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr Marshall Bouton; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, were the panellists.

Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade

The Commerce Secretary, Ms Rita Teaotia, launched the study on *"Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade: Policy and Implementation Measures"*. The study was prepared by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS. The programme was organized by the RIS in association with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi, on 15 June 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed all.

The Report aims at providing an impetus to India's Act East policy, as has been emphasized by Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, through harnessing through border routes potential of trade between India and Myanmar.



Ms. Rita Teaotia launching RIS and Ministry of Commerce and Industry study on *Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade: Policy and Implementation Measures*. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. Ravi Capoor and Prof. Ram Upendra Das.

Ms Rita Teaotia highlighted that border trade between India and Myanmar through land routes has seen a paradigm shift from barter to normal trade, and it has also abolished list of items, restricted until recently. This means that India and Myanmar trade through the border can take place under the Duty- Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme and ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA). She also underscored the need for making trade an instrument for achieving developmental objectives in border areas through employment generation. Investments in infrastructure on both the sides were highlighted prerequisite for trade.

A distinguishing feature of India's border trade with Myanmar and bilateral normal trade is that, in border trade, import and export growth rate exceeds growth rate in overall bilateral trade, said Mr Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry while giving his presentation. He amplified the role of integration with Myanmar for development of Myanmar and also accessing ASEAN and other markets with which Myanmar has preferential access.

Mr Capoor also mentioned that this study is comprehensive, as it adopts an integrated approach towards border trade by focussing on trade in goods, trade in services, cross-border investment, trade facilitation, and infrastructure at the India-Myanmar border region. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, highlighted that the study combined desk-top research with field survey and stakeholders' consultation in a quest to make analysis realistic and recommendations practical. He emphasized that we should adopt a 'fast-track' approach to implement policy recommendations for addressing constraints on border trade, in particular, and development of the region, in general. Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS reiterated that one of the reasons for lesser than optimum levels of economic activities in the region and low quantum of border trade is the absence of peace in the region along with other constraints. The study in a novel way argues towards a new framework for 'peace-creating prosperity' whereby focussing on employment generation can unlock the potential that region possesses. It is in this backdrop that the enabling conditions to augment border trade could well serve as a driver for greater economic activities in the region and at the border, generating newer employment opportunities for the youth, and in stopping them from resorting to unfair means for livelihood.

One of the mechanisms to increase border trade are Border Haats that would play a facilitating role of enabling local trade and increasing people-to-people contacts and thus promoting well-being of the people in the areas difficult to access across the borders. This is done through establishing a traditional system of marketing local produce at local markets at borders. After realising the requirements of communities residing near the border, the two countries took decision to set Border Haats. At present, the authorities have agreed upon 10 locations for setting up Haats.

Overall, to increase border trade which can be conducted in an

unfettered way as 'normal trade' actions focussing on laboratory testing at border, warehousing and storage facilities, certificate of origin related facilities, integrated check posts, border haats, trade promotion activities and most importantly improving banking facilities and bridging information gap need to be stepped up along with focussing on security in the region.

Visit of Indonesian Delegation to RIS

A delegation from the Centre of Policy Analysis and Development on International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia led by Mr P. Gultom, Senior Analyst, had a meeting with RIS on South-South Cooperation on 23 May 2016. The members included Mr Novrizal, Counsellor, Indonesian Embassy; Mr Faiz Ahmad Nugroho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; Mr Akbar Nugraha, Third Secretary, Indonesian Embassy; and Ms Agnes Rosari Dewi, Policy Analyst, Centre for Policy Analysis and Development on International Organisations.

Dialogue on South-South Cooperation and India's Approach to Development Cooperation

The RIS in association with the Asia Foundation, the South Centre and the Government of India, organised a panel discussion on the South-South Cooperation on 27 June 2016, while celebrating 30th anniversary of the 'Right to Development' and for launching a book "*India's Approach to Development Cooperation*" edited by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Ms Anthea Mulakala of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland,.

Mr Vicente Yu, Head of Administration and Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme, South Centre made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; and H.E. Mr Ajit Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of India to the UN Office, Geneva, made introductory remarks.



H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna launching the book "*India's Approach to Development Cooperation*" at High Commission of India. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Mr. Taidong Zho, Dr. Prabodh Saxena, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Ms. Anthea Mulakala; Amb. Shyam Saran, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, and Ms. Supriya Roychoudhury.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Globalisation and Strategies Division, UNCTAD; Ms Anita Amorim, Head of the Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, ILO; Dr Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh and Former Senior Advisor, ADB; Mr Zhou Taidong, Programme Manager, China-UK Partnership Programme, Development Research Centre; and Dr Youba Sokona, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development, South Centre and Vice-Chair of the IPCC panel were panelists. The session was moderated by Ms Anthea Mulakala, Director of International Development Corporation, The Asia Foundation.

The book titled *“India’s Approach to Development Cooperation”* traces and analyses evolution of the Indian development cooperation. It highlights its significance to global development and as an effective tool of Indian foreign policy. Focussing on how India has played an important role in supporting development efforts of partner- countries in the South Asia and beyond through its various initiatives in the realm of development cooperation, it tracks evolution, trends and challenges India faces in the present international context.

The contributions provide a rich mix of academic and government policy and practice, and Indian and external perspectives. Theory is complemented with empirical research, and case studies on countries and sectors as well as comparisons with other aids providing countries are presented concisely.

The discussion highlighted increasing awareness of the role and value of the right to development as an inalienable and independent human right by virtue of which all human rights can be fully realised and all people can enjoy economic, social, cultural and political rights, and narrated the role that South-South Cooperation plays in advancing the Right to Development in the South, with a particular focus on the Indian experience with the South-South Cooperation.

The book was also launched at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK, on 29 June 2016. The session was chaired by Dr Jing Gu, The Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD), IDS. Amb. Shyam Saran made opening remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi; Ms Anthea Mulakala; Dr Emma Mawdsley, Reader in the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge; Mr Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh; Mr Taidong Zhou, Programme Manager, China-UK Partnership Programme, Development Research Centre; Ms Supriya Roychoudhury, Crisis Action, were the speakers. The discussion gave a glimpse into the diverse issues covered in the book. The programme was organized by RIS in association with CRPD, IDS.

The High Commission of India, London, also organized launching of book on 30 June 2016. H.E. Mr Navtej Singh Sarna, Indian High Commissioner to UK made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran briefly talked about the context of the book. The panel discussion on the issues raised in the book was moderated by Ms Anthea Mulakala.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Emma Mawdsley, Dr Prabodh Saxena, Mr Taidong Zho, and Ms Supriya Roychoudhury were panelists.

Roundtable Discussion on IPR and Access to Technology

In the wake of the recent debate on IPR and access to technology, the RIS organised a Roundtable Discussion on 'Intellectual Property Rights, Access to Technology and Policy Deliberations' on 4 June 2016 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, gave the keynote address reflecting on the IPR related issues and price control mechanism, especially related to seeds.

Mr M. Prabhakar Rao, President, National Seed Association of India and Dr Paresh Verma, Head, Management Committee, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises - Agriculture (ABLE-AG) presented pointers from the perspective of industry related to agriculture and seeds. The panelists were Mr Siraj Hussain, former Agriculture Secretary; Dr Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research (ICRIER); Dr Jeet Singh Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Dr S.R. Rao, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology; Dr R. R. Hanchinal, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority; Dr Dinesh Abrol, Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID); and Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS.

The representatives from the industry stressed the need for predictable, transparent regulatory processes and cautioned against regressive regulation that would retard growth and innovation. It was pointed out that Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) has covered transgenic varieties; concerns were



Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia delivering the keynote address. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Dr. Dinesh Abrol, Dr. S.R. Rao, Mr. Siraj Hussain, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao, Dr. Paresh Verma, Dr. R. R. Hanchinal and Prof. T.C. James.

expressed about the scope of exemptions under the Act for breeders and farmers' rights, as they weaken IP protection. The relevance of 'Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory Access (FRAND)' was suggested. Licensing, which is widely used in tele-communications industry, can be tested in the seed sector.

Concern was expressed about the viability of small and medium seed companies struggling to survive. Industry has serious concerns about the recent guidelines (since held in abeyance) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on licensing terms and conditions.

The time and cost involved in testing and approval of GM crops was also highlighted, and it was pointed out that public sector is an important player in agribiotech. It was suggested that discrepancies in rules and regulations and pricing issues could be resolved. The need for encouraging innovation and R&D is the primary concern for departments concerned with promotion and regulation of technology. Pricing issues were addressed earlier by the central government and state governments, and in the context of recent controversies, it can be addressed without creating a disincentive for innovation.

It was pointed out that two traits – herbicide resistant technology and insect resistant technology, and their combination – have been successfully incorporated in cotton, soybean, canola and maize, the major GM crops world- over, which have been commercialized. Further, the need to resolve uncertainties in decision- making regarding GM crops, awaiting clearance from the GEAC, was emphasized. PPVFR and the Authority under the Act have a key role in regulating registration for new varieties and in balancing interests of plant breeders, seed companies and farmers.

Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia criticised an order by Agriculture Ministry issued earlier this year to cap royalty and sale price of cotton-seed. He was of opinion that "If there are problems with availability of seed, there are laws under the plant varieties act to control its price, but the Essential Commodities Act is not the way to do it."

Industrialisation and Employment for Sustainable Growth

The RIS, in collaboration with NITI Aayog and UN in India, organized a National Consultation on Industrialization and Employment for Sustainable Growth in India, relating to SDGs 8 and 9 in New Delhi on 2-3 August 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India, highlighted RIS initiatives and global context, respectively. Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, delivered the Valedictory Address. He underscored that India has a huge influence on framing SDGs. He said that Prime Minister during his recent visit to NITI Aayog categorically stressed that our vision document should have the clear goal of obliterating poverty. SDG 8 and 9 would be the guiding principles for this.

He emphasised that poverty elimination is the major objective of the government, and all other objectives like health, education, growth, etc., can be achieved when poverty elimination is addressed. Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, delivered Keynote Address and emphasized that we have a huge work force as an asset which needs to be explored and linked with Skill India initiative.

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, highlighted the need of employment generation in the context of manufacturing and SDGs. Dr P. K. Anand, Senior Consultant (DMEO), NITI Aayog, presented structure for the Consultation.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev chaired the first session on 'Paradigm of Sustainable Growth and Industrialisation.' Mr Devender Singh, Secretary (Industries), Government of Haryana; Mrs Rashmi Singh, Secretary (Industries), Andaman and Nicobar Administration; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Head, UNESCAP (S&SWA) New Delhi; Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Prof. Pulin B. Nayak, former Director, Delhi School of Economics; and Mr P. K. Biswal, Additional Secretary (Planning and Convergence), Government of Odisha, were panelists.

The session deliberated on key issues on fasttracking sustainable industrialisation for economic growth in the context of 'Make in India' and SDGs; resource efficiency and green technologies in industrial production; addressing 'Ease of Doing Business' and state level regulatory constraints; and sectoral priorities and best practices in the context of the same.

Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, chaired the second session on 'Strategies of Better Inclusiveness for Sustainable Economic Growth'. Prof. Bina Agarwal, University of Manchester and Institute of Economic Growth; Ms Renu Pillay, Principal Secretary, Government of Chattisgarh; Mr Deepak Kapoor, Principal Secretary, Skill Development



Prof. Arvind Panagariya addressing the Valedictory Session. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Amb. Shyam Saran, Prof. T.C.A. Anant, and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev.

and Entrepreneurship, Government of Maharashtra; Prof. P. G. Chengappa, National Professor ICAR, Bengaluru; and Dr G. G. Koppa, Assistant FAO Representative (Programmes) were the panelists. The participants discussed on issues of agricultural income, productivity and regulation; diversification of economic opportunities both in rural and urban areas through skill development (with special focus on female labour force participation); technological upgradation for livelihood protection recognising sustainability challenges; and sectoral priorities and best practices in the context of the same.

Dr Sher Verick, Deputy Director (Decent Work) ILO South Asia chaired the third session on 'Employment Generation and Decent Work'. The panelists for this session were: Mrs Sunita Sanghi, Adviser, NITI Aayog; Mrs Kavyashree Mahanta, Joint Secretary (Labour and Employment), Government of Assam; Mr S. K. G. Rahate, Principal Secretary (Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development), Government of Jharkhand; Mr Nomaan Majid, Senior Specialist (Employment Policy), ILO; Prof. Sandip Sarkar, Institute of Human Development; Prof. Saikat Sinha Roy, Jadavpur University; and Mr Sushil Ramola, Managing Director, BASIX Academy for Building Lifelong Employability. The discussion was on issues relating to opportunities for all with focus on regional balance; mainstreaming of gender issues; physical disability; labour laws and quality of employment in the informal sector; and best practices and sectoral specificities in the context of the same.

Dr V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, chaired the fourth session on 'Small and Medium Enterprises and Informal Sector.' Panelist for the session were: Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, Trade Policy, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII); Mr Mukesh Gulati, Executive Director, Foundation for MSME Clusters; and Prof. B. N. Goldar, Professor and ICSSR National Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth; and Mr Subrata Kumar Biswal, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The main issues taken up during the session included charting a green strategy for the SME sector - access to finance under sustainability norms; ease of doing business in the SME sector - clearances and support for survival; challenges and opportunities of Global Value Chains in the context of SMEs; and best practices and information gaps in reference to the same.

Prof. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog, chaired the first session on day two on 'Developing Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure.' The panelists were Mr Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, The Department of Rural Development; Mr Manoj Singh, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr Praveen Mehto, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr Apurva Chandra, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Maharashtra; and Mr P. Sampath Kumar, Resident Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya.

The deliberations were on issues relating to infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships; quality, sustainability and resilience; and rural infrastructure and issues of affordability and access (last mile

and last person connectivity). Prof. Bibek Debroy highlighted that the present government's focus is on infrastructure, especially physical infrastructure for improved connectivity. If the infrastructure is to be truly sustainable, we need to understand what resilient infrastructure looks like, and there is a need to compare infrastructure designs and systems to achieve most resilient outcomes.

If infrastructure improves, the connectivity would improve, thereby bringing increase in trade. Prof. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) chaired the session on 'Green Financing and Green Accounting.' Dr P. K. Anand, Mr Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI); Dr Chandra Bhushan, Deputy Director General, CSE; and Dr Divya Dutt, Fellow & Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) were panelists. Dr C. Muralikrishna Kumar, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog, chaired the session on 'Innovation for Sustainable Industrialisation and Development.' Panelist were: Dr. Ashwani Gupta, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr Jatinder Kaur Arora, Executive Director (Science & Technology), Government of Punjab; Ms Michiko Enomoto, Head, Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT); and Mr Raghvendra Saha, Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The issues covered were technology gaps and needs for sustainable industrialization; sustainability oriented scientific research for development - health, agriculture, urban development; and international technology regimes and India's response in this context.

Prof. T. C. A. Anant, Secretary, MOSPI, made special remarks at the valedictory session. He highlighted that SDGs are enormous opportunity for us. Comprehensive articulation of growth and development inherent in them represents global consensus. He concluded that these discussions are beginning of a process of what we would be doing in next 15 years.

Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation

The RIS, in collaboration with NITI Aayog and UN in India, organized the National Consultation on Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All in the backdrop of SDG 6 in New Delhi on 9 August 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India, gave Opening Remarks. Mr Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation in his Keynote Address said that water management is a broad topic, which needs to be looked at holistically. The present government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has a particular focus on providing clean drinking water to all. Now a need has been felt to look at traditional methods of water conservation in addition to new technology.

Further, Mr. Parameswaran said that clean drinking water cannot be made available to all unless sanitation is available for all, as faecal matter

being the major water contaminant. He also talked about PM Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, a flagship programme of the government. He empathetically said that meeting the target of SDG 6 is crucial for India as around 500-600 million people in the country practice open defecation. And if this number is not brought down, then SDG 6 would fail globally. He underlined, "India aims to be open defecation free (ODF) by 2 October 2019 which marks the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi."

Dr P.K. Anand, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog, participating at the consultation said that drinking water is a priority of the present government. He emphasized on price rationalization mechanism for water conservation.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India, while welcoming all said "Food, fuel and water are three elements that define our survival and security. The population is growing and we are over using our resources, but water management and recycling are lagging behind. Globally, over two million tonnes of human waste is dumped in water resources. There is conflict and competition over water." While mentioning that India has achieved MDG target, he said SDG targets are much more ambitious, and thus there is a need for combination for big steps – policies; and small steps – people's participation to meet SDGs. He also underlined, "India is a net exporter of virtual water, and is in the club of US, Canada and Argentina. Thus, there is need for policy intervention."

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, highlighted that "Water is a great challenge and thus it is crucial as to how we develop our national agenda. There is need for technological solutions as there are cross domains as well as cross-border linkages among the SDGs that require holistic approach. There is sectoral concern too as to how we shall use water in agriculture, industry, energy production and for human supply." He also strongly talked on deriving lessons from traditional methods of water conservation.



Mr. Parameswaran Iyer delivering Keynote Address at the consultation. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, and Dr. P.K. Anand.

Dr V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, chaired the first session on 'Drinking Water Contamination and Technological Solutions.' He pointed out that water demand in India would increase to around 1200 billion cubic metres by 2050, and is bound to face severe water scarcity. Thus, there is need for proper planning, management and technological use. He added that there is a need to introspect if we are harnessing all technologies. Mr N. C. Saxena, Adviser, UNDP; Mr Ajoy Kumar Sinha, Secretary (Water Supply & Sanitation), Government of Punjab; Mr Animesh Bhattacharya, Director, Water and Sanitation Support Organization, Government of West Bengal; Dr Mamata Dash, Manager, Water Aid; Mr Amitangshu Acharya, Development Professional and Columnist; and Mr Manish Wasuja, UNICEF India, were panelists.

Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement, chaired the second session on 'Sanitation Infrastructure and Best Practices'. He shared his rich experiences and said that Sulabh movement is making an all-out effort to realise the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also mentioned: "We are making efforts to build a broad alliance of politicians, corporations, NGOs and civil societies to spread awareness on the Swachh Bharat to evolve it into people's movement and turn the vision of Open Defecation Free (ODF) India into a reality. Dr Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser (RD), NITI Aayog; Mr Frank Odhiambo, UNICEF, India; Dr M. Geetha, Director, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of Chhattisgarh; and Mr Jai Prakash Dwivedi, Chief Engineer, Government of Uttar Pradesh, were panelists.

Mr Shyam Bahadur Khadka, FAO Representative, India, chaired the third session on 'Efficient Water Use for Agriculture and Industry'. The panelists in this session were: Mr Jitendra Kumar, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr S. Masood Hussain, Director General, National Water Development Agency; Mr R. S. Julaniya, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh; and Dr Upendra Kulkarni, Chairman, Indian Water Works Association, Aurangabad.

Dr P. K. Anand chaired the fourth session on 'Preserving Water Ecosystems.' Mr Rakesh Singh, Principal Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Prof. A. L. Ramanathan, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Mr G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst, UNDP India; Mr Jitendra Kumar, Advisor, NITI Aayog; and Mr Dhimant Vyas, Technical Adviser (Water Supply), Government of Gujarat, were panelists. The consultation concluded with closing remarks by Mr Yuri Afanasiev and Dr P. K. Anand.

Maritime Security and Cooperation

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with AIC at the RIS, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and Naval War College (NWC) organized the second International EAS Conference on "Maritime Security and Cooperation" for the East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries on 4-5 November, 2016 in Goa.

Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the Keynote Address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, gave introductory remarks. Dr Vijay Sakhuja, Director, National Maritime Foundation, gave Special Address. Ms Pooja Kapur, Jt Secretary (ASEAN-ML), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, gave Inaugural Address. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, RIS, gave welcome remarks. Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, NM, Commandant NWC, Goa, made special remarks.

The Conference was divided into five sessions – (1) Maritime Security Issues in the Asia-Pacific, (2) Maritime Safety Issues in the Asia-Pacific, (3) Maritime Multilateralism: Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects for Asia-Pacific, (4) Blue Economy and Maritime Conservation, (5) Way Forward. The Concluding Session was addressed by Dr Vijay Sakhuja, Director, NMF. Cmde Ashok Rai, Deputy Commandant, NWC and Dr Prabir De extended vote of thanks.

EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Regional Cooperation

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with AIC at RIS, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), East Asia Summit Earthquake Risk Reduction Centre and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)



Group Photo: Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ms. Pooja Kapur, Jt. Secretary (ASEAN-ML), Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, Rear Admiral Suresh Mehta with the delegates of the 2nd EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation.

organized the EAS Conference on 2 November 2016 in New Delhi. Mr Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, delivered the inaugural address. Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the Keynote Address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, made introductory remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, gave welcome remarks. Prof. Santhosh Kumar, Executive Director, NIDM extended vote of thanks.

The Conference had two sessions – (i) Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Regional Cooperation and (2) Regional Cooperation to Strengthen Disaster Risk Management Capacity. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, RIS, extended vote of thanks.

Session on Agenda 2030: Implementation in Europe and India

An interactive session on 'Agenda 2030: Implementation in Europe and India' with a high-level EU delegation from European Commission Headquarters, Brussels, was organized by the RIS on 9 December 2016. The members of the delegation were Mr Gustavo Martin Prada, Director, Development Policy and International Cooperation; Mr Pedro Henriques, International Relations Officer, Policy and Coherence (Development); Mr Michael John Ellis, Directorate General, Policy Officer, Policy and Coherence (Development); Dr Johann Hesse, Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to India; and Ms Renuka Srinivasan, Sr Programme Manager, Delegation of the European Union to India. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Prof. S.K. Mohanty; Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow;



Group Photo: Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ambassador Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS with the delegates of the EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Regional Cooperation.

Dr T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow; Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor participated in the interactive session.

Job-Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia

The RIS jointly with South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) organized a workshop on 'Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia' on 5 December 2016, New Delhi. It served as a platform for facilitating stimulating academic discourse on the issues by senior experts and policy researchers from South Asia to come out with a possible policy roadmap.

The agenda included discussion on Emerging Trends in Macroeconomic Performance; Economic Growth and Industrialisation; and External Linkages and Sustainable Economic Growth. The participants from South Asia were: Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Dr

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka; Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan (via skype call); Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Dr Khondakar Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Dr Frederico Gil Sander, Senior Country Economist, World Bank; Dr Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD) Former Member of Parliament, Government of Nepal; Dr Nomaan Majid, ILO Senior specialist on Employment Policy, India; Dr Sher Singh Verick, Deputy Director, ILO DWT for South Asia and Country Office for India; Mr Vishvanathan Subramanian, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. S. K. Mohanty and Dr Sabyasachi Saha participated.

The workshop witnessed rich display of analytical evidence from noted experts highlighting specific constraints regarding growth of manufacturing sector and associated employment generation in the South Asia. To arrive at future directions several key issues were taken up primarily covering roadmap for industrialisation by overcoming existing constraints and through leveraging opportunities in export-led growth, global value chains and regional cooperation in trade and investment.

Launch of IBSA Visiting Fellowships at the RIS

In association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, RIS would offer IBSA Visiting Fellowships to two research scholars from each of the two other partner countries of India under the IBSA Dialogue Forum - Brazil and South Africa. The programme focuses on development of an effective multilateral institutional framework to coordinate, support and enable sustainable development in coherent and integral manner. It is open for research scholars and academicians from South Africa and Brazil with profound interest in carrying out deeper research towards the realisation of the aims and objectives of the IBSA Dialogue process in partner- countries.



(From left to right) Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi; Dr. Saman Kelegama; Prof. Deepak Nayyar; Dr. Posh Raj Pandey; Dr. Mustafizur Rahman; and Dr. Sagar Parsai.

The RIS has launched IBSA fellowships on 28 November 2016. The programme began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ms Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry, said that IBSA has been acknowledged as a successful example of the South-South Cooperation. Remarks were made by Mr Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr Ben Joubert, The Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of South Africa, New Delhi; and Ms Claudia Vieira Santos, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi.

Towards Shaping the US-India Trade Agenda

The RIS, jointly with Johns Hopkins University organized a capacity-building programme on “Towards Shaping the US-India Trade Agenda” from 15-17 November 2016 in New Delhi. Students from Johns Hopkins University participated and interacted with Indian experts on specific issues relating to ‘India-US trade relationship’. Further details are available on RIS website: www.ris.org.in.



Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA delivering the inaugural address during the launching of RIS-IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme.

Seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity

The RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and FICCI organized “Seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity” on 3 December 2016 in Amritsar, under the Trade, Commerce & Investment - Confidence Building Measures (TCI- CBM) under the Heart of Asia Process of Rebuilding Afghanistan.

The Heart of Asia has emerged as an important initiative for connecting Afghanistan with the rest of the South Asian and CIS countries. The strategic location of Afghanistan, as gateway to connect Asia, Iran, and CIS region, provides immense potential for diversifying Indian industries engagement with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The programme commenced with the welcome addresses by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr Goutam Ghosh, Director, FICCI. Amb. Manpreet Vohra, Ambassador of India in Kabul, delivered inaugural address. Dr Ram Upendra Das, Professor, RIS,

extended vote of thanks.

Some of the key policy recommendations on connectivity are – The Sea-Road/Rail multi-modal linkage between West-East Indian ports and Chabahar is business-feasible since it is an agglomeration of India's outbound cargo to South Europe (Rail), Central Asia, Russia and North Europe (Rail-Road). To make this successful, a 'Proof of Concept' needs to be done including three steps – (i) Run a regular shipping service (once or twice a week) with some subsidy; (ii) Undertake a 'micro-level' operation study to understand the problems of using this port as a multi-modal point; and (iii) Focus on TIR Convention and other forms of Customs facilitation in the North-South Corridor.

To connect South and Central Asia, there is a need to find and develop cheapest and shortest routes possible which are essentially land-routes. These have the potential to convert land-locked countries into land-linked countries. For this to be viable, the work by the UNESCAP in terms of Trans-Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Network needs to be focused at the operational levels. Infrastructure need not necessarily be a bottleneck in the region impeding trade and investment flows.

Visit of Delegation from International Fund for Agricultural Development

A delegation from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) visited RIS on 18 November 2016 for an interactive session. The members of the delegation were Mr Kristofer Hamel, Senior Technical Officer, Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy Division, IFAD, Rome; Mr Maurizio Navarra, Knowledge Management and Outreach Officer, Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy Division, IFAD, Rome; Ms Francesca Rappocciolo, Global Engagement Officer, Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy Division, IFAD, Rome; and Ms Meera Mishra, Country Coordinator, IFAD, India.



Ambassador Manpreet Vohra delivering the inaugural address at the seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity.

From RIS Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Dr T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow; Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate; and Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate interacted with the delegates.

Services Trade and Regulatory Reforms in Asia: in Search of a Comprehensive Approach

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at the RIS in collaboration with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, and IMI, Kolkata, organized a two-day international workshop on ‘Services Trade and Regulatory Reforms in Asia: In Search of a Comprehensive Approach’ at Kolkata on 26 – 27 October 2016.. The participants were senior policy-makers, international experts, and representatives from academia and the private sector involved in services trade. Twenty officials from South-east and South Asian countries attended the workshop. Prof. Arindam Banik, Director, IMI-Kolkata gave welcome remarks; Dr Bokwan Yu, Deputy Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) gave introductory remarks, Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC, RIS and Dr Aladdin D. Rillo, Head, Training and Capacity Building, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), introduced to workshop. Eminent scholars and practitioners from ADBI, IDE-JETRO, APEC Secretariat, NASSCOM, IMI Kolkata, ICRIER, etc. delivered special lectures. Prof. Prabir De made a presentation on “Addressing barriers to services trade and their impact on trade flows” and chaired a session on Critical issues in services trade (2): digital services and e-commerce. Vote of thanks were extended by Prof. Arindam Banik and Dr. Prabir De.

Role of Private Sector in South-South and Development Cooperation

The RIS in association with The Asia Foundation, Korea Development Institute (KDI), and Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), organized a two-day Conference on “Partners in Asian Development Cooperation: the Role of the Private Sector” in New Delhi on 10-11 August 2016.

The Conference started with Welcome Remarks by Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Dr Taejong Kim, Managing Director, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Korea Development Institute (KDI); Dr Gordon Hein, Senior Vice President, The Asia Foundation; and Mr Harsh Jaitli, CEO, Voluntary Action Network India. The deliberations were related to role of private sector engagement in South-South and development cooperation; private sector approaches to South-South and development cooperation; innovative approaches from India; and new frontiers in private sector partnerships for development. The Conference ended with concluding remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Taejong Kim; Dr. Gordon Hein and Mr. Harsh Jaitli.

A large number of eminent academicians, scholars, subject experts from major research institutions, foreign diplomats, high ranking serving and retired government officials, representations from industry and media from India and abroad were participants.

Blue Economy as Emerging Development Paradigm

The concept of the Blue Economy has become important for both national and regional development. The RIS with the IORA and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been actively engaged in the work programme of promoting Blue Economy.

In continuation of this, RIS organized a seminar on “Blue Economy as Emerging Development Paradigm” on 29 December 2016. Prof. V.N. Attri, Chair, Indian Ocean Studies, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), University of Mauritius, made the thematic presentation. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, gave opening remarks and



Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS with participants of the Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation (AADC) dialogue.

Dr S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS, made special remarks. Dr Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, IDSA was the discussant. The Blue Economy is emerging as a major area of global attention because of its inherent power to create a wide range of productive and sustainable development opportunities that oceanic resources offer.

Director General, WTO Azevêdo at the RIS

Negotiations relating to agriculture and fisheries at the WTO have always concerned India owing to its vast population dependent on these sectors. The RIS organized an interactive session with Mr Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, WTO, on 9 February 2017 at New Delhi. The session began with opening remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr Ram Upendra Das, Professor, RIS; Dr Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor and Dr Sachin Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, both from Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; Dr Ranja Sengupta, Senior Research Officer, Third World Network; Dr

Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-Convener, SJM; Ms Dipa Sinha; Right to Food Campaign; Shri Yudhvir Singh, General Secretary, All India Coordination Committee of Farmers Movement; Dr Vijoo Krishnan, Joint Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha made brief remarks on the WTO issues related to India and other developing countries. In his reply, the Director General, WTO, called for collective efforts by the member-countries to evolve consensus on unresolved issues.

Interactive Session on India-Afghanistan Cooperation in Agriculture

The RIS, jointly with the Centre for South-South Cooperation, Sharda University, organized an interactive session on “Public Delivery Mechanism and Change Management in Indian Agriculture” with the delegation from Afghanistan during 23-25 May 2016. On the first day lectures were organized at Sharda University. Mr Prasoon Kashyap, Project Associate, Centre for South-South Cooperation, welcomed the delegates presenting “A Comparative Perspective on Indian and



(Fourth from left) Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, WTO speaking at the interactive session.

Afghan Agriculture.” Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Director, Centre for South-South Cooperation, Sharda University and Visiting Fellow, RIS, presented a broad outline of government schemes in agricultural sector in India and later spoke on “What works and what does not?: Lessons from Evaluation Studies in India.” The second day was for field visits to Organic Horticultural Garden and farmers’ fields in Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh, and Greenhouse Agricultural unit in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

On the third day, lectures were organized at RIS. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr Gopal Baglay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Prof. T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS, held a discussion on agriculture with delegates. Dr S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India, made a presentation on “Experiences from Indian Horticulture Sector.” Dr Arvind Kaushal, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, presented

his views on “Indian Experience in Livestock and Animal Husbandry Sector.” Dr R.K. Singh, CMD, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation delivered a lecture on “Indian Experience in Change Management in Agriculture.”

Emerging Perspectives on Blue Economy: Blue Economy Forum

As part of its research programme on Blue Economy, the RIS brought out a comprehensive Report on ‘*The Prospects of Blue Economy for the Indian Ocean.*’ RIS has been conducting Blue Economy Dialogue for the IORA region under 1.5 track mode since 2015. As Blue Economy is important for India and the Indian Ocean region, RIS aims to consolidate its programme for greater outreach, debate, research, awareness and wider dissemination of research findings by forming the Blue Economy Forum (BEF). In this connection, RIS organized a Seminar on the “Emerging Perspectives on Blue Economy” on 23 January 2017 at New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave introductory remarks and Amb. V. S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS, chaired the session. On this occasion, the Policy Brief entitled “*Unleashing the Potential of Blue Economy*” was also launched. Dr S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS, briefed regarding aims and objectives of the launched Blue Economy Forum (BEF).

Workshop on Socio-Economic Assessment of Living Modified Organisms

The RIS coordinated project of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on Socio-Economic Considerations under Article 26.1 of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) with specific mandates on developing methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment, Methodology for Cost-Benefit Analysis and Guidance



Launching of the Policy Brief on Unleashing the Potential of Blue Economy.

Document. As part of this, RIS in association with the MoEFCC, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP organised a review meeting and final workshop on the project in New Delhi on 26 May 2016. Dr Ranjini Warriar, Adviser, MoEFCC, delivered special address.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave welcome remarks. Presentations were made by Principal and Co-Principal Investigators (PIs/Co-PIs) from five partner institutions. They were Dr R. N. Padaria, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; Prof. N. Lalitha, Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad; Prof. Suresh S. Patil, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur; Dr K. Srinivas, National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad; and Dr K. Murthy, Institute for Socio-Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru.

Prof. P. G. Chengappa, ICAR National Professor, ISEC, Bengaluru; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS, and RBI, Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Prof. E. Haribabu, Former Professor and Pro-VC, University of Hyderabad; Prof. T. P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS, and Prof. Chandrasekhara Rao, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, presented expert comments on the presentations. Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas, RIS, presented an outline of way forward and extended the vote of thanks.

Earlier to this, RIS had organized the project review meeting on 28 April 2016. Dr. R. N. Padaria, IARI, New Delhi; Prof. N. Lalitha, GIDR, Ahmedabad; Prof. Suresh S. Patil, UAS, Raichur; Dr S.P. Subash, NAARM, Hyderabad; Dr A. V. Manjunath, ISEC, Bengaluru; and Dr S. Varadha Raj, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore were among the speakers. Prof. P. G. Chengappa, ICAR National Professor, ISEC, Bengaluru; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS and RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Prof. T. P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS, and Prof. Chandrasekhara Rao, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, gave expert comments. Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, RIS, extended vote of thanks.

Technology Facilitation Mechanism for SDGs

India along with key partner- countries championed the negotiations under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to launch a global Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) under the aegis of the UN. The TFM is meant to support implementation of newly introduced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, it may be pertinent to explore possible mechanisms and modalities for operationalising the TFM. With this objective, RIS convened a Consultation Meeting on the subject in New Delhi on 30 August 2016. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, presided over the meeting. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks.

Amb. Shyam Saran pointed out that most of the UN agencies are funded by Western countries, hence there was a greater need to focus

on our interests and influence policies accordingly. He stressed on the need to work out finances and proposed mechanism aimed at purchase of certain technology, capacity- building, establishment of a graduate system wherein the developed nations provide access to technology to developing nations in exchange of some amount, and further these technologies are provided to least developing nations at nil pricing. This process would help making technology available to global public. He called for a conceptual framework, interconnected domains and creation of a platform using internet based mechanism. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, while making special remarks said that achievements of SDG targets require technology inputs. Different sources of funding among developing countries must be outlined and they must be mobilized within the public domain. She also mentioned that if this process goes under UN, it would be extra budgetary.

Dr Baldev Raj, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, elaborated on India's decision to play leadership role pertaining to mechanism building and best solutions. He called for a robust internal mechanism. He called for taking up leadership roles rather than waiting for others.

Dr Sadhana Relia, Head, International Cooperation (Multilateral / Regional), Department of Science and Technology, focussed on SMEs and start-ups as the potential area for generating finances. She proposed policies to look at the needs of SMEs. According to Dr Sadhana Relia, we must not rely solely on UN, but should look at the various venture capital options to generate money. She cited Malaria experience of the ASEAN countries to make a point ; similar successful enterprises throughout the globe can be replicated in India.

While addressing the technology mobilisation issue, Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute, focussed on the design that called for group of interested countries/companies to create alliance of mutual interest. He called for adaptation to be facilitated and development policies for outreach programme. He



Participants at the consultation meeting.

also raised the questions as to how one can ensure that large scale deployment mechanism move from country to country and how one can make this expertise available to third world countries. While stressing on the potential function of the TFM, Dr Ajay Mathur recommended support to SMEs. According to Dr Ajay Mathur, the key issue is to have IT - enabled platform. North-South-South partnership was put across as ideal for the TFM.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi providing perspective from multi-stakeholders stated that the decision to regionalize was taken at the STI Forum. Each area funded by UN has to develop its own technology specific requirements. Therefore, regional offices should be strengthened. He further elaborated on the challenge to connect technology banks and the regional UN institutions to bring convergence when SDG is a major challenge. He called for mechanisms that would collate these agencies. He cited the example of APCCT working at the regional level for integrating technology needs.

Ms Michiko Enomoto, Head, Asian Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, UNESCAP, highlighted endeavours undertaken for technology development, transfer and sharing in the form of online technology interface and exchange portals. She elaborated on the facilitation provisions and capacity- building in the Pacific areas. However, the limitations of finance and need for investment were again put across as a bottleneck.

Dr P.K. Anand, Consultant, NITI Aayog, suggested an alternative process of funding within international cooperation. He proposed donations from developed nations to be directed towards the ODA. He stated that technology is not a product and so initially a price has to be paid to acquire it and only then it can be shared with least developed countries. According to him, the aim to make technology public across globe should be accompanied with certain economic benefits by the country. Since funding is related to IPR, so if India buys a technology it should get it licensed and then manufacture it and further send it to least developed nations like Africa in exchange of some amount. He proposed Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism for the same.

Prof. Pranav N. Desai, JNU, highlighted that technology does not merely comprise hardware; it also includes human resource and training. He stated that there has been no emphasis on the equipment and training. He called for attention to the voluntary budget provided by the UN. Another important aspect raised was the need to decentralise decisions at the regional level pertaining to the fact that different regions have different problems. He also called for technology assessment and focus on perpetual problems while stressing on the need for choice assertion by developing nations when buying technology.

Prof. K.J. Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, provided a distinct perspective on the whole issue and highlighted the fact that innovation deviates from understanding technology as a linear process. Instead of technology

facilitation, concentration should be on innovation facilitation mechanism. He emphasised on the potential within the South-South Cooperation especially when it comes to ICT. He called for decentralisation in terms of sectors, and the role India can play to build innovation platform and the need to go beyond the bank.

Amb. Bhaskar Balakrishnan stressed on the role of business community, strong national mechanism and presence of expert groups. He suggested building up capacity in developing countries to aid technology transfer to least developed nations.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS, gave insights pertaining to the role played by India to collaborate like-minded countries for catalysing technology transfer and sharing of knowledge for larger benefits. While elaborating on the financial constraints, his presentation proposed a three-tier model.

Consultation on Indian Science Diplomacy

The RIS in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) organised a half-day long discussion meeting on 7 April 2016 at the NIAS, Bengaluru, for developing an approach to promote Indian Science Diplomacy, under the proposed RIS work programme.

Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS, welcomed all the participants and gave a brief introduction on how NIAS can contribute in science diplomacy. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, began his opening remarks by giving a brief introduction of the RIS and MEA and how the S&T is important for India's international relations. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr K. Kasturirangan, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, Visiting Professor, NIAS and Dr Suba Chandran, Professor, NIAS and Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate, RIS participated in the meeting.

Consultation on BRICS Wellness Forum

India is the current Chair of the BRICS, and the BRICS Summit was held in mid-October 2016. Before that, various activities were planned as follows: Traditional Systems of Medicine – Bio-resource Management and Institutional Architecture and Trade Classification and Standardisation of Bio-resources; Nutrition: Ensuring Productive Health – Nutrition for Health Security and Access to Nutrition; Wellness and SDGs – Concept of wellness and Centrality of wellness in SDGs; Wellness and Medical Tourism; and Holistic Wellness: and physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental and social – an Integrated Approach.

As part of these, the RIS along with the Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Tourism also planned a two-day Wellness Forum in September 2016 in Bengaluru. To discuss the organisation of BRICS Wellness Forum expert meet was organized at the RIS on 30 April 2016. Dr Ranjit

Puranik, Chief Executive, Shree Dhootapapeshwar Ltd, Mumbai, and General Secretary Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association of India; Dr D. Ramanathan, CMD, Sitaram Ayurveda Pharmacy Ltd, Thrissur; Dr T. G. Vinod Kumar, Scientist, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Unit (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram; Dr Ashok Pandey, Eminent Scientist, Centre for Innovative and Applied Bio-processing, Mohali; Dr C. K. Katiyar, CEO Health-care (Technical), Emami Ltd, Kolkata; Dr P. K. Anand, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog, New Delhi; Dr Rama Jayasundar, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Prof. T. C. James, RIS, were participants. It was suggested to discuss in the BRICS Wellness Forum issues related to trade classification, trade barriers, wellness indicators and the basic concepts of wellness.

Pre-Civil BRICS Consultation at the FIDC

This year India was Chair for BRICS. The 8th BRICS Summit was organized in Goa on 15-16 October 2016. The key theme for the Summit was Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions with a special focus on institution-building, implementing past commitments, and exploring innovative solutions in a spirit of continuity with consolidation.

At the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, RIS organized an informal FIDC consultation on 2 April 2016 at the RIS on the possibility of a BRICS Civil Society Meet, prior to the BRICS Summit.

Development Partnership Administrators of BRICS Member-States

In view of the BRICS Summit in India in October this year, the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) along with the Ministry of External Affairs organized a two-day meeting of Development Partnership Administrators (DPAs)/equivalent of BRICS Member-States in New Delhi on 6-7 August 2016. Mr Dinkar Asthana, Joint Secretary (DPA-II), MEA gave the Keynote Address. Mr Hemendra K. Sharma, Director (DPA-II), MEA, made the Opening Remarks. Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, and Chairperson, FIDC, delivered Special Address. Mr S. K. Dudeja, Deputy Secretary (DP-1), MEA, extended the vote of thanks.

Mr Dinkar Asthana chaired the first session on 'Sharing of development cooperation experience among BRICS Member States'. Ms Claudia Vieira Santos, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi; Mr. Mikhail Ermolov, Deputy Director, Department of International Development and Cooperation, Russia; Mr Hemendra K. Sharma, Director (DPA-II), MEA; Mr Li Baijun, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of People's Republic of China, New Delhi; Ms Nathalie Vereen, National Treasure, South Africa and Ms Dineo Mathlako, the Department of International Relations and

Cooperation (DIRCO), South Africa all presented their views.

A combined meeting of DPAs and FIDC on emerging global development architecture was co-chaired by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, JNU, and Mr Dinkar Asthana, Member, FIDC Board. Dr Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay, Director, PRIA talked on the evolution and working of FIDC. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, Convener, FIDC, made presentation on FIDC's view on BRICS-led processes. Mr Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive Officer, VANI, also presented on the similar theme.



Participants at the Meeting of DPAs/Equivalent of BRICS Member States.

Mr Dinkar Asthana chaired the open discussion on how BRICS may promote effective development cooperation. The interactions were on: imperatives for pursuing effective and complementary strategies in the field of development cooperation by BRICS Member States; effectiveness of Development Cooperation; and ways and means for enlargement of cooperation in this field in line with national priorities of the partner countries, including the role of civil society organisations.

The Meeting also provided a forum for the BRICS DPAs to exchange ideas on key issues of global, national and sectoral significance. The delegations of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa expressed their sincere thanks to the Government of India for organizing the meeting.

Resolving Legal Ambiguity related to IPR and Access to Technology

With the recent policy decision on pricing of technology-intensive products in agricultural sector, debate on access and IPR protection emerged for policy-makers. In this context, RIS had organised a Roundtable Discussion on "IPR, Access to Technology and Policy Deliberations" in New Delhi on 4 June 2016. Representatives from the government, industry, academia, research organisations, civil society and media participated actively in the discussions.

As a follow-up of this Roundtable, a further need was felt for an in-depth discussion on certain legal provisions in the Patents Act and

PPV&FR Act. RIS organised 'Roundtable Consultation on Resolving Legal Ambiguity related to IPR and Access to Technology in Agriculture Sector' in New Delhi on 27 July 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed all and Dr S. R. Rao, Adviser, DBT made Special Remarks.

Dr R. R. Hanchinaal, Chairman, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPFRA); Dr D. K. Srivastava, Asst. Commissioner (QC), Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water, Dr Malathi Lakshmikumaran, Director, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan; Dr Deepa K. Tikku, Partner, K&S Partners; Dr Sudhir Kochhar, ARS (Retd), Ex-ICAR, Independent IP Expert; Mr Sunil Mathew, Senior Advocate; Mr Essenes Obhan, Patent Attorney; Mr Abhishek Saket, Advocate; Dr Anitha Ramanna Pathak, Asst. Professor, SP Jain School of Global Management, Mumbai; Dr Yogesh Gokhale, Fellow, TERI; Dr L. Pushpa Kumar, Asst. Professor, Nalanda University; Dr Kshitij Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Amity University, Prof. T. C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS; Dr T. P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS; and Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS, presented their views.

India's Approach to Development Cooperation

Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, released a book '*India's Approach to Development Cooperation*', co-edited by Ms Anthea Mulakala, the Asia Foundation's Director for International Development Cooperation and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, in New Delhi on 9 August 2016. The programme was organized by RIS with The Asia Foundation and FIDC.

Mr Amar Sinha remarked that "the book provides an intellectual framework, sets an overall context and captures everything that Indian development assistance has done." Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, while making the Opening Remarks, talked similarly stating that "India's development assistance efforts are underestimated, and this book chalks out the knowledge about Indian development assistance."

While introducing about the book, Ms Anthea Mulakala said that India has emerged as a key player in development cooperation not only because of the increasing volume and reach of its South-South Cooperation, but more so because of its leadership in articulation of a distinctly Southern development discourse and knowledge generation. The book makes a valuable contribution to the literature on the South-South Cooperation.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi told that the development discourse based on growth during 1960s and '70s was enriched with the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986, which has placed human development at the centre stage. He also mentioned about the development compact based on five main elements— capacity-building, grants, lines of credit, trade and investment, while giving example of India's initiative at the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong in

2005; where India announced its decision to give Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) for Least Developed Countries.

Regarding the issues arising over the global discourse on North-South and South-South development cooperation, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi stressed that the OECD terms for development cooperation cannot be simply implemented in the South-South Cooperation. He also pointed out that convergence can only come if terms are acceptable for both.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, JNU; Mr Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh; and Ms Supriya Roychoudhury, Emerging Powers Coordinator with Crisis Action, who are the contributing authors to the book, also discussed the relevance of a national aid agency to oversee India's development cooperation efforts and partner country perspectives.

The volume carries several insights and perspectives on various facets of India's growing development assistance programme from Indian policy-makers, academicians, and global development practitioners.

The book was also launched in the State Department by Mr Taranjit S. Sandhu, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Washington DC, US on 14 September 2016. It was followed by discussion by contributors. Ms Barbara Smith, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, USAID's Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning was the moderator. Similarly, the book launch's function was also organized jointly by RIS, Canada-India Centre for Excellence, Carleton University and the Asia Foundation at Ottawa on 12 September 2016. Dr Roseann Ronte, President and Vice-Chancellor, Carleton University and Mr Vishnu Prakash, High Commissioner of India to Canada gave welcome remarks. Mr Arun Sahu, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Canada also took part in the panel discussion.



Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs launching the book India's Approach to Development Cooperation with Amb. Shyam Saran. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Mr. Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation; Prof. S. K. Mohanty; Mr. Prabodh Saxena; Ms. Anthea Mulakala; Ms. Supriya Roychoudhury; Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi.

Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of Living Modified Organisms

The RIS, in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), organized the final workshop of the project on Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of Living Modified Organisms (LMO) in New Delhi on 24 August 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed all. Mr Gyanesh Bharti, Joint Secretary and National Project Coordinator (NPC), MoEF&CC made special remarks. Dr S.R. Rao, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology gave expert remarks. Dr Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC delivered the Keynote Address.

On this occasion the report titled *“Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs”* was also presented. Dr Amita Prasad while delivering keynote address stated that this Report would serve as a framework document for socio-economic assessment of genetically modified (GM) crops. GM crops may be approved only after socio-economic impact assessments are done as there are concerns among farmers and consumers regarding these crops. India is the first country to have come out with such a framework document. Many countries have expressed their desire to have similar framework which would surely be shared by India, and this document would be presented in the COP-MOP in December in Mexico, she added.

Mr Gyanesh Bharti while making special remarks said that the project has extensive coverage on five important aspects – economic, social, cultural, health and environment, and which have been very well documented in the Report. He also emphasised that India would be the leader after implementation of the framework in giving effect to Article 26 of the CPB.

Dr S.R. Rao remarked that there is need to communicate clearly the importance of GM, as safety and efficacy are on one side of GM crops and effectiveness on the other. The Report shares the same view.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, in his remarks, informed the participants that GM technologies have been on radar of the RIS since 1988. Keeping sustainability issue in mind, the Report has tried to capture detailed analysis of the impacts of GM crops. This framework would surely make assessment of GM in all aspects. He informed that the Report comprises three deliverables – tools and methodologies for socio-economic assessment; a model questionnaire for socio-economic assessment; and a framework for cost-benefit analysis along with guidance document.

Dr Ranjini Warriar, former Adviser, MoEF&CC and Co-chair, CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on SECs, complimented RIS for completing project well on time and for the exhaustive efforts put into come up with such well researched document.



Dr. Amita Prasad delivering keynote address. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Mr. Gyanesh Bharti, and Dr. S.R. Rao.

The report has been prepared by a consortium of seven expert institutes of the country – RIS; Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR); Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI); National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM); Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC); Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU); and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS).

The study pointed out that farmers cherish for improved crop varieties, and are willing to pay more for seeds provided it would increase profitability. In Raichur, farmers were willing to pay more than 50 per cent for varieties with better productivity. Many farmers express that GM crops can be useful if drought resistant as well as flood resistant crops are developed. GM crops would be profitable as they would reduce use of pesticides and insecticides and would also give better yields. The RIS Report gives a detailed presentation of costs and perception of farmers on GM crops. It will definitely serve as a useful reference point for policy-makers and regulators.

The workshop had presentations on State Surveys covering tools, methodologies and key findings by experts. Dr R. N. Padaria, IARI, New Delhi; Prof. N. Lalitha, GIDR, Ahmedabad; Dr A.V. Manjunath, ISEC, Bengaluru; Prof. K.R.Ashok, TNAU, Coimbatore; and Dr K. Srinivas, NAARM, Hyderabad, gave their point of views. Prof. T. P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS; Dr Ravi Khetarpal, Regional Adviser-South Asia, CABI; Prof. E. Haribabu, former Pro VC, HCU and Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS; and Dr Alka Singh, Professor, IARI, New Delhi, were the discussants.

Prof. P. G. Chengappa, National ICAR Professor, ISEC and Prof. Sangeeta Bansal, Professor, JNU co-chaired the first session. Prof. Vasant P. Gandhi, NABARD, Chair Professor, IIM-Ahmedabad and Dr Ranjini Warriar co-chaired the second session.

The workshop ended with closing remarks by chair Dr. T. Haque, Chairman, Expert Group on Land Leasing, NITI Aayog and

Distinguished Faculty, CSD. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi presented the report of the workshop. Dr Ranjini Warriar, Prof. P. G. Chengappa, National ICAR Professor, ISEC also addressed the concluding session. Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

Strengthening India-Nepal Development Cooperation

Since time immemorial India and Nepal have shared strong geographical, historical, cultural, social and economic ties. Of late, these ancient linkages are facing new challenges which are to be addressed.

A delegation from the Parliamentary Committee for Development, Legislature Parliament of Nepal visited India. The RIS, jointly with the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council for International Co-operation), organized an interactive session with members of the delegation in New Delhi on 10 July 2016. The consultation was meant to explore how we can strengthen India-Nepal relations and how to move forward on issues related to India-Nepal development cooperation. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Shyam Parande, Secretary, Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council for International Co-operation) made Welcome Remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made Special Remarks. Hon'ble Rabindra Adhikari, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Development, Legislature Parliament of Nepal made statement.

Amb. Shyam Saran giving a brief overview of India's development cooperation, mentioned how it evolved over the years. He mentioned that Nepal have had a central role in evolution of India's development cooperation policy mainly because Nepal was the first country which independent India reached out to in terms of establishing development cooperation, and the experiences gained from Nepal, either positive or negative, have helped in framing of India's overall development cooperation. He mentioned that right from independence, India has believed that developing countries have lot to share among themselves to face the challenges. India was engaged with Nepal on whether it was hydro-electric plants, building of airports or education. This reflects the Indian philosophy of development cooperation that India has responsibility for development of its neighbouring countries. Small development projects are new features of India-Nepal development relations in view of the post-earthquake development challenges.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi in his Welcome Remarks said that South-South Cooperation has emerged as major modality in terms of our engagement with different countries and with different partners. Mr. Shyam Parande said that historical and cultural relations bind India and Nepal together. Such a very special relationship is not seen anywhere in the world. India is open to people from Nepal even in armed forces. There is no border as such, it is open border and this relationship would continue in the future too with renewed strength. Hon'ble Rabindra Adhikari said, "An open dialogue between us can help us move forward.



Hon'ble Rabindra Adhikari speaking at the consultation. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Amb. Shyam Saran and Mr. Shyam Parande.

India has since long taken up small and big size projects in Nepal. So far we have been talking more about political cooperation and how India supported us in our advancement in democracy. Now the time has come to focus more on the economic aspect. The traditional relations should now lead to development partnership. With this in mind we formed this development committee." He added, "Two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Nepalese Parliament and gave a very impressive speech. His message was that along with political development we have to focus on economic aspect and connectivity. We are inspired by that and are working on this." He also added that for centuries, economic partnership between India and Nepal has evolved, and India is most important trade partner for Nepal.

He underlined that the purpose of this visit was to learn from India, how it managed after effects of Gujarat earthquake. The second purpose was to find out how to complete development projects in time. Member of delegation were: Hon'ble Rabindra Adhikari; Hon'ble Ajay Shankar Nayak; Hon'ble Anita Devkota; Hon'ble Ranjana Kumari Sarkar; Hon'ble Karna Bahadur BK; Hon'ble Baijanath Chaudhari (Tharu); Hon'ble Sita Devi Yadav; Hon'ble Tulasa Rana; Hon'ble Ishtiyak Ahmed Khan; Hon'ble Prem Bahadur Ale; Hon'ble Janardan Dhakal; Hon'ble Jiwan Bahadur Shahi; Hon'ble Mahendra Yadav; Hon'ble Kalpana Chaudhari; Hon'ble Rajendra Amatya; Mr Ghanindra Raj Chimaauriya; Mr Shiva Dutta Baral and Mrs Dipa Kumari Dulal.

Prelude to International BRICS Meeting

The FIDC, in association with Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) and Heinrich Böll Stiftung (India), organized the Prelude to the International BRICS Meeting in New Delhi on 30 September and 1 October 2016. The main objective of this meeting was to create and organize a collaborative space (with government) for smooth functioning of civil society in the context of BRICS framework. It discussed as to how to make an effective civil society organisation in the context of current challenging environment (regulatory reforms, shrinking resources and capacity building of CSO's) and potential

resource exchange among BRICS countries, etc. Mr Harsh Jaitli, CEO, VANI; Dr Axel Harneit-Sievers, Director, India Office, Heinrich Böll Foundation; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, School of International Studies, JNU and FIDC Chair; and Mr Mathew Cherian, Chief Executive, Helpage India and VANI's Chair presented their views about the relevance of BRICS thematic agenda to the Civil Society.

Country presentations on key issues from the civil society were made by Mr Adhemar Mineiro, REBRIP - RedeBrasileira para a Integração dos Povos (Brazilian Network for People's Integration), Brazil; Dr Jyotsna Mohan, VANI, India; Ms Elena Topoleva Soldunova, The Agency for Social Information, Russia; Mr Muhammad Ibrahim, Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB), Bangladesh; Mr Zhao Daxing, China Association for NGO Cooperation, China; Mr Sheldon Gracon Magardie, South Africa; and Mr Krishna Gautam, NGO Federation of Nepal. The meeting also had a session on monitoring of New Development Bank.

Consultation on SDGs: Focus on Affordable and Clean Energy

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover the three dimensions of development – social, economic and sustainability. India has already set for itself more ambitious targets in several areas of economic progress, inclusion and sustainability. The role of state governments is central to implementation of these targets, as well as in designing convergence with SDGs.

During the last several months, the RIS has partnered with NITI Aayog for organizing National Consultations on SDGs. In this series, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), jointly with RIS and NITI Aayog, organized National Consultation on SDG 7 - “Affordable and Clean Energy” at New Delhi on 23 February 2017.



Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog delivering the Keynote Address.

Dr Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, delivered the keynote address. Dr Ashok Kumar Jain, Adviser (Rural Development), NITI Aayog; Dr Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog; Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI and Shri Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog addressed the inaugural session.

Report on India-Singapore CECA Released

The AIC at the RIS in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the release of the Report titled '*India-Singapore: Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)*' on 27 March 2017, at New Delhi. Ms Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, released the AIC-RIS Report written by Dr. V.S. Seshadri, Acting Chairman, RIS. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave the Welcome Address. Opening remarks were made by Mr Shreekant Somany, Member, CII National Council and Chairman and Managing Director, Somany Ceramics Ltd. Smt. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, both gave special addresses. Pointers were given by Dr Edmund Chia, Acting High Commissioner, Singapore High Commission and Mr Gagan Sabharwal, Director, NASSCOM. Dr V.S. Seshadri made a presentation about the report which carries important policy implications to encourage bilateral trade and investment. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC extended vote of thanks.

Indian Think-Tank Dialogue on Rising Powers

On the sidelines of BRICS Academic Forum, the RIS and ORF organised the Indian Think-Tank Dialogue on Rising Powers in Goa on 18-19 September 2016 in partnership with American Centre, Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD); Economic Policy Forum (EPF), German Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Emerging Market



Ms Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Ambassador Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, launching the Report on India-Singapore: Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

Sustainability Dialogues (EMS). Mr Sunjoy Joshi, Director, Observer Research Foundation and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome addresses. Mr Samir Saran, Vice-President, Observer Research Foundation was the moderator.

Through the prism of trade, development, security and sustainability, the dialogue deliberated upon rising significance of Internet for developing economies. Two central global trends were explored: firstly, how policy think-tanks from emerging economies are transforming from rule-takers to rule-makers; and secondly, how the digital space is raising larger global governance questions. The sessions deliberated on issues including emerging economies, geo-economics, and global governance; the digital economy; global security landscape; financing sustainable development; completing the 20th century projects: energy, connectivity, and infrastructure in emerging economies. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi highlighted, role of emerging economy think-tanks in shaping global development and made the concluding remarks.

Booms, Crises and Recoveries

There have been phases of crises in different parts of the world interspersed with recoveries and in some cases even economic booms. It is also noticeable that what originates in the financial markets often have important impacts in the real economy. The converse is also true. With a view to understand these issues so that adequate policy responses could be evolved, RIS organized a panel discussion on 'Booms, Crises and Recoveries' in New Delhi on 7 July 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed all. Prof. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, chaired the session. The distinguished panelists were: Dr Sweta C. Saxena, Senior Economist, Research Department, IMF, Washington D. C.; Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consulting Editor, *Business Standard*; and Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS.

India-Japan Cooperation in Technology and Investment

A Japanese delegation visited RIS on 29 August 2016 to discuss potential and constraints of auto sector and to scale up India-Japan cooperation in terms of investment, technology and various other related issues.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed delegation led by Dr Tetsuji Kawamura, former Dean of the Graduate School of Economics, Hosei University and Professor Toshiyuki Baba, Department of International Economics, Hosei University/Graduate University.

The other members of the delegation were Dr Miwa Tanaka, Researcher, Institute of International Business and Management; Dr Shinya Orihashi, Professor of Business Administration, Tohoku Gakuin University; Prof. Etsujirou Yokota, Nippon Institute of Technology; Dr Motoyoshi Sono (Yuan Zhijia), Faculty of Economics,

Rissho University; Prof. (Dr) Tatsuhiko Aizawa, Shibaura Institute of Technology; Dr Yasuhiko Kawabe, Program Director, Business Management Department, Business Head Quarter, Humanity and Technology, Univance Corporation; Dr Etsujiro Yokota, Academic Coordinator, Japan Die and Mold Industry Association; Dr Tomoya Kanemura, Professor, Matsumoto University; Dr Yasuhiko Kawabe, NPO Asian Die and Mold Forum Director, Hosei University; and Dr Koji Serita, Faculty of Economics, Rissho University. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Prof. Ram Upendra Das interacted with the delegation.

Consultation on “Traditional Medicine”

On 19 January 2017, RIS with the Ministry of AYUSH organized stakeholders consultation on developing a strategy on issues related to “Traditional Medicine including Trade, Standards and IPR”. The objective of the consultation was to consider steps to be initiated for regular discussion, monitoring and strategizing global developments, including IPRs and other regulatory measures, which impinge on prospects of Indian Traditional Medicine (ITM), and strategies to improve access to ITM globally, and also ways to provide for more research studies on Traditional Medicines. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed participants and talked about technical barriers to trade in ITM products. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, in his presidential address emphasized on safeguarding traditional knowledge and also mobilizing this knowledge for health. Shri Ajit M Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, in his inaugural address highlighted issues related to benefit sharing in case of access to traditional knowledge. He also called for informed debate to integrate social and legal perspectives to develop comprehensive view on the development of ITM and other traditional knowledge. Shri Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, talked about globalization of Yoga and also highlighted that India’s stand in World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) requires development of a comprehensive national strategy. Dr Ghazala Javed, Scientist-IV, Ministry of Ayush, gave an overview of globalization of AYUSH systems and challenges in taking advantage of the opportunities for internationalization of the system.

It was stated that a Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine is needed to provide regular inputs to the Ministry on Trade, Standards, Traditional Knowledge and IPR related issues. The consultation fully endorsed RIS proposal for setting- up a Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM). The participants in the open discussion included, among others, Dr H. Purushotam, CMD, NRDC, Directors of research organizations under the Ministry of Ayush; Advisers, Directors and other technical officers of the Ministry of AYUSH; representatives of other Ministries of the Government of India, academics from universities and research institutes, representatives of industry organisations, and civil society organisations. Prof. T C James, Visiting Fellow, RIS, in

his concluding remarks proposed that RIS, taking note of the various suggestions made during the consultation, would make an appropriate proposal to the Ministry of AYUSH.

India-Bangladesh Cooperation

A Bangladeshi delegation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament led by Mr Fakhrul Imam visited RIS for an interactive session with the faculty on India-Bangladesh Cooperation on 3 August 2016.

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, made special remarks highlighting importance of India-Bangladesh Cooperation. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS welcomed the delegation



Shri Ajit M. Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush addressing the inaugural session.

and talked about Bangladesh's importance in India's cooperation programme. The other Hon'ble members were Mr Ziauddin Ahmed (Bablu), MP Chittagong; Advocate Md. Altaf Ali, MP Bogra-2; Mr Pir Fazlur Rahman, MP; Mr Md. Amir Hossain Bhuiyan, MP and Shri Nurul Islam Milon.

From RIS, Prof. T. C. James, Visiting Fellow; Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow; Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor; and Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate, participated in the interactive session. Dr Joyeeta Bhattacharjee, Fellow, South Asia Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Ms Sabah Ishtiaq, Research Assistant, ORF, were also present.

Moulding of Technology and Science Policy in India

The RIS organised the launch of the volume 'A Lifetime of Moulding Technology and Science Policy in India' by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari in New Delhi on 15 November 2016. The programme began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. The Vice-President underlined that one crucial area that has remained neglected when formulating our science and

technological policies, has been the development of our universities, particularly science and technology research in the universities. He hoped that subsequent S&T policy formulations would keep in view the central role universities can play as the seats of innovation and idea factories for the nation. Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Emeritus Chairman, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai; Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru; Dr Malti Goel, Executive Director, Climate Change Research Institute, New Delhi. Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi addressed participants.

SDGs and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development

The RIS organised a special session on ‘SDGs and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development’ on the occasion of the 99th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association held at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, from 27 to 29 December, 2016. The session on 28 December deliberated on new and emerging dimensions of sustainable development in the backdrop of the recently adopted global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and thereby exploring challenges and opportunities of the Indian model development and addressed on the following issues—(a) New Development Model – Paradigm Shift in the Growth Narrative, (b) An Integrated View of Development – Health and other SDGs, (c) Measuring Sustainable Development, and (d) Sustainable Economic Growth through Industrialisation and Job-Creation. Professor Pulin Nayak, Former Director, Delhi School of Economics, Prof. T. C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS; Prof. T Lakshmanasamy, Head, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS ,made presentations.

Visit of Indonesian Delegation

An Indonesian delegation visited RIS on 14 November 2016 for an interactive session. Mr Priyanto Rohmatullah, Director of the SSTC, Directorate of Foreign Politics and International Development Cooperation, the Ministry of National Development Planning led the delegation. Other members of the delegation were Mr Diding Hardedi, Senior Planner, Agency for Agricultural Human Resources Development, Ministry of Agriculture; Mrs Hapsari Sri Susanti, Cooperation Materials Composer, Center of Foreign Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture; Mrs Wulandari, Young Planner, Directorate of Development Allocation Funding, Ministry of National Development Planning; Mr Imam Rusdiyantoro, Directorate of Loans and Grants, Ministry of Finance; Siti Aminah Syahidah, Communication and Monitoring Associate, Sustainable Economic Development through SSTC; and Ms Rasha Omar, IFAD, India Country Representative.

From RIS Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Prof. S.K.

Mohanty; Prof. Ram Upendra Das; Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow; Dr T.P. Rajendran; Visiting Fellow; Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow; Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate; and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor participated in deliberation.

Indian Economy and Demonetisation

The RIS organized a Consultation Meeting on 'Indian Economy and Demonetisation' on 15 December 2016 in New Delhi. Dr Rathin Roy, Director, NIPFP and Dr Rajiv Kumar, Founder Director, Pahle India Foundation & Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, were co-chairs. Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, RIS, made the thematic presentation. It was followed by open discussion. The meeting emphasized that demonetisation in the current form as India has attempted is the largest ever macroeconomic programme consciously ever attempted. This also has a great relevance for other developing countries.

Visit of ERIA Delegation

To strengthen its research and dissemination programme, the RIS holds a regular dialogue with its partner research institutions across the globe. The RIS has always had a mutually beneficial research partnership with ERIA, Jakarta, especially on India's Look East Policy.

As part of this process, RIS invited team-members from the ERIA, Jakarta, for a Consultation Meeting on 21 November 2016 in New Delhi. The members of the delegation were Mr Izuru Kobayashi, COO and Director General; Ms Anita Prakash, Director General; Mr Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Energy Economist; and Mr Yasishi Ueki, Economist. The RIS team led by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Prof. S.K. Mohanty; and Prof. Ram Upendra Das took part in consultations.

RIS Remembers Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty

Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty, Founder Vice-Chairman of the RIS (1983-1990) was one of India's most acclaimed development economists. He had an abiding interest in issues relating to the philosophy and methodology of economic planning and development. He was the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to Indian Prime Ministers and served three successive Prime Ministers. He had also served as a Member of the Indian Planning Commission in 1970s. Prof. Chakravarty's life was dedicated to spreading knowledge and making economic planning a useful exercise through his academic brilliance.

The RIS has dedicated its Documentation Centre to the memory of Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty. On this occasion, a special function was organized on 17 March 2017 when a Special Lecture was delivered by Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, on the life and work of Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty.

Hon'ble Dr Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, and former Chairman, RIS, graced the occasion, and while chairing the session, recalled his impressions about Prof. Chakravarty and his work. Prof. Y.K. Alagh, currently Chancellor, Central University, Gujarat, and Prof. V.R. Panchamukhi, founder Director General, RIS, also reminisced about the immense contribution made by Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty in the development planning process of the Indian economy.

RIS Breakfast Seminar: Role of Financial Access and Financial Development on Firm's Exportability

In the RIS Breakfast Seminar Series, Seminar on 'the Role of Financial Access and Financial Development on Firm's Exportability: Empirical Evidence from Asia-Pacific' was held on 3 January 2017 at the RIS. Shri T.C.A. Ranganathan, former Chairman and Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India, chaired the session. Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant, ASEAN India Centre, RIS, presented his findings on how access to finance and financial development affects ability of firms to export in the Asia-Pacific countries. Using firm level data from World Bank Enterprises Survey, the study indicated that access to finance plays an important role in promoting firm's ability to export. In addition, development in financial sector translates into a higher likelihood of firms entering into export market. The study pointed interplay between access to finance, financial development and location reduces negative effects of the location on firm's ability to export. The study suggests that improvement in access to finance and financial development (increase in reach of banking sector), firms operating away from capital or main cities would find export market entry easier.

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2016

The RIS organized a Seminar on 'Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2016: Main Findings and Implications for the Region' on 16 February 2017 at New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, welcomed all. Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, former Ambassador of India, to WTO chaired the session. Dr Susan F. Stone, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP, Bangkok, was the lead speaker, followed by open discussion.

Delegation from Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

A delegation from the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) visited RIS for an interactive session on 21 February 2017. Members of the Chinese delegation were Amb. Lu Shumin, Executive Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA); Amb. Peng Keyu, Vice President of CPIFA; Mr Mao Siwei,

Former Consul General to Kolkata; Professor M.A. Jiali, Director of Centre of Strategic Studies China Reform Forum; Mr Y.E. Hailin, Editorial Director of South Asia Studies, National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Ms Shen Jun, Director of the Department of Asian, African and Latin American Affairs (CPIFA); Dr Zeng Aiping, Research Associate of China Institute of International Studies; and Ms Lin Minxue, Staff of CPIFA and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow was also present from the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). From RIS Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Dr S.K. Mohanty, Professor; Dr Ram Upendra Das, Professor; Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow; Dr T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow; Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate; Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate; and DrSushil Kumar, Consultant, interacted with the delegation.

Transforming India 2030

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Symbiosis International University; RIS; NITI Aayog and UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan organized an International Conference on 'Transforming India 2030: Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals' on 15-17 February 2017 at Pune. The themes for discussions were – Poverty and Inequalities; Education and Gender; Sustainable Cities; Jobs and Economic Growth; Partnership for the Goals. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made presentation on Partnership for the Goals.

FIDC Seminar Series on Re-engineering of Western Aid

As part of the FIDC Monthly Seminar Series, a presentation by Dr Emma Mawdsley on "Re-engineering of Western Aid: New Opportunities and Challenges" was organized on 22 February 2017 at New Delhi. Dr Mawdsley explained underlying domestic and external premises of Western aid and also alluded to the fact that related policy -making cannot be bereft of 'non-rational' influences. Contestation of North-South divide, according to her, was a positive assessment of the aid debate along with inclusion of the private sector in all of its diversity. She also talked about the shift in global economy from manufacturing and services sector to finance (investment banking, insurance, arbitrage, asset management, venture capital, currency trading and so on). This transition was termed as 'Financialisation' by the speaker. Different scales of 'financialisation' were also explained in form of International Political Economy and Microfinance. She ended her presentation by explaining the deepening Financialisation-Development nexus today through the discussions regarding: the move from 'foreign aid' to 'development finance'; the relationships between micro and macro circuits of financial interests and institutions; and trends amongst bilateral donors.

Delegation from Symbiosis School of International Studies

A group of 32 students from Symbiosis School of International Studies, Pune, visited RIS on 24 February 2017 for an interactive session. The group was led by Dr Shivali Lawale, Director, SSIS. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS addressed the group.

A Roundtable on India's Development Cooperation in Bangladesh

A Roundtable on India's Development Cooperation in Bangladesh was jointly organized by PRIA; FIDC; and OXFAM India, in New Delhi on 24 March 2017. Dr Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, PRIA, chaired the session on 'India's Development Cooperation with Bangladesh: Key Findings'. Mr Kaustuv Chakrabarti, Senior Programme Officer, PRIA, made the presentation. The prominent discussants were: Amb. Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarti, Distinguished Fellow, ORF; and former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India; and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Dr Ranu Bhogal, Director-Policy, Research & Campaigns, Oxfam India, extended vote of thanks.

Nigerian South-South Solidarity Models

The RIS organized monthly Breakfast Seminar on "Nigerian South-South Solidarity Models: Driving Force, Inspirations and Foreign Policy Focus" on 7 February 2017. Dr Saidu Nasiru Sulaiman, Consultant, RIS, made a presentation.

Interactive Session on Agenda for BRICS Summit

A five member delegation from the China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) visited RIS on 22 March 2017 for an interactive session. The member of the Chinese delegation were Dr Chai Shangjin, Senior Research Fellow; Dr Wang Liyong; Dr Chen Ying; Dr Wu Hang, Associate Research Fellow; Dr Zhou Yuyun, Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India. The main purpose of discussion was to exchange views on BRICS think tank cooperation and other international issues of mutual interest. From RIS, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Prof. S.K. Mohanty; Prof. Ram Upendra Das; Dr Beena Pandey and Dr Sabyasachi Saha were part of the interaction.

For the benefit of the visiting delegation, Prof Sachin Chaturvedi made a short presentation on the RIS work programme, followed by brief interventions by RIS faculties on their individual areas of expertise and research. This meeting of two important think tanks assumed special significance in the context of BRICS related work programmes

and the opportunities of cooperation during the Chinese Presidency of BRICS in 2017.

Biodiversity Consensus for Sustainable Development

The RIS in collaboration with the NITI Aayog, the UN and the WWF organized “National Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals : Integrating Biodiversity Concerns, Ecosystem Values and Climate Resilience for India’s Sustainable Development” with Focus on SDGs 13, 14 and 15 in New Delhi on 8-9 February 2017. The agenda included themes such as SDG 15 Life on Land- Terrestrial Ecosystems Conservation and Human Well-Being; SDG 14 Life below Water-Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems; SDG 13 Build Resilience and Combat Climate Change and its Impacts; Sub group Recommendations and Next Steps. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS addressed the inaugural session and presented an overview on SDGs 13, 14 and 15. Prof. S.K. Mohanty presented recommendations and also talked about the next steps.

India-Africa Economic Partnership

India supports Africa’s economic integration. While India engages with all African nations individually, the country also works closely with different African regional bodies for creating common public goods, which may be accessed by a greater number of people. India thus furthers bilateral cooperation with ECOWAS, COMESA, and EAS. At the same time, India looks to partner Africa in leveraging market opportunities available to Africa by virtue of pacts like the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). In what ways can India help Africa to get the best out of the opportunities that regional and international agreements provide? How such agreements can yield long-term bilateral institutional partnerships and business collaborations? These are other questions which were deliberated upon in the 12th CII EXIM Bank Conclave.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogue

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Chaired a Panel Discussion on ‘Paris COP 21 Outcomes and its Implications for India’s Future Energy Policy’ at the Managing Global Governance (MGG) National Alumni Meeting, organized by GDI and ICRIER on 4 April 2016 in New Delhi.

- Panelist at the Discussion Meeting at the launch of book: India-Myanmar Relations: Changing Contours by Rajiv Bhatia, organized by the India International Centre in New Delhi on 8 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'Socio-Economic Considerations in LMOs: Key Challenges' at the Regional Conference on Biosafety for Sharing of Experiences, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in Hyderabad on 8 April 2016.
- Participated in the meeting of the Heads of Think Tanks (HoTT) Forum, organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi on 27 April 2016.
- Participated in the Future Lab on Germany's Development Policy and Development Cooperation, organized jointly by GIZ and BMZ in Berlin on 3 May 2016.
- Moderated the discussion on the two -day Workshop on Water, Drought and Related Issues, organized by Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) in New Delhi on 4-5 May 2016.
- Participated in the discussion on 'India's Economic Prospects', organized by Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi on 6 May 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'SDGs and Technology Facilitation Mechanism' at the Informal dialogues of BMZ and MGG Network held in Berlin on 11 May 2016.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Global Governance in Transition: How Can the G20 Help with Overcoming Regional Fragmentation?' organized jointly by The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), German Development Institute (DIE) and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) in Berlin on 12 May 2016.
- Speaker at the session on 'The G20's Contribution to an Inclusive World Economy' held at the Berlin T20 Conference on the 2030 Agenda and Pathways to Sustainable Development International Cooperation and the G20 Presidencies of China and Germany, held in Berlin on 13 May 2016.
- Participated in the meeting of the 'Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) Core Group Members' held in Berlin on 15 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'SDGs and Technology Facilitation Mechanism' at the Asian Regional Dialogue on the Starting Strong: the first 1000 days of the SDGs - Asian regional dialogue, organized jointly by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) and the Southern Voices in Sri Lanka on 19 May 2016.
- Participated in the Informal Luncheon Meeting to deliberate on the idea of New Development Bank Institute (NDBI), organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and EXIM Bank in New Delhi on 23 May 2016.

- Participated in the Roundtable discussion on Trade Strategy on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 27 May 2016.
- Chaired the thematic session on 'Challenge of Improving Environment' in the Global Conference on Prosperity, Equality and Sustainability: Perspectives and Policies for a Better World, organized jointly by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and the World Bank in New Delhi on 1 June 2016.
- Participated in the launch function of Agricultural Atlas of Madhya Pradesh, organized jointly by the Centre for Policy Research and Madhya Pradesh Council for Science and Technology in New Delhi on 1 June 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on 'India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development', organized by the Symbiosis School of International Studies in New Delhi on 2 June 2016.
- Speaker at the session on 'Enabling environment for science, technology and innovation' at the Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)'s first multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) organized by the United Nations on 6 June 2016 in New York.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on Trade and Investment at the Dialogue on Global Economic Governance Think 20 (T20) Meeting, organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Gateway House in Mumbai on 13 June 2016.
- Moderated the session on 'Mega Trade Agreements: Economic Fragmentation or Integration?' at the Gateway of India Dialogue: Where Geopolitics meets Business, organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Gateway House in Mumbai on 14 June 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'Evolving Context of Multilateral Diplomacy' at the Second Special Course for ASEM Diplomats, organized by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in New Delhi on 15 June 2016.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Regional Perspectives: Geo-Strategic Overview, Political and Security Outlook' at the DEVCO Regional Seminar on Central and South Asia, organized by the European Commission in New Delhi on 20 June 2016.
- Made a presentation (in absentia) at the session on 'Promoting Sustainable Development' at the Silk Road Forum 2016, organized by Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD), and the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency

(PALiIZ) in Warsaw on 21 June 2016.

- Participated in the Second Meeting of Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) for the DST sponsored project on “Emerging and Contemporary R&D and Innovation Indicators in National S&T System and Policy Implications – A Comprehensive Study”, organized by the IIFT in New Delhi on 1 July 2016.
- Participated in the India’s BRICS Summit-Media Outreach, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on 4 July 2016.
- Participated in the High Level Policy Dialogue on ‘Promoting Inclusive, Quality and Job-Rich Economic Growth’, organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, in New Delhi on 7 July 2016.
- Participated in the National Seminar on “India and the Ocean Economy”, organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi on 11 July 2016.
- Participated in the First Meeting of the Planning Committee of the ICMR-MEA India-Africa Health Sciences Summit organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi on 12 July 2016.
- Made a presentation on “South-South Cooperation: Genesis and Evolution” at the session on ‘Partnerships for Sustainable Development’, focussing on South-South Cooperation and organized by the International Labour Organisation in New Delhi on 13 July 2016.
- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on ‘Measuring and Reporting South-South cooperation (SSC): How to grasp SSC’s contribution to achieving the SDGs’, organized by the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) in collaboration with the German Development Institute (DIE), Managing Global Governance programme on the eve of UNCTAD XIV in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19 July 2016.
- Participated in the side event on ‘Evidence-informed development cooperation and management of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals’, organized by UNCTAD in Nairobi, Kenya, on 20 July 2016.
- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on “Principles of SSC and TOSSD: What case studies in the South can tell us about convergence and discrepancy” organized jointly by the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and German Development Institute (DIE) as the Side Event at the UNDCF High-Level Meeting in New York on 22 July 2016.
- Panelist at the Session on “Delivering Sustainable Development Goals by States/UTs” at the National Conference of Chief Secretaries and Planning Secretaries of States and Union Territories, organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on 27 July

2016.

- Made a presentation on “Role of BRICS in Strengthening Southern Trade Linkages” at the International Civil Society Consultation on BRICS and the Agenda of Equality and Change, organized jointly by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Oxfam India and People’s Budget Initiative in New Delhi on 28 July 2016.
- Participated in the BRICS-BIMSTEC Preparatory Meeting, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on 10 August 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting about National Conference on SDGs under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on 11 August 2016.
- Participated as a Member in the first Jury Meeting of the Award Committee on EXIM Bank BRICS Economic Research Award 2016, organized by EXIM Bank in New Delhi on 12 August 2016.
- Made a presentation on ‘Nature of Multilateral Diplomacy’ at the 62nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organized by the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi on 23 August 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on ‘India’s perspectives on Agenda 2030 and its implementation’, organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on 29 August 2016.
- Delivered Special Remarks on Migration and SDGs: Perspectives from India at the Roundtable meeting on ‘Mainstreaming Migration in the SDG Agenda in the Indian Context’ organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on 30 August 2016.
- Participated in the First Meeting of CII Committee on International Trade Policy and Exports 2016- 2017 held in New Delhi on 31 August 2016.
- Made a presentation on ‘Development Challenges, Sustainability and Role of STI: Exploring Asian Approaches and Scope for Regional Cooperation’ at the 2nd International Symposium on Asian Development Studies organised by Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 1 September 2016.
- Participated in the first anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals for Agenda 2030, organized by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan in New Delhi on 2 September 2016.
- Chaired the Session on ‘Africa Regional Perspective on Opportunities for Partnership’ at the India-Africa Health Sciences Summit, ICMR, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 3 September 2016.
- Participated as Panelist in the Panel Discussion on ‘Problems Faced by Indian Students Abroad and NRI Students in India’, organized by Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in New Delhi on

9 September 2016.

- Panelist at the Session on “Programmes in Brain Research and Neurotechnology in India: Mechanisms Connecting Scientific and Social Outcomes” at the Workshop on Neurotechnology and Society: Strengthening Responsible Innovation in Brain Sciences, organised by OECD in Washington D.C. on 15 September 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting regarding a programme on SDGs during visit of Secretary General, United Nations to India, organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on 26 September 2016.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the Dissemination Workshop on the Release of the Report on ‘Indo-Bhutan Energy Cooperation Agreement and the Implementation of Hydropower Projects in Bhutan’, organised by OXFAM India in New Delhi on 29 September 2016.
- Participated in the launch of South Asian Policy Leadership for Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING) programme organized jointly by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) along with the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition on 6 October 2016 at New Delhi.
- Chaired the session on ‘Towards an Inclusive, Just and Peaceful Society in South Asia: Who are the Change Agents?’ in the Ninth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES-IX), Reimagining South Asia in 2030 organized jointly by Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan, and Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) on 15-16 October 2016, Dhaka.
- Participated in the Half-Yearly Executive Council Meeting of Seva Mandir held on 22 October 2016 at Udaipur.
- Panelist in the session on ‘SSC and its uniqueness from other countries’ at the International Workshop on South-South Cooperation Providers and SDG 17: Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals Achievements, organised jointly by United Nations Development Programme, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) on 7 November 2016 at Beijing.
- Made a presentation on ‘SSC effectiveness, M&E, and comparison with other models’ at the International Workshop on South-South Cooperation Providers and SDG 17: Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals Achievements organised jointly by United Nations Development Programme, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) on 8 November 2016 at Beijing.

- Delivered a special address on 'India, Geo-Politics and Global Scenario' at the First annual Lokmanthan 2016, jointly organized by Prajna Pravah and Bharat Bhavan on 13 November 2016 at Bhopal.
- Made a presentation on 'Development Cooperation and Corporate Social Responsibility: Emerging Role of Private Sector in Economic Diplomacy' at the thematic symposium and Multidisciplinary Academic Dialogue organized jointly by the Centre for Responsible Business and the University of Manchester on 14 November 2016 at Noida.
- Made a presentation on 'Sustainable Development Goals' at the Orientation Programmes organized by Assam Legislative Assembly on 22 November 2016 at Guwahati.
- Panelist at the session on 'Linking Trade with Domestic Policy Reforms: Building Consensus for Coherent Move towards Economic Growth' at the Asia Pacific Forum 2016 jointly organized by Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) and Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) on 24 November 2016 at Hanoi.
- Made a presentation on 'Converging or Distinctive Features? Key Learnings from South-South Cooperation Case Studies and Conceptual Trends' at the Workshop on "Efforts and Accountability for Development Cooperation under the 2030 Agenda: Moving towards Convergence?" held on the sideline of the HLM2 of the GPEDC, organized jointly by NeST, SAIIA, RIS and the Xiamen University on 30 November 2016 at Nairobi.
- Panelist at the side event on 'Accountability for Effective Development Cooperation for the 2030 Agenda: How to move forward?' organised jointly by German Development Institute, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) South Africa on 30 November 2016 at Nairobi.
- Panelist at the side event on 'South-South Partnerships for Africa's Development – Improving Accountability' organized by NeST Africa in collaboration with Government of Kenya, Government of Malawi, AU-NEPAD, Reality of Aid Network on 30 November 2016 at Nairobi.
- Participated in the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism: 1st Meeting of the Working Group for Exploring the Feasibility of Establishing Alternative Rating Agencies for Emerging Economies organized by the Exim Bank of India on 7 December 2016 at Mumbai.
- Made a presentation on 'Anchoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Indian Context' at the Consultation organized by Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) on 12 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Cooperation in Traditional Medicine-

BRICS Perspective’ at the BRICS High Level Meeting on Traditional Medical Knowledge, organized by Ministry of AYUSH on 16 December 2016 at New Delhi.

- Participated in the International Panel Discussion on India-Afghanistan: Current Relations and Future Directions organized jointly by Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) and Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) on 4 January 2017 at Kolkata.
- Participated in the session on ‘Role of Diaspora in transferring knowledge and encouraging innovation’ at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2017 Seminar on Convention, organized jointly by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and FICCI on 7 January 2017 at Bangalore.
- Made a presentation on ‘Voluntary National Reviews (VNRS) for HLPF 2017 Template for India’ at the meeting of the Task Force for preparing India’s VNR organized by NITI Aayog on 9 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on ‘Evaluation and the SDGs’ in the Seminar on Dialogues on Brazilian South-South Cooperation: M&E organized jointly by the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Institute of International Relations (IRI/PUC-Rio) and BRICS Policy Center on 16 January 2017 at Brazil.
- Made a presentation on Quantification of South-South Cooperation in the Seminar on ‘Dialogues on Brazilian South-South Cooperation: M&E’ organized jointly by the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Institute of International Relations (IRI/PUC-Rio) and BRICS Policy Center on 17 January 2017 at Brazil.
- Participated in the Meeting on Trade and Investment under the Group of Secretaries on Commerce and Industry organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, on 19 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Panelist at the session on ‘TrC from pivotal countries’ perspectives’ at the NIDC Forum 2017 on Triangular Cooperation: Lesson learned and future prospect organised jointly by the Network of International Development Cooperation (NIDC), the Asia Foundation (TAF), Thailand Research Fund (TRF), and Thammasat University on 26 January 2016 at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated in the half-day event on Leveraging national and global evidence on governance and service delivery in India organized jointly by 3ie, GDN and the Campbell Collaboration, and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation on 9 February 2017 at New Delhi.
- Addressed the closing session of the South Asian Speakers’ Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for

- the SDGs organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Parliament of India on 18-19 February 2017, Indore.
- Addressed the concluding session on Advocacy and Alliance for Development Cooperation at the National Seminar and Consultation on 'Future of Development Cooperation: Policy Priorities for an Emerging India' organized jointly by Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG) and OXFAM, India on 20 February 2017 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Breakfast Meeting and Speaker at the Roundtable Discussion on India's Rising Economic Clout and Global Role: The Nexus of Growth and Poverty and its Relevance to US Policy organised by Aspen Congressional Conference on 'India's Emergence and Development Challenges: Policy Implications for the U.S.' held on 20-21 February 2017 at New Delhi.
 - Delivered Keynote Address at the inaugural session of International Conference on 'Sustainable Energy and Environmental Challenges (SEEC-2017)' organized jointly by the International Society for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (ISEES) and the Centre for Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing on 26 February 2017 at Mohali.
 - Delivered inaugural address at the Seminar on Nepal-Bharat Relations: Economics Development and Cooperation organized jointly by Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal (NeNAP), Indian Council for International Co-operation and Nepal-Bharat Sahayog Manch (NBSM), Birgunj, on 3-4 March, 2017 at Birgunj, Nepal.
 - Participated in the International Symposium on Research Institute Network Meeting (RINM) on 'New Normal, Integration and Inequality' organized by Bangkok Research Center, IDE-JETRO, Secretariat on 7 March 2017 at Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - Delivered Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session and made a presentation on 'Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs: Outcome and Way Forward' at the Workshop on Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety: Outcome and the Way Forward organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 15 March 2017 at New Delhi.
 - Made a presentation on 'SDG Target and Proposed National Indicators, 2017' at the National Consultation on Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls – Collaborators organized jointly by Partnering Hope into Action (Phia) Foundation and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) on 17 March 2017 at New Delhi.
 - Chaired a session on Enabling Startups for Fostering Inclusive Growth: National Perspectives at the 43rd NRDC Meritorious Invention Awards Ceremony & Conference on 'Leveraging Innovation Ecosystem for Accelerating Startups', organized by National Research Development Corporation on 24 March

2017 at New Delhi.

- Made a presentation on 'Development Oriented Trade Policies and Cooperation: Exploring New Vistas for India-Kenya Partnership' at the Seminar on Connectivity Revisited: India, Kenya and the Indian Ocean organized jointly by High Commission of India, Nairobi, Asian African Heritage Trust, Nairobi and Institute for Social and Cultural Studies, India on 28 March 2017 at Nairobi.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Made a presentation on 'Rising Importance of the Blue Economy Engagement of India with Its South Asian Partners' at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 27 April 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable discussion on 'Trade Strategy on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)', organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 27 May 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable Dialogue for international conference on the theme 'India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development', and made a presentation on 'India and Indian Ocean: Emerging Regional Issues', organized by Symbiosis School of International Studies in New Delhi on 2 June 2016.
- Made a presentation on "A Framework for Blue Economy: Towards a Sustainable Ocean Policy in India" at the National Seminar on 'India and the Ocean Economy', organized by the ICWA, in New Delhi on 11 July 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Second IORA Blue Economy Dialogue, held at ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, on 15-19 July 2016.
- Participated in the First Meeting of FICCI Task Force on Blue Economy, organized by FICCI in New Delhi on 25 July 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting regarding Study on India's Economic Relations with Rest of South Asia: Country Study Series, held in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, in New Delhi on 3 August 2016.
- Participated in the meeting of the Drafting Committee for the Knowledge Report on Blue Economy, organized by FICCI in New Delhi on 17 August 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on 'SAARC Study - Tariff Schedules' held in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, in New Delhi on 18 August 2016.
- Nominated as a Member of the Task Force on Blue Economy, constituted by FICCI.
- Nominated as a Member of the Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities reconstituted by the National Biodiversity

Authority (NBA).

- Led the Indian Delegation at the 22nd Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group, held at Jakarta from 10 to 14 October 2016.
- Made a presentation on “Economic Dimensions of Fisheries in IORA at the 22nd Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group, held at Jakarta on 12 October 2016.
- Participated as a Panelist in the RoundTable Discussion on The Commonwealth: Trade and Economic Opportunities, organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) on 9 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Expansion of India MERCOSUR PTA, held in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, on 24 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan, held in the Department of Commerce, Government of India, on 30 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Seminar on Inter-linkages between Exports and Employment in India, organized by the Export-Import Bank of India on 5 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Developments in the Blue Economy, organized by the FICCI Taskforce Committee on the Blue Economy on 6 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Nominated as a Jury Member for the Exim Bank International Economic Research Annual (IERA) Award Committee by the Export-Import Bank of India on 8 December 2016.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan, held in the Department of Commerce on 9 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Iran Custom Tariffs, held in the Department of Commerce on 13 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) Negotiations and India-Israel FTA Negotiations, held in the Department of Commerce on 15 December 2016 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on “A Framework for Blue Economy: Approach Towards Sustainable Marine Cooperation” at the 4th International Relations Conference on India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development, organised by the Symbiosis School of International Studies, Symbiosis International University on 19 December 2016 at Pune.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Blue Economy Forum,

held in the Ministry of External Affairs on 11 January 2017 at New Delhi.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Blue Economy Forum, held in the Ministry of Earth Sciences on 11 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on “Port Logistics Issues & Challenges in India”, organized by NITI Aayog on 16 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on India-Mauritius Joint Study Group, held in the Department of Commerce on 18 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting of Group on “Trade and Investment” under the Group of Secretaries on Commerce & Industry, held in the Department of Commerce on 19 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Trade and Investment, held in the Department of Commerce on 27 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Presented a joint paper on “Is Economic Performance of South Asia Robust?: Sustained Regional Development Possible with Strong Regional Governance” at the Discussion Meeting organized by UMISARC & Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry University on 7 February 2017.
- Chaired the IERA Award 2016 First Jury Meeting, organized by the EXIM Bank of India on 13 February 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meetings of Taskforce on Blue Economy, organized by FICCI, on 16 and 20 February 2017.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan held in the Department of Commerce on 21 February 2017.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Trade Promotion Events in EU and LAC, held in the Department of Commerce on 28 February 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting of the ‘India-Mauritius Joint Study Group’, held in the Department of Commerce on 20 March 2017 at New Delhi.

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

- Participated in the meeting on ‘Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) Report for entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU)’, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 6 April 2016.
- Addressed the 61st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats

- (PCFD) on 'Regional Groupings: ASEAN & BRICS' organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on 12 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Export Strategy for CIS region' organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 29 April 2016.
 - Made a presentation on 'India-Myanmar Border Trade' at a meeting organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 29 April 2016.
 - Made a presentation in a session on 'Friends of Malaysia' for Dato' Sri Mustapa Bin Mohamed, Minister for International Trade and Industry, organized by the High Commission of Malaysia, in New Delhi on 2 May 2016.
 - Participated in a Discussion-Meeting on 'India-EFTA', organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi on 11 May 2016.
 - Participated in the review meeting on 'JSG between India and Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region', organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 25 May 2016.
 - Participated in an academic exchange programme on 'China, India and ASEAN-The Strategic Trilateral Relations from the Perspective of Economy', organized by Academy for World Watch, Shanghai in Bali, Indonesia, on 28-30 May 2016.
 - Made a presentation in an Outreach Programme on 'India-Myanmar Border Trade', organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and the Ministry of Commerce, State Government of Manipur, in Imphal on 6 June 2016.
 - Participated in the meeting on 'JSG between India and Eurasia Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region', organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 13 June 2016.
 - Participated in the meeting on 'JFSG between India and Eurasia Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region', organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 22 June 2016.
 - Participated in G20 Think Tank Seminar on 'A New Start of Global Governance, Openness and Cooperation', organized by the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), in Beijing, China, on 29 June 2016.
 - Participated in meetings on "Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) Report" for entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU), organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 19 July, 10 August, 29 August, 12 September, and 15 September 2016.
 - Participated in a Brainstorming Session on "Initiatives in

SAARC: Role of India”, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on 21 July 2016.

- Addressed the 62nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) on “Regional Groupings: ASEAN and BRICS”, organized by the FSI, Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 1 August 2016.
- Participated as a Discussant on “Quarterly Review of the Economy (QRE)”, organized by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi on 4 August 2016.
- Participated in the meetings of “Forum of Indian and Russian Think Tanks”, organized by the ICWA in New Delhi on 19 August and 16 September 2016.
- Made a presentation on “SAARC Trade in Services” in the 8th Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organizations (SAARCSTAT), organized by the SAARCSTAT and SAARC Secretariat in New Delhi on 30 August 2016.
- Participated as a leader of Indian delegation in a meeting of “Expert Group of Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) for entering into an FTA between the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) and Its Member States and the Republic of India”, organized by the Eurasian Economic Commission in Moscow, Russia on 1-3 September 2016.
- Participated in Discussion Meeting on “International Economic Issues”, organized by the Australian High Commission in New Delhi on 12 September 2016.
- Participated in the 2nd meeting on “Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) for entering into a FTA between the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) and its Member States and the Republic of India”, organized by the Eurasian Economic Commission, Moscow, Russia on 19-20 September 2016.
- Participated in the meeting on “India-Russia Think Tanks”, organised by the ICWA, Embassy of India, and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in Moscow, Russia, on 22-23 September 2016.
- Participated in the review meeting on “Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG)”, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 26 September 2016.
- Participated as a Panelist in a workshop on “Strengthening EU-India Digital Agenda 2020: Trade, Technology and Innovation, organized by Delegation of the European Union to India with the collaboration of KPMG and C-DEP, New Delhi on 1 October 2016.
- Participated in the 22nd Meeting of the Export Committee on “Development of Business Service Price Index”, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 5 October 2016.

- Participated as a Panellist in a workshop on “Agricultural Transformation and Market Integration in the ASEAN Region: Responding to Food Security and Inclusiveness Concerns”, organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, on 7-8 October 2016.
- Participated in a meeting on “BRICS Economic Forum”, organized by Research and Information System for Developing Countries along with the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India, Goa, on 13-14 October 2016.
- Addressed a delegate in a seminar on “Growth Prospects of the Indian Economy”, organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 17 October 2016.
- Participated as a Panelist in the Mid Career Training Programme for Deputy Secretary level Indian Foreign Service Officers of 2004-2008 batch on “Nairobi Declaration: Could India protect the interests of its Agriculture Sector?”, organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, on 25 October 2016.
- Participated in a Resource Dialogue On “Resource security: contextualizing domestic interests in the global trade and investment framework” and presented the Papers on leveraging on historical and strategic ties-Role of bilateral, regional and BRICS, organized by the TERI along with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Gurgaon, Haryana, on 25 October 2016.
- Addressed the Advanced Leadership Programme on “Trade Issues and Globalization: WTO and Regional Trading Blocks”, organized by The Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, on 12 November, 2016.
- Addressed the ITEC Participants on “Trade and Sustainable Development: South-South and Regional Cooperation” organized by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Gurgaon, Haryana, on 22 November, 2016.
- Participated as a Panelist in 14th National Conference on “India’s Vision 2030-What Engineers and Technologists can do?”, organized by Engineering Council of India, New Delhi on 28 November 2016.
- Participated as a Panelist in a High-Level Kickoff Conference on “Think 20 (T20)”, organized by Deutsches Institut fur Entwicklungspolitik and German Development Institute, Berlin, Germany, on 30 November-2 December, 2016.
- Participated as a speaker in a Buyer Seller Meet on “Trade between South Asian Countries –Opportunities & Challenges”, organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 7 December, 2016.
- Member of the Departmental Researcher Committee (DRC) of Amity School of Economics, Amity University, Noida, UP ,on

9 December, 2016.

- Participated in meetings on Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) between Indian and EaEU FTA, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 6, 9, 18 and 30 January 2017.
- Participated in the “First Committee Meeting of the Economic Affairs Committee”, organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 6 January 2017.
- Participated as a resource person in the 50th session of the APTA Standing Committee on Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement: A future roadmap on 11-12 January, 2017 and The Fourth session of the Ministerial Council of APTA on 13 January, 2017, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) held at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated in the meeting on India-South Korea Bilateral Economic Relations, organized by the Embassy of South Korea, New Delhi, on 17 January 2017.
- Participated in Discussion meeting with Prof. (Dr) Idesbald Goddeeris, Katholic University of Leuven, Belgium, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, on 23 January, 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on Trade and Investment, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 27 January, 2017.
- Participated as a panelist in the T20 Africa Conference on Africa and the G20: Building alliances for sustainable development, organized by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) along with the T20 Germany Co-chairs German Development institute/ Deutsches institute fur Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and Institute for the World Economy (IFW Kiel) at Johannesburg, South Africa, on 1-3 February 2017.
- Participated in a Brainstorm Session on Rules of Origin negotiations under FTAs ,organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt of India, New Delhi, on 7 February, 2017.
- Made a presentation on “Employment potential of trade”, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt of India, New Delhi, on 14 February 2017.
- Participated in a preparatory meeting on “Sub-Regional Cooperation between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN), organized by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India, New Delhi, on 14 February 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on RCEP Rules of Origin, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt of India, New Delhi, on 15 February, 2017.
- Made a presentation on New Markets New Opportunities: Destination CIS, organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, New Delhi, on 21 February 2017.

- Made a presentation on India as an Economic Hub for Integrating East and South-East Asia with the Rest of Asia in a Seminar, organized by ERIA, Jakarta, Indonesia, on 23-26 February, 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on India-NAFTA Trade Relations, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 28 February 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on FTA with EaEU Countries, organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 3, 9 and 27 March 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on Trade Facilitation of Seminars organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 07 March 2017.
- Panelist in the 12th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, organized by EXIM Bank in collaboration with Government of India & Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi, on 10 March 2017.
- Participated in a Discussion Meeting on India's proposal on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS), organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on 20 March 2017.
- Participated as a moderator at the Workshop on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS), organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and World Bank, New Delhi, on 23-24 March 2017.
- Moderated a session in the 10th IDSA South Asia Conference on Economics of Connectivity: Perspective from the Region, organized by the Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi, on 28 March 2017.

Prof. T.C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Gave special talks on 'Commercialisation of Intellectual Property Rights' to the staff and officers of John Deere Corp, Pune, on 26 April 2016.
- Delivered keynote address at the World IP Day Workshop on 'Make in India: Role of Industry-University Collaboration in creating value', organized by the Symbiosis University, Pune on 26 April 2016.
- Delivered talks on 'Intellectual Property Rights' at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Summer School, ISIL in New Delhi on 25 and 28 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'Effective Use of Technology in Drinking Water Conservation and Management' at the Workshop for Parliamentarians, organized by Speaker's Research Initiative

in New Delhi on 4 May 2016.

- Participated and gave inputs in the Committee on IPRs of ICMR on 18 May 2016.
- Panelist in a discussion on 'National Intellectual Property Policy' on the Lok Sabha TV on 24 May 2016.
- Participated in the North East Regional Conference of Speakers and Deputy Speakers at Agartala and spoke about the need for research support for legislators and new research initiative of the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker on 1, 2 June 2016.
- Made a presentation on "One Size Does not Fit All" at the Workshop on 'Declaration on Patent Protection: Regulatory Sovereignty under TRIPS', organized by Inter-University Centre for IPR Studies, Cochin University of Science Technology, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Institute for Studies in Industrial Development in New Delhi on 13 July 2016.
- Participated as Member in the IGNOU Expert Committee meetings to revise the curriculum for PG Certificate Course in Patent Law on 7 and 8 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Addressed the Conference on Intellectual Property Rights, organized by the Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs on the topic, 'Geographical Indications as a tool for protection of traditional brands' on 21 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Delivered a talk on 'Exclusive Economic Rights in Copyright' in the one week National Workshop on Understanding Copyright and Related Rights in the Indian Law Institute on 21 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Panelist in the National Conference on 'Commitment and Action on Achieving Health and Nutrition Targets of SDGs and WHA organised by the Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security, India (CFNS), along with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Observer Research Foundation (ORF), National Foundation for India (NFI), Alive and Thrive (A&T) & Micronutrient Initiative (MI) in New Delhi, India, on 24 November 2016 at New Delhi. The Conference finalised a Joint Civil Society Declaration which calls for a "Sustainable Nutrition Revolution" towards transforming India with women at the forefront.
- Made a presentation on 'Patenting Traditional Knowledge: Defensive and Offensive Protection against Misappropriation' at the National Seminar on India's Traditional Knowledge Protection Regime, organized by the Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad, and Centre for Innovation, IP and Competition Law at NLU, Delhi, for grassroots lawyers and NGOs on 11 December 2016.
- Chaired the session on TRIPS and Emerging Scenario: A

Decade of TRIPS and Issues during the National Conference on Intellectual Property Rights organised by IPR Chair, Delhi University, and PHD Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi on 16 December 2016.

- Participated as Indian Geographical Indications Expert and made presentations on Commercialisation of Indian Geographical Indications (GIs) in the Workshops on GIs for Producers, Advisors and Attorneys, organized by European Union Intellectual Property Office in Kochi, Chennai, Vijayawada and Bengaluru on 16, 18, 20, and 21 January 2017 respectively.
- Participated in the International Seminar on 'Globalisation and India's innovation System: A Creative Destruction', organized by the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, on 4-6 February 2017 and spoke about 'Neglected Tropical Diseases and R&D' and also chaired a few sessions.
- Spoke at the Cochin University of Science and Technology about the 'Patent Office Reforms as a response to the TRIPS Agreement' on 6 February 2017 in Kochi.
- Addressed the scientists of CSIR on 'IPRs and Ethics in R&D' at CSIR HRDC, Ghaziabad, on 9 February 2017.
- Attended the South Asian Speakers' Summit held in Indore on 18 February 2017.
- Gave an Invited Talk on the subject 'Biodiversity, Health and Well-being' at the National Biodiversity Congress 2017 on 24 February 2017 at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Addressed District Judges of Delhi in the Conference on Integration of Knowledge, Skill and Attitude in Adjudication, organized by the Delhi Judicial Academy on 3 March 2017
- Gave a special talk on 'Scope of Geographical Indications for MSME' on 4 March, 2017 during the One-Day Training Programme for Awareness/Sensitization on IPR for MSME, sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, held at Indian Society for International Law, New Delhi.
- Delivered the keynote address at the Swarna Jayanti One day National Seminar on Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights, organized by the Pt. B D Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, on 17 March 2017.
- Participated in the Asia Pacific Conference: Taking Collective Action to Accelerate Transformation of Official Statistics for Agenda 2030 on 27-28 March 2017 and Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 March 2017. The Conference stressed the need to have National Strategy for Development of Statistics. In the Asia Pacific Forum, a NITI Aayog-RIS pavilion was set up and literature and other publicity material on India's efforts on SDG were presented and provided to visitors.

Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the Regional Conference on Biosafety for Sharing of Experiences, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in Hyderabad on 8 April 2016.
- Participated in the RRI-Practice Kick off Workshop at Oslo on 20-21 September 2016.
- Made a Presentation on Global Value Chains, Seeds and Competition Law at the Conference on Global Value Chains in Competition Law' at Faculty of Laws, UCL, London, on 1 February 2017.
- Participated in the Seminar on Alternatives in the Making?: Commons and Open Source Approaches to Plant Varieties/Seeds at CIRAD, Montpellier, France, on 8 March 2017.
- Delivered talk on Science and Technology and Innovation Policies and Access, Equity and Inclusion: Issues in Theory, Practice and Measurement at CCS, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on 22 March 2017.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Research Associate

- Made presentation on "India-China Economic Relations: Shaping an Alternative Narrative of Global Economic Order" at the Second SAWCCAD-VIF Dialogue, held at Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University (ISAS), Chengdu, China, during 6-9 July 2016.
- Made a presentation on "Financing Development in South Asia: Beyond Orthodox Approaches" in the 9th South Asia Economic Summit organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), held at Dhaka, Bangladesh, on October 15-16 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on 'Gold Policy-Vision 2020', organized by FICCI at New Delhi on 27 October 2016.
- Made presentation on BRICS Financial Cooperation: Identified Areas and Further Scope at the 2017 BRICS Think Tank Symposium on Strengthening Financial Cooperation and Promoting BRICS Development, held at Chongyang Institute of Financial Studies (RDCY), Renmin University of China, Beijing, China, on 22 March 2017.
- Made presentation on Prospects of BRICS: Sino-India Cooperation in BRICS Frame at the Centre for South Asia-West China Cooperation and Development Studies, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China, on 23 March 2017.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor

- Delegate to the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Government of Germany, Berlin, for the Meeting of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and BMZ, held on 11 May 2016.
- Discussant in the session on 'Trade and Investment' in T20 Berlin Conference organised by Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), German Development Institute (DIE) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) at Berlin, Germany, on 12-13 May 2016.
- Panelist in Discussion on 'Exchange Rate and Export Competitiveness', organised by Business Standard and Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation in New Delhi on 31 May 2016.
- Participated as the Lead Panelist in the Workshop on Reforms in International Taxation and Financial Transparency: Towards a Regional Agenda for Asia, organized by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) and Financial Transparency Coalition on 21 November 2016 at New Delhi.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

ITEC Programme on Science Diplomacy

RIS launched the ITEC Capacity Building Programme on Science Diplomacy which was held during 9-20 January 2017 at New Delhi. The inaugural session began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Shri Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired the inaugural session at which Prof. Baldev Raj, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, delivered



Participants of the ITEC programme on Science Diplomacy with RIS faculty members.

the inaugural address. Mr Dinkar Asthana, Joint Secretary (DPA II), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Dr. Sadhana Relia, Head, (International Cooperation), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, also addressed. Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

The programme of the capacity building on science diplomacy included following themes – Culture and Science Diplomacy; Global Engagements in pursuit of Earth System Science and Services- An Indian Experience; South-South and North-South Discourse in STI; Science Diplomacy and SDGs; Sectoral Focus: Health; Stress Management; Agriculture; Science Diplomacy and TFM; Dual-Use S&T in India's Foreign Policy; Indian Science Diplomacy: Some Game Changing Moments, a Ringside View of a Science Journalist; Role of Science Diplomacy in Technology Transfer; Blue Economy; Technology Transfer and CDM; Role of Science Diplomacy in Capacity-Building in South; International R&D Architecture and Science Diplomacy; Rural Innovation and Science Diplomacy; Convergence of Technologies- Opportunities and Challenges; and Strengthening SSC using Science Diplomacy.

The prominent speakers, were: Dr T. Ramasami, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; Dr Shailesh Nayak, Distinguished Scientist and Former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India; Dr V. Siddhartha, Former Secretary of Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India and Emeritus Scientist, DRDO; Dr. H. Purushotham, Chairman and Mg. Director, National Research Development Corporation (NRDC); Dr S R Rao, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India; Dr S.K. Saxena, Director, Export Inspection Council of India; Dr. Sachin Goyal, Senior Consultant, Antarnaad; Prof. Pranav N Desai, Professor, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, JNU; Prof. Aradhana Aggarwal, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark; Dr Praveen Arora, Head, CHORD, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; Dr Rajeswari Raina, Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS); Dr Pallava Bagla, Science Editor, NDTV and Columnist, Press Trust of India.

Capacity Building Programme on “International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)” under the ITEC / SCAAP

RIS conducted its annual flagship Capacity Building Programme on “International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)” under the ITEC / SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from 13 February 2017 to 10 March 2017 at New Delhi. More than 32 participants from 24 different countries participated in the programme. The programme covered following themes –

Multilateralism, Mega Regionals, and WTO; International Trade Architecture and Challenges for Multilateralism; The Agreement on



Participants of the ITEC programme on IEIDP with RIS faculty members.

Agriculture and Food Security in Developing Countries; Development Compact as a Pivot of Economic Cooperation in the South; Importance of G20 and Issues in Global Financial Architecture; Trade in Services and the GATS; South-South Cooperation in the Context of Global Governance; “Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2016: Main Findings and Implications for the Region”; Issues Related to Anti-Dumping and Subsidies in WTO; Emerging Architecture of Mega Regional Trade Arrangements; Understanding Agenda 2030 and SDGs; The Paris Climate Agreement and International Cooperation; Adoption of SDGs and Sustainability Challenges; Science and Technology Cooperation in Addressing Sustainability; Statistical Systems in Developing Countries and SDG Indicators; Re-engineering of Western Aid: New Opportunities and Challenges; Developing Countries and Sustainable Energy; Evolving Dynamics of India-Africa Partnership; Regional Integration in South Asia; India-EU Relations: The Road Ahead; Understanding G20 and BRICS from a Developing Country Perspective; and India’s Energy Sector.

ITEC/SCAAP Capacity Building Programme on South-South Cooperation

RIS under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)/Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) of the Ministry of External Affairs organized a two-week Capacity Building Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation during 15-25 November 2016 in New Delhi.

The programme intended to familiarise participants with a broader concept of South-South Cooperation (SSC), particularly on Development Cooperation in the context of ongoing resurgence of the economies of the South in the wake of major changes being witnessed in the global aid architecture.

It, among other things, focused on the rationale, concepts and contours of SSC by building on individual accomplishments of the respective countries, thus explaining the benefits from and barriers to their collective engagements. It also covered the key principles, policies, modalities (that include national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit) and practices that were evident across SSC and looked at how the policy orientations or the strengths of SSC could be practically applied.

The programme also discussed how SSC was a different paradigm from the North-South Cooperation (NSC) and how SSC should be viewed as a voluntary partnership which has developed into a more matured platform transcending the initial foundations of political solidarity and is not as a replacement for the NSC in any significant measure.



Participants of the ITEC programme with RIS faculty.

RIS Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practice

To contribute towards capacity building of scholars working in related fields, RIS launched its first Summer School programme for M.Phil and Ph.D. students specialising in international trade this year. The programme was held from 6 June to 10 June 2016.

On the first day, Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS and Dr Nagesh Kumar, Head, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office delivered the



Dr. Nagesh Kumar delivering the inaugural addresses. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Prof. S. K. Mohanty, and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha.

inaugural addresses. Prof. S.K. Mohanty gave an introduction to Trade Data. Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Jamia Millia Islamia delivered a lecture on Industry and Trade Data: Concordance Issues. Dr Priyadarshi Dash delivered a lecture on Data on Trade in Services.

On second day, Prof. Manoj Pant, JNU delivered a lecture on Trade Theory: New Frontiers Break; Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS delivered a lecture on FTAs and Regional Economic Integration. Dr Sabyasachi Saha, RIS talked on Technology Intensity in Trade Break; Prof. Vijaya Katti, IIFT presented his views on Contours of Trade Policy in India.

The third day started with a lecture on WTO and FTAs by Prof. Abhijit Das, Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, followed by group discussions on Data, Methodology and Techniques, Technology and Trade, and WTO and FTAs. Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Sharda University and Visiting Fellow, RIS, delivered a lecture on Trade in Agriculture. Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, former Ambassador of India to the WTO talked on new issues.

Fourth day began with lecture by Dr Neelam Singh on Trade and Technology. Mr Arvind Mehta, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, delivered lecture on India's Trade Relations and Strategies. Prof. Rajesh Chadha of NCAER talked on GTAP Modelling and Trade Complementarity. Dr Nitya Nanda, TERI gave presentation on Gravity Modelling and Trade Potential.

The last day had group discussion on Data, Methodology and Techniques; Technology and Trade; and WTO and FTAs. Prof. Rajat Kathuria delivered a lecture on Mega Regional Trade Agreements.

Workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities

RIS supports Myanmar in Building Capacity through its capacity Building programme on Building Trade and Investment Capacity. Under this RIS, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic

and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok; the Centre for Economy and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar; and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce organized the sixth workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities at UMFCCI, Yangon, on 12-13 May 2016. The workshop comprised six sessions covering global and regional issues of trade facilitation. Mr Soe Win, Dy. Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce made opening remarks. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS, and Dr Tangfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP, Bangkok, introduced to the workshop.

The workshop lectures were on: Why trade facilitation?; Trade facilitation in multilateral and regional arrangements; and Demonstration of trade facilitation databases and analysis by Dr Prabir De; Analysing trade processes and procedures: Business Process Analysis (BPA) by Mr Tangfei Wang and Dr Prabir De; Measuring trade facilitation performance: Trade and transport facilitation monitoring mechanism (TTFMM) by Mr Tangfei Wang; Business Process Analysis (BPA) of trade procedures in Myanmar by Captain Aung Khin Myint, Chairman, Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association and Chairman, GMS Freight Transport Association (GMS FRETA), Yangon.

Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration

Under the Myanmar Capacity Building Programme, RIS organized a three-day workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration at Yangon during 9 to 11 May 2016 in collaboration with UNESCAP, Bangkok; CESD, Myanmar and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. The opening address was given by Mr Soe Win, Deputy Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. Dr Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy Section, Trade Policy and Analysis – Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP, Bangkok and Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS introduced to the objectives of the workshop. The workshop was in eleven sessions. Dr Mia Mikic and Dr Prabir De made an introduction about the objectives of the workshop.

The workshop lectures were on Trade theory and regional integration by Dr Mia Mikic; Regional integration in the world: political and economic dimensions by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Regional trade agreements in the context of Myanmar's development strategy by Mr Sjamsu Rahardja, Senior Economist, Trade and Competitiveness, The World Bank, Myanmar; Principles and modalities of regional integration: Contrasting stories of ASEAN and BIMSTEC by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri; WTO and regional integration (including a demonstration of the WTO RTA database and ESCAP APTIAD) and features of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific by Dr Mia Mikic; Myanmar in regional and subregional initiatives (ASEAN, BBIN, BCIM, BIMSTEC, SAARC) by Prof. Prabir De; Mega-regionals in Asia (TPP, RCEP, EAEU) by Dr Mia Mikic; Global value chains and preferential trade agreements by Mr Thomas Bernhardt,

Researcher and Policy Analyst, Myanmar Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon; and databases and analysis by Dr Mia Mikic, Dr Prabir De and Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri.

Lectures Delivered by RIS Faculty Members at the Outside Training Programmes

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Made a presentation on 'India-Africa relations: New Economic Reality' at the Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs on 20 January 2017 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Evolving Development Cooperation' at the Inception Workshop on Capstone 10 Project on India's development cooperation organized by O. P. Jindal Global University on 27 March 2017 at New Delhi

Prof. Ram Upendra Das

- Delivered a lecture on "RTA, GATT Art. XXIV & Rules of Origin" at four-day training Programme on 'International Trade and Trade Agreements for Maruti Suzuki Limited', organized by IIFT in New Delhi on 13 July 2016.
- Addressed the 10th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats on "WTO, PTAs & Developing Countries" organized by The Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi, on 3 October 2016.

Prof. T.C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Delivered lectures on 'Intellectual Property Rights' to young scientists at Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), organized by the Department of Science and Technology, in New Delhi, on 4, 5 and 18 April 2016.
- Delivered talks on 'Intellectual Property Rights' and 'Ethical Principles in Research' to technical officers of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Human Resource Development Centre, Ghaziabad, on 13 May 2016.
- Addressed district judges of Delhi on different branches of intellectual property law at Delhi Judicial Academy on 28 May 2016.
- Addressed the participants in the Refresher Course for Law Teachers at the National Law University, New Delhi, on patent law on 16 June 2016.

- Addressed the young scientists of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on protection of Intellectual Property Rights in New Delhi on 12 July 2016.
- Delivered a talk on Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Indian Patents Act at the WIPO Summer School, organized by the Indian Society for International Law in New Delhi on 14 July 2016.
- Delivered a talk on Intellectual Property Rights to Ministry of Commerce and Industry Interns at IIFT in New Delhi on 15 September 2016.
- Delivered a lecture on Relevance of Geographical Indications for MSMEs in the Training Programme for Sensitization on IPRs for MSMEs, organized by Indian Society of International Law on 4 November 2016 at New Delhi.

PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

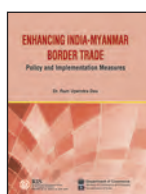
Reports/Books



South-South Cooperation 2016
Conference Proceedings
RIS, 2016



Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India in association with RIS, GIDR, IARI,
ISEC, NAARM, TNAU, UAS



Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade: Policy and Implementation Measures
Ram Upendra Das, RIS, and Ministry of Commerce and
Industry, Government of India, 2016

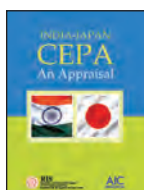


ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report
AIC at RIS, 2016



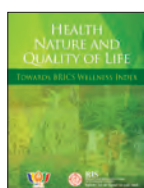
FIDC Regional Consultation at Chennai: Summary of Proceedings

RIS, FIDC, 2016



India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress

V. S. Seshadri, RIS, 2016



Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index

RIS, 2016



Institutional Architecture for South-South Cooperation

RIS, 2016



India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward

RIS, New Delhi, 2016.



India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal

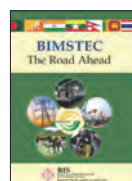
V. S. Seshadri

RIS & AIC, New Delhi, 2016



IBSA: Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability

RIS, New Delhi 2016



BIMSTEC: The Road Ahead

RIS, New Delhi 2016



Economic Integration and Development Partnerships: Southern Perspectives
RIS, New Delhi, 2017



India-Singapore CECA: An Appraisal
V. S. Seshadri
RIS & AIC, New Delhi, 2017



Report of the Seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity: Summary of Proceedings
RIS, New Delhi, 2017



Journals

South Asia Economic Journal

Vol. 17, No. 1

Vol. 17, No. 2

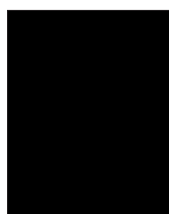


Asian Biotechnology and Development Review

Vol. 18, No. 2, July 2016

Vol. 18, No. 3, November 2016

Vol. 19, No. 1, March 2017



Policy Briefs

#75 Costs of Non-Cooperation in South Asia: An Illustration and Way Forward by Ram Upendra Das, September, 2016

#76 Financing Technology Delivery for SDGs: A Way Forward for TFM by Sachin Chaturvedi and Sabyasachi Saha, November, 2016

#77 Indian Economy and Demonetisation: Way Forward by Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, January 2017

Discussion Papers

203 The Development Compact: A Theoretical Construct for South-South Cooperation by Sachin Chaturvedi

#204 Emergence of LoCs as a Modality in India's Development Cooperation: Evolving Policy Context and New Challenges by Prabodh Saxena

- # 205 The BRICS Initiatives Towards a New Financial Architecture: An Assessment with Some Proposals by Sunanda Sen
- # 206 India-Africa Seed Sector Collaboration: Emerging Prospects and Challenges by T.P. Rajendran and Amit Kumar
- #207 Trade in High Technology Products Trends and Policy Imperatives for BRICS by Sachin Chaturvedi, Sabyasachi Saha and Prativa Shaw
- #208 Reversing Pre-mature Deindustrialization for Jobs Creation: Lessons for 'Make-in-India' from Experiences of Industrialized and East Asian Countries by Nagesh Kumar

FIDC Discussion Paper

- #2 Inbound International Student Mobility in India: Path to Achievable Success by *Vidya Rajiv Yeravdekar*

FIDC Policy Briefs

- #9 TOSSD: Southernisation of ODA by *Sachin Chaturvedi, Milindo Chakrabarti, Hemant Shiva, November 2016*

Blue Economy Policy Brief

Unleashing the Potential of Blue Economy by S.K. Mohanty, Priyadarshi Dash and Aastha Gupta, RIS, New Delhi, 2016

RIS Diary

- Vol. 13 No. 2, April 2016
- Vol. 13 No. 3, July 2016
- Vol. 13 No. 4, October 2016
- Vol. 14 No. 1, January 2017

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

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- Chaturvedi, Sachin and Anthea Mulakala (eds.) (2016). *India's Approach to Development Cooperation*. Routledge Contemporary South Asia Series, Routledge.
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- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2016. "Health Security at Stake." *Indian Express*, August 25.
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- De, Prabir and Suthiphand Chirathivat (eds.). 2016. *Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN - India Economic Partnership*, Knowledge World, New Delhi.
- De, Prabir. 2016. "BBIN MVA: Good Beginning but Many Challenges" in Prabir De and Mustafizur Rahman (eds.)

- Regional Integration in South Asia: Essays in Honour of Dr. M. Rahmatullah. Knowledge World, New Delhi.
- De, Prabir. 2016. "Look East to Act East: Connectivity Challenges in India's North East" in Prabir De and Suthiphand Chirathivat (eds.) Celebrating the Third Decade and Beyond: New Challenges to ASEAN – India Economic Partnership. Knowledge World, New Delhi.
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DATA AND INFORMATION CENTRE

The in-house RIS Documentation Centre is an integral part of the institution and functions as one of the leading international economics/ social science research and reference libraries in the country with a rich collection of books, journals, government publications, documents of other research institutions in print or electronic form on issues such as the world economy, international trade, world trading system, international monetary and financial system, South-South economic cooperation including regional economic cooperation like SAARC, ASEAN, and IOR-ARC. The thematic areas include capital flows, FDI, technology transfers, technological capacity building, agriculture and food security, new technologies such as IT and biotechnology, environment and sustainable development. The Data and Information Centre caters to the research support to the RIS research faculty as well as to policymakers, administrators, consultants, students and others from all over the country. The RIS library is also open for school students.

The members of RIS Research faculty are also engaged in enriching the documentation centre and in making it a prominent resource centre in the chosen areas of RIS work programme. Linkages with key global institutions like FAO, ILO, OECD, UN, UNCTAD, World Bank, WTO, etc., have been evolved over the years. It includes exchange of publications and collecting annual reports of various Ministries and institutions. Documents include-Working papers, Discussion papers, Reprints, Occasional papers of National and International Organisations in print or electronic form, received either on mutual exchange basis or downloaded through Institutional Websites. The library collection is over fifteen thousand titles covering development studies, economics, demography, statistics, and other allied subjects. It subscribes to 600 journals currently. In addition, it receives about 50 journals by way of gifts or exchange. The library is maintaining an exchange programme of publications with a number of national and international organisations.

Documentation Centre/Library Collection includes

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

RIS Data Bank

The RIS Data Bank has well maintained Databases. RIS has databases on Trade including Domestic and International, Investment, Employment, Environment and Industries. Some of the databases are online databases, offline on our Server and in CD-ROMs. Keeping in view the usefulness of the databases for our projects and research purpose we update databases on regular basis.

Global Databases include:

- Trade databases, tariff and Non-tariff measures
- Balance of Payment
- Financial Statistics
- Development Statistics
- Industrial Statistics
- Intellectual Property Services, Policy, Information and Cooperation data

Indian databases include:

- Time series databases on Trade at 8-digit level
- Indian Company's database and their financial performances
- Socio-economic database
- Customs tariff database

RIS Website and Online Documentation Centre

www.ris.org.in

The RIS Website is kept updated on the real time basis in every aspect whether in technical terms or content. The Website is updated with additions in all sections like RIS publications, Events, Media Centre, Opinion, and Capacity Building Programmes. Details and resources of all publications such as research reports, policy briefs, discussion papers, conference reports, journals, newsletters and newspaper articles contributed by RIS faculty can be freely downloaded. All the relevant details and information like Agenda, Press Release, Photo gallery and other information regarding conferences/ seminars/ workshops

conducted by RIS are being updated on the website. RIS website has Opinion and Media Centre sections where Media Coverage of RIS events or RIS faculty is provided. RIS website has domain <http://www.ris.org.in> with that other RIS Initiative sub-domains have been developed and these are linked to RIS homepage. The contents from website can be shared via major popular social networks such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. Popularity of RIS website is increasing day by day which is evident from increase in number of Hits. RIS website always emerges at the top of search results powered by Google which means that the website has the best visibility. The website has language translator which makes the website content 'user friendly' all over the world. RIS Digital Diary is being created and emailed quarterly.



RIS YouTube Channel

The RIS YouTube Channel contains coverage of RIS in television and videos of major events. The Facebook page can be accessed through www.youtube.com/RISNewDelhi



facebook.



RIS Facebook and Twitter

The institute also has a Facebook page and a Twitter handle. The Facebook page can be accessed through <https://www.facebook.com/RISIndia/?fref=ts> and Twitter handle through @RIS_NewDelhi

HUMAN RESOURCE



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

Specialisation: International Economic Issues, Technology & Innovation and Development Cooperation

Faculty



Dr. S.K. Mohanty

Professor

Specialisation: Global & Regional Economic Integration and Development Economic Issues



Dr. Ram Upendra Das (on lien)

Professor

Specialisation: International Economics, Regional Integration and Development Issues



Dr. Prabir De

Professor/Coordinator, AIC

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Dr. Amit Kumar

Research Associate

Specialisation: Innovation, foresight, and S&T governance.



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Specialisation: : Technology & Development Economics and International Trade



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Specialisation: International trade



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(till 16 November 2016)



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Visiting Fellow

Specialisation: Micro-economics, International Trade and Business



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Consultant

Specialisation: International trade and finance



Prof. Sandeep Singh Parmar

Consultant

(till 20 July 2016)



Dr. Durairaj Kumarasamy

Consultant

Specialisation: International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment & Applied Econometrics



Ms. Aditi Gupta

Consultant

(till 8 August 2016)

Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

Consultant

Mr. S N Sulaiman

(till 12 January 2017)

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Mr. Pratyush



Ms. Shurti Khanna



Dr. Jyoti Jaiswal



Ms. Upasana Sikri



Ms. Prativa Shaw



Ms. Ankita Garg



Ms. Gulfishan Nizami



Ms. Deepti Bhatia



Ms. Monica Sharma



Ms. Opinder Kaur

Ms. Disha Mendiratta, *(till 14 October 2016)*

Mr. Divya Prakash *(till 21 December 2016)*

Ms. Harpreet Kaur, *(till 30 April 2016)*

Ms. Kashika Arora, *(till 15 July 2016)*

Ms. Kriti Sachdeva, *(till 9 December 2016)*

Ms. Nitya Batra, *(till 30 April 2016)*

Ms. Pallavi Manchanda *(till 31 March 2017)*

Ms. Shreya Malhotra *(till 31 May 2016)*

Ms. Pankhuri Gaur *(till 14 June 2016)*

Adjunct Senior Fellows



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RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala



Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati

Vice-Chancellor, Trans Disciplinary University, Bangalore



Prof. Mukul Asher

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



Prof. Haribabu Ejnazarzala

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



Dr. Amrita Narlikar

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



Dr. Benu Schneider

Has held important positions, UN including UNCTAD. She was also Advisor at the Reserve Bank of India.

Adjunct Fellows



Dr. Kevin P. Gallagher

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Dr. Ramkishan S. Rajan

Professor of International Economic Policy, School of Policy, Government and International Affairs (SPGIA), George Mason University (GMU)



Dr. Suma Athreye

Reader, Brunel Business School, Brunel University, Uxbridge



Dr. Srividhya Ragavan

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Mr. Mahesh C. Arora

Director (Finance and Administration)

DG Office (DGO)

Mr. Tish Kumar Malhotra, Head, DG's Office
Mr. N.N. Krishnan, PS
Mrs. Ritu Parnami, PS
Mr. Sachin Kumar, Secretarial Assistant

Research/Secretarial Support

Ms. Kiran Wagh, PA
Mr. Surender Kumar, PS
Mrs. Bindu Gambhir, Stenographer

Publications Department

Mr. Tish Kumar Malhotra, Publication Officer
Mr. Sachin Singhal, Publication Assistant (Designing & Web)
Ms. Ruchi Verma, Publication Assistant (Editorial)

Support Staff

Mr. Satyavir Singh (Sr. Staff Car Driver)
Mr. J.B. Thakuri (Staff Car Driver)
Mr. Balwan (Daftri)
Mr. Pradeep
Mr. Raju
Mr. Raj Kumar
Mr. Manish Kumar
Mr. Raj Kumar
Mr. Sudhir Rana
Mr. Birju
Mr. Pradeep Negi

Library and Documentation Centre

Mrs. Jyoti, Assistant Librarian
Mrs. Sushila, Library Assistant

Information Technology/Databases Unit

Mrs. Sushma Bhat, Dy. Director (Data Management)
Mr. Chander Shekhar Puri, Dy. Director (Systems)
Mrs. Poonam Malhotra, Computer Assistant
Mr. Satya Pal Singh Rawat
Mrs. Geetika Sharma, Data Entry Operator
Mr. Rahul Bharti, Web Designer

Finance & Administration

Mr. V. Krishnamani, Dy. Director (Finance & Accounts)
Mr. D.P. Kala, Dy. Director (Administration & Establishment)
Mrs. Sheela Malhotra, Section Officer (Accounts)
Mr. Harkesh, Section Officer
Mrs. Anu Bisht, Assistant
Mr. Surjeet, Accountant
Mr. Anil Gupta, Assistant
Mr. Piyush Verma, LDC
Mrs. Shalini Sharma, LDC/Receptionist

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



SINGH KRISHNA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

8, Second Floor, Krishna Market, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110 019

Tel./ fax: 40590344, e-mail: skacamail@gmail.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the General Body of

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2017, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility 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, financial performance and receipt and payment of the Society 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.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal financial control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal financial control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditors' Report and Opinion

We report that:

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

- (iv) in our opinion, the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account dealt with by this report comply with the applicable accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India;
- (v) in our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:
 - a) in the case of the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the Society as at March 31, 2017;
 - b) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the deficit for the year ended on that date; and
 - c) in the case of the Receipt and Payment Account, of the receipts and payments for the year ended on that date.

for Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C

(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. : 077494

Place : New Delhi
Date :

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

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2017

		Amount in `	
	Sch. #	As at 31-Mar-17	As at 31-Mar-16
LIABILITIES			
Research and Development Fund	1	9,22,28,864.03	9,24,18,034.41
Fixed Assets Fund (Non - FCRA)	}	2,59,59,312.23	2,71,76,848.20
Fixed Assets Fund (FCRA)		1,66,436.00	1,95,808.00
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	}	92,07,221.96	45,10,582.97
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		83,26,956.23	31,13,547.56
Current Liabilities and Provisions (Non - FCRA)	}	3,21,73,566.77	4,08,75,987.38
Current Liabilities and Provisions (FCRA)		3,70,545.00	1,52,558.00
Total		16,84,32,902.22	16,84,43,366.52
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets (Non - FCRA)	}	2,59,59,312.23	2,71,76,848.20
Fixed Assets (FCRA)		54,60,017.00	63,00,254.00
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	}	1,61,55,234.04	2,76,80,987.92
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		2,93,548.00	19,69,918.00
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	}	4,31,18,772.15	4,11,61,692.55
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (FCRA)		7,74,46,018.80	6,41,53,665.85
Total		16,84,32,902.22	16,84,43,366.52

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

15

Schedules 1 to 15 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C

for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Sd/-
(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

Sd/-
Mahesh C. Arora
Director (Finance and Admin.)

Sd/-
Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26/10/2017

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, 2017

		Amount in `	
	Sch. #	Year Ended 31-Mar-17	Year Ended 31-Mar-16
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	4(a)	6,76,73,303.00	5,27,15,708.00
Sponsored Projects Grant transferred to meet Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	4,91,76,714.50	6,16,25,820.29
Surplus amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		5,95,109.01	14,83,999.07
Income from Royalty, Publications, etc. (Non - FCRA)		98,844.00	97,413.00
Interest Earned :			
On Term Deposits (FCRA)		49,77,652.00	53,86,779.37
On Term Deposits (Non - FCRA)		16,58,616.00	23,55,234.60
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (FCRA)		3,36,644.00	1,22,731.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (Non - FCRA)		2,87,373.00	7,22,938.00
On Loan to Employees (Non - FCRA)		17,359.00	19,943.00
On Income Tax Refund (Non - FCRA)		27,901.00	-
Other Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA)		36,113.00	2,999.92
Recoveries for Overheads from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		23,86,569.00	18,42,243.45
Prior Period Income		2,21,214.00	1,38,090.00
Amount transferred from Fixed Assets Fund - W.D.V. of Assets Sold/ Written-off (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	2	4,176.00	59,805.00
Amount transferred from Fixed Assets Fund - Dep. on Fixed Assets Acquired out of Grant-in-Aid from the GOI/ Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		25,69,428.97	25,78,323.80
Deficit transferred to Research and Development Fund		1,89,170.38	2,25,499.29
Total		13,02,56,186.86	12,93,77,527.79
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	7	4,91,76,714.50	6,16,25,820.29
Establishment Expenses (Non - FCRA)	8	4,66,79,159.00	4,25,37,858.00
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA)	9	2,83,00,672.79	2,16,62,160.76
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (FCRA)	10	1,70,733.39	898.94
Depreciation on Fixed Assets (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	5	33,80,293.97	35,18,582.80
Deficit amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	25,29,539.21	10,371.00
Prior Period Expenses		19,074.00	21,836.00
Total		13,02,56,186.86	12,93,77,527.79

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

15

Schedules 1 to 15 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C

for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Sd/-
(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

Sd/-
Mahesh C. Arora
Director (Finance and Admin.)

Sd/-
Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26/10/2017

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

Receipt and Payment Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2017

Amount in `											
	Receipts	Year Ended 31-Mar-17		Year Ended 31-Mar-16			Payments	Year Ended 31-Mar-17		Year Ended 31-Mar-16	
A	Opening Balances					A	Expenditures (Non - FCRA)				
i)	Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	19,891.00		30,987.00		i)	Establishment Expenses (Schedule - 11)	4,61,04,957.00		4,12,25,641.00	
ii)	Bank Balances :					ii)	Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Schedule - 12)	2,93,80,453.50		2,09,48,767.38	
	In Savings Account -Andhra Bank	1,01,741.00		87,412.00		iii)	Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Schedule - 14)	4,65,16,738.14		4,68,02,712.47	
	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	52,71,972.20		2,41,03,735.28		iv)	Prior Period Expenses	19,074.00		21,836.00	
	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	8,21,227.82		28,29,948.96			Total A		12,20,21,222.64		10,89,98,956.85
	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	5,96,42,628.55		5,44,75,828.13		B	Expenditures (FCRA)				
	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	3,18,46,957.59		3,00,47,127.45		i)	Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Schedule - 13)	1,70,733.39		898.94	
iii)	Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non - FCRA)	99,432.00		1,56,248.00		ii)	Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Schedule - 14)	85,30,542.36		90,00,881.37	
	Total A		9,78,03,850.16		11,17,31,286.82		Total B		87,01,275.75		90,01,780.31
B	Grants Received					C	Payment for Fixed Assets				
i)	From the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	6,90,00,000.00		5,85,00,000.00		i)	Payment for Fixed Assets (Non - FCRA)	13,66,838.00		67,45,953.00	
ii)	From various Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	5,38,34,438.14		3,40,09,427.97			Total C		13,66,838.00		67,45,953.00
iii)	From various Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	1,65,20,017.70		39,26,539.00		D	Advances and Deposits				
	Total B		13,93,54,455.84		9,64,35,966.97	i)	Advances (Non - FCRA)	6,32,189.00		1,55,179.00	
C	Interest Received					ii)	Advances (FCRA)	1,09,388.00		2,157.00	
i)	Interest on Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	44,852.00		19,943.00		iii)	TDS Receivable (Non - FCRA)	1,77,768.00		4,01,079.00	
ii)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (FCRA)	3,36,644.00		1,37,810.00		iv)	Stale Cheques (Non - FCRA)	2,815.00		-	
iii)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (Non - FCRA)	6,12,717.76		64,69,662.02			Total D		9,22,160.00		5,58,415.00
iv)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (FCRA)	44,57,330.48		71,83,438.59		E	Others				
v)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (Non - FCRA)	2,82,741.00		7,19,039.00		i)	Grants Refunded (Non - FCRA)	-		5,20,641.00	
vi)	Interest on Savings Bank Account - Andhra Bank (Non - FCRA)	4,632.00		3,899.00		ii)	Service Tax Paid	13,60,898.00		15,43,443.00	
	Total C		57,38,917.24		1,45,33,791.61	iii)	Amount paid to RIS Provident Fund	2,73,240.00		-	
	Total Carried Forward		24,28,97,223.24		22,27,01,045.40		Total E		16,34,138.00		20,64,084.00
							Total Carried Forward	13,46,45,634.39		12,73,69,189.16	

	Receipts	Year Ended 31-Mar-17		Year Ended 31-Mar-16			Payments	Year Ended 31-Mar-17		Year Ended 31-Mar-16	
	Total Brought Forward		24,28,97,223.24		22,27,01,045.40		Total Brought Forward		13,46,45,634.39		12,73,69,189.16
D Other Income						F Closing Balances					
i) Publication Sales (Non - FCRA)	11,120.00			8,500.00		i) Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	33,130.00			19,891.00	
ii) Royalty (Non - FCRA)	80,207.00			1,08,395.00		ii) Bank Balances :					
iii) Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA)	33,837.00			2,999.92		In Savings Account - Andhra Bank (Non - FCRA)	1,38,437.00			1,01,741.00	
iv) Prior Period Income	2,48,174.00			-		In Savings Account / Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	43,71,201.80			52,71,972.20	
Total D			3,73,338.00		1,19,894.92	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	90,26,540.77			8,21,227.82	
E Advances and Deposits						In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	6,40,99,959.03			5,96,42,628.55	
i) Recovery of Loan/ Advances (Non - FCRA)	76,288.00			2,26,746.00		In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	3,20,73,086.35			3,18,46,957.59	
ii) Advances Recovered from Staff (Non - FCRA)	1,18,144.00			2,82,715.00		iii) Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non - FCRA)	2,00,811.00			99,432.00	
iii) Stale Cheques (Non - FCRA)	-			24,355.00		Total F			10,99,43,165.95		9,78,03,850.16
iv) Amount received in Advance (Non - FCRA)	86,737.10			2,73,240.00							
Total E			2,81,169.10		8,07,056.00						
F Others											
i) Sale of Fixed Assets	500.00			1,600.00							
ii) Service Tax Received	7,08,341.00			15,43,443.00							
iii) Income Tax Refund	3,28,229.00			-							
Total F			10,37,070.00		15,45,043.00						
Total			24,45,88,800.34		22,51,73,039.32	Total			24,45,88,800.34		22,51,73,039.32

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts (Schedule -15)

Schedules 1 to 15 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

for Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C

Sd/-
(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26/10/2017

for Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Sd/-
Mahesh C. Arora
Director (Finance and Admin.)

Sd/-
Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

RIS A Think-Tank of Developing Countries

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

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

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



RIS

**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries**

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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