



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit: Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized the first ever ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on 11-12 December 2017 at New Delhi. AICS was organized to commemorate the 25 years of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership. The objective of AICS was to discuss and identify potential of collaboration across the various modes of connectivity with a special thrust on digital connectivity. Ms. Shobana Kamineni, President, CII gave the Welcome Address and Moderated the Inaugural Session. Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh

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From (L-R): Ms Anita Prakash, Director General, Policy Department, ERIA; Mr Rajat Nag, Distinguished Fellow, NCAER; Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director, National Maritime Foundation; Mr M J Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; Mr Ryoji Furui, Industrial Researcher, JETRO India and Representative of Ministry of Economy, International Trade and Industry of Japan in India; Mr Ronald Butiong, Director, South Asia, Asian Development Bank, Philippines and Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS at the Special Plenary session on Connectivity: Mega Corridors-India's Initiatives

Development of North- East India and India's Act East Policy

RIS, Ministry of External Affairs, FIDC, FICCI and Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN) Society, Guwahati, jointly organized a Regional Consultation on 24-25 October 2017 in Guwahati, Assam. The programme began with the introductory addresses of Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Dr Amiya Sharma, Executive Director, RGVN Society, Guwahati. Mr Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER delivered the keynote address. Mr Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA, made special remarks.



Mr Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA, addressing the participants.

Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

The consultation had following six sessions: the Technical Session I:

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Commonwealth Summit 2018: Evolving Development Strategies

Commonwealth Summit 2018 was organized jointly by RIS and FIDC on 28 December 2017 at New Delhi. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, chaired the inaugural session and Mr Rudrendra Tandon, Joint Secretary (UNP), Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the inaugural address. Mr St. John Gould, Director, UK Trade and Economics, India, British High Commission, delivered the special address.

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Mr Rudrendra Tandon, Joint Secretary (UNP), Ministry of External Affairs, delivering the Inaugural Address.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture

RIS, TERI, CSE, IHC, CEFIPRA, Vigyan Prasar, Indian Academy of Sciences and Springer Nature organized the Fourth Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture on 'Reversing Climate Change with Molten Salt Technologies,' on 21 December 2017 at New Delhi. Prof. Frank Shu, Renowned Astrophysicist and Academy-Springer Nature, Chair Professor addressed the audience on the said topic. Dr Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), chaired the Forum and suggested valuable pointers.

The Programme was initiated by introductory remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr Shirish Garud, Senior Fellow & Director, TERI made special remarks.

Prof. Shu in his lecture talked about the potential applications of molten-salt technologies, and how India, having huge thorium reserves can harness them to



Dr Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) (third from left) speaking at the lecture programme.

generate energy with lower carbon emissions. He also mentioned an interesting observation regarding the potential application of molten-salt technology to solve crop-residue burning problem in the NCR region and to increase crop productivity.

Dr Jairam Ramesh urged the representatives of the Indian

National Academy of Sciences and Department of Science and Technology (DST) to explore the merits of such an application.

Dr Mukesh Kumar, Director, Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, New Delhi, extended the vote of thanks. (This lecture was also webcast live.)

Workshop on “Development Finance in South Asia and Emerging Development Experiences.”

RIS organized a Workshop on Development Finance in South Asia and Emerging Development Experiences: Way Forward for South-South Cooperation at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on 17-18 December 2017. The first session on South Asian Experience in Development Finance began with remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh; Professor Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Professor Mukul Asher, Professorial Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and Ambassador Lyonpo Dago Tshering, former Ambassador of Bhutan to India, touched upon various issues pertaining to development finance. Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

The session on Country Specific Presentations was chaired by Professor Mukul Asher, Mr Nazir Kabiri, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Finance, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Dr Mustafa K Mujeri, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM), Dhaka, Bangladesh (Presentation by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, RIS); Mr Ibrahim Ameer, former Economist, Maldives Central Bank, Maldives; Dr Ravindra Pandey, Member, Board of Directors, Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research, Nepal; Mr Kithmina Hewage, Research Officer and Ms Harini Weerasekera, Research Assistant, Institute of



Participants at the workshop on Development Finance in South Asia and Emerging Development Experiences: Way Forward for South-South Cooperation.

Policy Studies, Sri Lanka – (by Skype) were the main speakers. Dr Abraham George, Director and Professor, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance, was the lead discussant at the session.

H.E. Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Ambassador of Nepal, Sri Lanka, chaired the third session on Way Forward. Professor Saikat Sinha Roy, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University; Professor Mukul Asher, Professorial Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Mr Nazir Kabiri, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Finance, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, were the key speakers.

As part of this programme, the “Roundtable on Emerging Development Experiences: Way Forward for South-South Cooperation” was jointly organised by RIS and FIDC. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, moderated the discussion. Professor Mukul

Asher; Professor E. Haribabu, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Sociology, University of Hyderabad; Professor A. Damodaran, Chair Professor IPR Chair on IP Management (MHRD), Economics and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru; Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, former Vice-Chancellor, Trans Disciplinary University, Bengaluru; Mr Uttamsingh Goodur, Second Secretary, Regional Integration and International Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mauritius; Ms Gulnaz Atabaeva, Ala-Too International University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Ms Camila Jardim, International Relations Institute of Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Brazil; Mr Martins Silva, Articulação Sul – South-South Cooperation Research and Policy Centre, Brazil and Mr Siyasanga Dingela, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa, were the distinguished participants.

The Fourth INDIALICS Conference and Training Workshop 2017

The Centre for Studies in Science Policy, JNU; RIS; and CSIR-NISTADS, organised jointly the Fourth INDIALICS Conference and Training Workshop 2017 entitled 'Innovation for Sustainable Development: Perspectives, Policies and Practices in South Asia' from 2 to 4 November 2017 in New Delhi.

The programme began with the address of Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar, VC, JNU. At the Inaugural Session, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, initiated the discussion through special remarks, and he also chaired the Session on Responsible Research and Innovation. Prof. Mammo Muchie, Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa, delivered the inaugural address.

This Conference explored nature, determinants and direction of innovations and new way outs for meeting future challenges for sustainable development in terms of South Asian perspectives. The conference deliberations were basically on challenges and opportunities in fostering



Participants at a session of the conference.

innovation for socio-economic development and sustainability, and its sub-themes were – Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture; Global Value Chains and Innovation Systems; Sanitation and Waste Management; Climate Change, Adaption; Mitigation, and Resilience; Gender, Technology and Innovation; Innovation in the Informal Economy; Indicators for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), R&D and Technology Transfer; University-Industry Linkages; Innovation in Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals;

IPR, Standards and Regulations in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Foresights and Futures for Technology; and Responsible Innovation. More than 100 speakers from across the South-Asian countries actively participated in the conference.

An exclusive session to honour and facilitate Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi for his outstanding contributions in making and shaping of India's S&T policy was also organized during the Conference. The detailed programme is available on the RIS website.

Lecture on 'Solar Energy Sector in India'

RIS organized a special lecture on Solar Energy Sector in India by Dr B Prasad Saklani, Professor, Deptt of Energy and Environment, TERI University, New Delhi, on 22 December 2017. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS initiated the introductory discussions for tone setting of the topic, Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired the session.

The lecture touched various pertinent issues regarding solar energy production and trade, and debate concentrated on specific



Participants at the lecture programme.

issues on development and commercialization of technology

and upstream solar manufacturing facilities, followed by interactions with the participants.

ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit...

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(Retd), Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India delivered the Special Address. Special Address was also given by H.E. Phan Tam, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Information and Communications of Vietnam, Government of Vietnam. Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address.

This Two-Day Summit was consisting of one inaugural session, followed by one special plenary, six plenary and four parallel sessions. The event was attended by government officials, policy-makers, investors, business leaders, trade bodies and associations and entrepreneurs of ASEAN countries and India. Several senior ministers of India and ASEAN countries addressed to the AICS apart from inaugural sessions are Shri M.J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Lim Cheen, Director, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta; Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Minister



From (L-R): Mr Pankaj Tandon, Vice President, T&D-SAARC, KEC International; Mr Prashant Agarwal, JS (DPA - I), Ministry of External Affairs, GOI; Mr S Selvakumar JS (ABC), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance; Mr Nadeem Panjetan, CGM - LoC Group, EXIM Bank and Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS at Plenary Session on Building Connectivity: Line of Credit.

of State for Communication (Independent Charge), Government of India and Shri P.D. Rai, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) including Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, India.

This Summit reflects India's strong commitment to work together with all the stakeholders to enhance connectivity in India, with ASEAN and with other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. India's connectivity initiatives spanning across physical and digital projects are tailored to complement the

strategic areas of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 especially sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired the plenary session titled Building Connectivity: Line of Credit, highlighted information on various ongoing and proposed projects of connectivity under India's Line of Credit and reiterated fact that promoting physical and digital linkage between India and ASEAN will help bring huge development in the region.

Panel Discussion on "Approaches to Development Cooperation: Scope for New Partnerships"

RIS, NeST and FIDC organised a Panel Discussion on 13 November 2017 in New Delhi as part of ITEC Programme on 'Learning South-South Cooperation' held at RIS. The programme began with an introductory remarks

from Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and it was chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Mr. Gaddam Dharmendra, Joint Secretary (PP&R), MEA; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator

and UNDP Representative in India; Mr. Gavin McGillivray, Head, DFID India, British High Commission; and Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Sr Editor, the Times of India Group, were the distinguished panelists.

Interactive Session on “Indian Economy: Growth Prospects”

At the first RIS Policy Spotlight session, Group Chief Economic Advisor of the State Bank of India, Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh delivered a talk on “The Big Picture” on the Indian economy on 6 October, 2017 at New Delhi. He pointed out that India’s traditional direction of trade are in structural transformation mode. Thus Indian trade will have to search new markets in African nations that are witnessing a demographic dividend. But this is complicated because the internal

structural adjustment in India has not delivered the required export competitiveness or furthered Make in India. An additional line of worry is the emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence that will impact India’s services export.

The key advantages for India is the measurable reduction in corruption. As per OECD rankings between 2011 and 2016, India along with the UK, Portugal and Italy have succeeded both in reducing

their corruption level along with a positive GDP growth. Several countries where corruption as measured by Transparency International has risen, the rate of growth of GDP has declined. It shows the benefits of anti-corruption measures. Connecting it with other structural reforms like GST, Dr Ghosh noted that these measures increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy, to create long-term fiscal sustainability for the economy.

Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership

To commemorate 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership, the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC), Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc., Philippines; Insperon, Philippines; New Era University, Philippines; and Embassy of India in Philippines organised the first ever ASEAN-India Forum titled “Philippines and India: Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership” at Manila on 21 November 2017.

Mr. James Manzanero, COO, Eagle Broadcasting Corporation gave the Welcome Remarks, Hon. Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs, The Philippines made a Special Address, H.E. Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar, Ambassador of India to the Philippines delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. Carlos C. Tabunda, Director, ASEAN Studies Centre, New Era University (NEU) extended the Vote of Thanks.



Participants at the first ASEAN-India Forum.

The Forum was divided into four sessions to identify the challenges and way forward in strengthening India and Philippines relationship through exploring the Philippine’s perspective on economic cooperation, political convergence and strategic partnerships and how India’s Act East Policy have gained the momentum; to explore the trade and connectivity aspects

of ASEAN-India relations with particular focus on the Philippines; to endorse people-to-people links and cultural relations and a session on discussing the challenges to India-Philippines relations and highlight the way forward. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS and Dr. Carlos Tabunda Jr., Director, ASEAN Studies Center, NEU extended the Vote of Thanks.

Tenth South Asia Economic Summit

The South-Asia Economic Summit (SAES) has been a prominent regional platform in South Asia for the past 10 years. As a joint initiative of five leading think-tanks in the region including the RIS, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sustainable Development Policy (SDPI) Institute, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), The SAES has broadly covered dialogue and debate on various issues relating to the nature, scope and pace of regional integration and cooperation in South Asia and the contemporary development issues-social and economic faced by the South Asian countries. In the past editions, besides discussing on the progress registered in different sectors of cooperation, SAES has accommodated the new and emerging challenges such as the downside risks arising from Global Economic Recession 2008-09, implications of Brexit and setbacks to regional integration initiatives, effects of climate change, innovations in data measurement and statistical analyses, and so on. The previous summits of SAES has attracted leading thinkers, policy makers and experts from think-tanks, academia, governments, civil society and private sector who have contributed as chairs, moderators, speakers and discussants. Each edition of the SAES has made significant value addition to the evolving discourse on South Asian integration agenda and fostered South Asian identity through focus on greater people-to-people interactions.

The Tenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES X) was held in Kathmandu from 14 to 16 November 2017, under the central theme of



The Tenth South Asia Economic Summit in progress.

“Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia”. In deliberations spanning over four plenary sessions and 14 parallel sessions, speakers and discussants had intense deliberations on the strength of the existing regional integration initiatives of SAARC and sub-regional initiatives like BBIN, and articulated the elements of a vision for shared prosperity and the roadmap for realizing that vision. In addition to broader regional cooperation issues, in the final plenary, rich tributes were paid to the late Dr Saman Kelegama – an eminent figure in the research and policy communities in the South Asia, who worked tirelessly for regional integration of the South Asia. The Summit proved to be an interactive platform for comprehensive and constructive discussion on the future of the SAARC, in general, and on economic integration including trade, investments, trade facilitation, and energy cooperation, SDGs among others, in particular.

RIS was one of the key partners in organising SAES X, along with the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal;

and SAWTEE, Kathmandu. Besides providing intellectual inputs and coordination support, a four-member faculty team participated actively in different sessions of the Summit. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS made a presentation on SDGs and Inclusive growth in South Asia and Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC at RIS spoke on Trade Facilitation, Transit and Connectivity issues. Further, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Research Associate, RIS joined as a panelist in the session on Trade Facilitation, Transit and Connectivity. Mr. Vaibhav Kaushik of RIS also attended the SAES.

During the deliberations, the distinguished participants emphasized that the rationale for regional cooperation should be in line with the changing nature of production and trade worldwide and new challenges such as climate change. Participants highlighted the need for invigorating the regional body by reforming its architecture, modalities for decision-making, strengthening its secretariat and drawing on lessons from more successful regional integration projects elsewhere. It

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Kolkata Roundtable “ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25”

To commemorate the 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership and 50 years of ASEAN, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in partner with the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS) of Calcutta University and Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD) organised a roundtable on “ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25” at Calcutta University, Alipore Campus, Kolkata on 22 December 2017. Welcome Address was given by Prof. Shantanu Chakraborty, IFPS, Calcutta University. Opening Speech was given by Prof. Hari Vasudevan. Ambassador Sarbajit Chakravarti delivered the Special Address. Panelists in this roundtable were:



Participants at the Kolkata Round table on ASEAN@50 and ASEAN-India@25

Mr Ambarish Dasgupta, Founder Director of Intueri Consulting, Lt Gen John Mukherjee; Dr. Ishani Naskar, Professor, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata; Maj. Gen Arun

Roye, CNRES-K, Kolkata; and Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC. Dr Binoda Mishra delivered the Vote of Thanks and summarised the roundtable.

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Synergy between North-East and Act-East Policies – the Rationale; Technical Session II: Border Trade: Current Status and Future Prospects; Technical Session III: Developing Regional Value Chains; Technical Session IV: Natural Resources, Water and Energy; Technical Session V: Education, Health and Tourism; and Technical Session VI: Connectivity and Physical Infrastructure.

During the consultation all the distinguished participants were of the opinion that there should be emphasis on strengthening services in health-care and education sector in the North-East Region (NER) as well as in neighbouring countries. Further, a study can be conducted to find total outflow of human resource from the North-Eastern (NE) to other countries for pursuing higher studies in medicine as well as for medical treatment. It can be supplemented by identifying

scope of improvement on the supply-side gaps that persist in the NE states. The focus can shift to improve physical and virtual connectivity in villages. Consultation or a policy brief document on pattern of trade from NE states to neighbouring countries in terms of goods and services should be brought out for the development of NE states. A study to identify reasons behind the export of raw materials from NE states to neighbouring countries while importing finished products can be initiated.

A proposal to the Ministry of AYUSH for conducting a survey should be submitted to find out how NE can strengthen its traditional medicine. A preliminary documentation on statistical data on areas such as logistics cost, district-level human development indicators and trade facilitation of the NE states among others should be volunteered. For growth at all levels in the North East, issues related to broader

economic development should be identified and possible measures should be implemented for addressing them.

At the valedictory session, Prof. Braj Behari Kumar, Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) delivered valedictory address. Dr Kh. Palin, Founder and Head, Shijah Hospitals, Imphal, welcomed all at the valedictory session. Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS, presented the conference report which was followed by special remarks by Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS, and Strategic and Foreign Policy Analyst and Journalist. The concluding remarks were given by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and vote of thanks was extended by Ms Dhriti Gogoi, RGVN Society.

Breakfast Seminar on “Participation of IBSA Countries in Global Production Networks”

A Breakfast Seminar at RIS by Ms Garima Dhir, IBSA Fellow, RIS, was organized on 5 December 2017. Dr Ashwani Gupta, Scientist 'G', Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, chaired the Seminar.

The presentation analyzed the trends, patterns and potential of IBSA countries' participation in global production networks. This was done by examining their exports of network products, a sub category within manufacturing where global production networks are heavily prominent.

It also provided a broad overview of economic conditions and nature of industrialization for the three IBSA countries,

respectively. The analysis showed and that the three economies stand at different junctions in terms of the development of their industrial sector and each of them face diverse economic conditions. However, despite these variations, all three nations aspire to boost the production and trade of their manufacturing sector. The one way to do so is to participate more rigorously in production networks.

Keeping this in mind, Ms Dhir provided an analysis on participation of IBSA countries in global production networks. It was also pointed out that participation of all three IBSA countries in production networks has been below par. For example, share of network exports in total exports

of Brazil was merely 6 per cent in 2015, this share was 9 per cent for India and 16 per cent for South Africa. In contrast, share of network products in total exports of China and Vietnam was 41 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively. In relative terms, though the IBSA group is 0.6 times the size of China (in terms of GDP), its exports of network products are only 0.06 times that of Chinese exports of network products. Further despite this, there exists great potential for these countries to integrate with the world production networks. However, for this to happen, IBSA countries will need to rigorously work on reducing trade and transaction costs and overcome their infrastructure bottlenecks.

Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health

RIS was a co-sponsor of the First World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development held in Delhi from 21 to 23 November 2017 organised by the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Health Organization. RIS prepared a Position Paper on Access to Medical Products and Health in the context of the SDGs and also the brochure on SDGs for the Conference.

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was noted that while countries are turning to sub-regional and trans-regional initiatives, there are ample opportunities to leverage them to foster regional integration in its entirety. In the

context of intra-regional flow of investments, it was noted that there exists enormous opportunities for integration, both horizontally as well as vertically, which, however, require complementary policies in addressing policy constraints. Discussions were also held on the

SDGs, governance of intellectual property rights in the area of plant and genetic resources from the perspective of protection of farmers' rights, strengthening rural economies through innovations, and small and medium enterprises.

Capacity Building Programme

Learning South-South Cooperation



Participants of the ITEC programme on Learning South-South Cooperation with RIS faculty members.

A capacity-building programme on Learning South-South Cooperation was conducted under the ITEC / SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from 13 to 24 November 2017 at RIS, New Delhi, in which more than 29 participants from 22 different southern countries took part. This programme exposed incumbent to some important examples in the Development Cooperation besides covering modules on Development Cooperation; Theoretical Backgrounders; Development Compact: The Modalities; Different Actors in SSC; India's Role in SSC: A Sectoral Perspective and

Global Opportunities for SSC and Challenges in Assessing SSC.

Participants included diverse groups with multiple areas of expertise in academics, diplomacy among others coming from different countries and regions of the world. Both in-house and external experts spoke on wide ranging areas such as theoretical framework and experiences on capacity building, trade and investment issues, development finance and technology transfer from the perspective of developing countries. Sectoral facets were also presented on key sectors of health and education, agriculture,

energy, role of private sector and CSOs in addition to Indian culture, history and philosophy and India's contribution to International Peacekeeping. A trip to Barefoot College in Tilonia and Parliament of India was also organized for the participants as a part of their educational trip wherein the participants interacted with the 'Solar Mamas' comprising of different nationalities were undergoing training at the centre. They also revealed their own country's initiatives and experiences in development cooperation during the programme.

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The first session on Trade, Investment and Technology focussed on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was chaired by Shri S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS. Lead presentations were by: Ambassador Virendra Gupta, New Delhi; Dr S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS; Professor Aradhna Aggarwal, Indian Studies, Deptt of International Economics and Management, Copenhagen Business School; Ms Sakshi Uniyal, Flame University, Pune (representing Dr R.G. Nambiar,

Professor of Economics, Flame University of Pune); Mr Arvind Gupta, Digital India Foundation; Mr Paras Tandon, Independent Analyst. Ms Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, IDSA and Professor Shahid Ahmed, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, were co-panelists.

The second session on SDGs, Women and Civil Society, was chaired by Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Professor, School of International Studies, JNU; Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, former Vice-Chancellor, Trans

Disciplinary University and Mr Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay, Director, Participatory Research in Asia were main speakers. Mr Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, National Foundation for India; Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, JNU were co-panelists.

Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, also chaired the closing session. Mr Jaydeep Biswas, Acting Head, DFID India, and Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS addressed the audience in this concluding session, and this was followed by active interactions from the participants.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Participated in the Expert Group Meeting on 'Regional Development-North East' for preparation of Development Agenda for New India@75, organised by NITI Aayog on 5 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the High Level Consultations with Think Tanks, organised by NITI Aayog on the theme of 'Preparing recommendations for transforming India by 2022' on 6 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Addressed the student community on the theme of 'Emerging Paradigm on Science and Society' at the Manipal Conclave 2017, organised by Manipal Institute of Technology on 7 October 2017 at Manipal.
- Chaired the Third Meeting of LPAC for the DST sponsored study on "Emerging and Contemporary R&D and Innovation indicators in National S&T System and Policy Implications" held at IIFT, New Delhi on 10 October 2017.
- Panelist in the Discussion Meeting on 'North East: Gateway of South East Asia' on Transforming North East India organised jointly by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Himalayan University, Arunachal Pradesh on 14 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Towards Sustainable Development of India' at the Roundtable Discussion on 'Milestones in Governance and National Security 2014-2017' organised jointly by Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and Dr. Shyam Prasad Mukherjee Research Foundation on 16 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Panelist in the session on 'Creating Brand Ayurveda' at the industry conclave organised jointly by Ministry of AYUSH & CII on the theme 'Vision 2022: Widening Horizon of Ayurveda for Three-fold Growth of Market Size', on 16 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on 'The Future of BRICS: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead' organised by ORF on 26 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the Meeting of the Taskforce on Implementation of SDGs organised by NITI Aayog on 27 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Incentive and Policies for Innovations' at the Policy Dialogue on Incentives and Strategies for Scaling out Innovations for Smallholder Farmers, organised jointly by Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on 30 October 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the First Meeting of CII Africa Committee 2017-18 organised by CII on 1 November 2017 at New Delhi.
- Delivered special remarks on 'Innovation and Multidisciplinary Policy Making' at the discussion meeting on 'Intellectual Property Rights and India's Innovation Landscape' organised jointly by Carnegie India, India Development Foundation (IDF) and Center for Intellectual Property (CIP) on 2 November 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the First Meeting of National Panel for the formulation of the Technology-led Innovation Policy organised by National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) on 3 November 2017 at Bangalore.
- Made a presentation on 'Expanding Frontiers of India-Myanmar Trade and other Economic Linkages: Trends, Issues and Way Forward' at the International Conference on Looking Forward: India Myanmar Relations organised jointly by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, India (ISCS) and Myanmar Institute of Strategic & International Studies (MISIS) on 11 November 2017 at Yangon.
- Addressed the students on 'Indian Approaches towards Universal Education and Learning from Experience from Other Countries' at the Workshop on TaRL (Teaching at Right Level), a Pratham remedial programme, organised by ASER Centre on 17 November 2017 at Aurangabad.
- Discussant in the session on 'Rising powers and the United Nations: The case for global justice and social cohesion' at the MGG Alumni & Partner Conference 2017 - Global Justice and social cohesion: Key challenges of the 2030 Agenda, organised jointly by DIE, GDI and MGG on 20 November 2017 at Bonn.
- Panelist in the session on 'Improving long-term impact and continuity of the T20' at the Workshop on T20 process and the role of think tank networks organised by GDI on 20 November 2017 at Bonn.
- Panelist in the session on 'T20 and T20Africa in 2017: Achievements and way forward' at the MGG Alumni & Partner Conference 2017 - Global Justice and social cohesion: Key challenges of the 2030 Agenda, organised jointly by DIE, GDI and MGG on 22 November 2017 at Bonn.
- Chaired the sessions on 'WTO Trade Agreements influencing Health Products- ContextSDGs' and the 'Wrap-up session' at

the 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health, in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development organised jointly by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, WHO Country Office for India and Indian Society of International Law on 23 November 2017 at New Delhi.

- Made a presentation on 'Moving for SDGs: Inclusive Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange: Exploring Strength of Cooperation across Modalities', at the Informal Exchange on Towards a shared understanding of effective development co-operation: learning from different actors and approaches organised by OECD on 24 November 2017 at Paris.
- Participated in the Meeting for Exchange of Views in Achieving SDG 2 organised by NITI Aayog on 1 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Panellist in the Session on 'Building a Brand Strategy: Healing Power of AYUSH for the World' at the 1st edition of International Arogya 2017 - International Exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness organised jointly by the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Pharmexcil on 5 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Panellist in the session on 'Structural Inequalities in South Asia: Issues, Challenges and Policy Solutions' at the Twentieth Sustainable Development Conference on 'Seventy Years of Development: The Way Forward', organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), 5 December 2017 at Islamabad (by skype).

- Moderated the Session on 'Building Connectivity: Line of Credit' of the ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit 2017: Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century organised by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 12 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on JICA Country Analysis paper 2017 organised jointly by NCAER and JICA on 13 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Transnational Interplay of Economics and Trade' at the conference on Regionalism and Globalisation: Complementarities and Contestations organised by Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, 14 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the Second meeting of the National Panel for the formulation of the Technology-led Innovation Policy organised jointly by National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore on 20 December 2017 at New Delhi.
- Delivered Keynote Address on 'Future of Multilateral Trade Agreements' at the Centenary Annual Conference-2017, organised by the Indian Economic Association, 27 December 2017 at Jodhpur (in absentia).

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to participate and make presentation on 'Economic Aspects of Fishery: A Framework for Regional Cooperation in IORA' in the 17th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), the 23rd

meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) and the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), organized by the Incoming Chair (South Africa), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Durban, South Africa, 14-18 October 2017.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on the report on 'India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)', organised by the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 3 November 2017.
- Participated in the Familiarization programme for 21 Journalists/Media Personnel from IORA Member States to India from 12-17 November 2017 organized by FICCI, New Delhi on 14 November 2017.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on 3rd Australia-India-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO), organized by ICWA, New Delhi on 16 November 2017.
- Made a presentation on 'Fisheries Management in Indian Ocean: Building Deeper and Closer Cooperation' 3rd Australia-India-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO) organized by ICWA, New Delhi on 21 November 2017.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on India's Priorities for 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO organized by the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 22 November 2017.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Engagement with LAC Countries in Trade and Investment' at the Discussion Meeting organised by the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 24 November 2017.
- Made a presentation on 'Emerging Economic Relationship between India

and EAEU: Implication of CSO Integration with the Eurasia', in the session Eurasia and India: Opportunities and Challenges (with India's membership at the EAEU and SCO) at the Second Meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks (HoTT) 2017 of India and Russia organized by ICWA, New Delhi on 5 December 2017.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Negotiations under the Proposed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA) with Sri Lanka, organised by Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 8 December 2017.
- Participated as a Special Invitee in the Discussion meeting on Foreign Trade and Investment Committee of PHD Chamber organised by PHD Chamber, New Delhi on 16 December 2017.
- Participated in the Review Meeting on the report India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), held in the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 26 December 2017.

Prof. T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Member of IPR Chair Review Committee set up by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The Committee submitted its final report to the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion on 13 October 2017.
- Conducted training class in IPRs for officials of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion on 27 October 2017.
- Keynote speaker on Start-ups, Innovation and Intellectual Property at the National Conference on Intellectual

Property Rights organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce held at New Delhi on 24 November 2017.

- Delivered talks on Public Interest vs Private Rights and Jurisprudential Developments on Protection of Geographical Indications, Trade Secret and Traditional Knowledge at the Orientation Programme for Delhi Judicial Officers at the Delhi Judicial Academy on 25 November 2017.
- Delivered a talk on Intellectual Property Rights: Indian Landscape, Challenges, and Opportunities in the workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research (WSTIPR), organized by the Department of Science and Technology Centre for Policy Research, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on 13th December 2017.
- Participated as an expert in High Level Consultation on Protection of Marayoor Jaggery as a geographical indication organised by Kerala Agricultural Department at Mannuthi, Thrissur on 27 December 2017.

Dr. Priyadarshi Dash

Research Associate

- Made presentation on "Trade and Investment in Indian Ocean Region: Lessons on Blue Economy from IORA" in the SAGAR Discourse 1.0 on Maritime Security held in Goa, India by FINS Mumbai on October 12-14, 2017.
- Made remarks on fisheries subsidies at the Round Table Conference on "Emerging Issues in WTO" organized by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch on Nov 9, 2017.

- Made remarks as a panelist in the session on Trade Facilitation and Connectivity in the Tenth South Asia Economic Summit held in Kathmandu during November 14-16, 2017.
- Made presentation on "Developing and Strengthening Blue Economy: India and the Region" in the ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy held in Nha Trang, Vietnam on November 24-25, 2017.
- Made presentation on "India's Regional Integration Initiatives" and served as Discussant in the Workshop on the Collaboration between BRI and the Asia Africa Growth Corridor Initiative in the East Asian Summit and East Asian Cooperation International Forum 2017 held in Nanning, China on December 15-17, 2017.

Dr. Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor

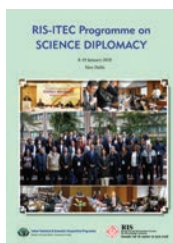
- Participated in the Round Table on WTO, organised by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, on 9 November 2017, at New Delhi and made a Presentation on E-Commerce issues.
- Participated in the International Conference on Strategic Visions of Russia-India Relations and Changes in the World Order, Moscow, Russia, 12-13 October 2017 and made a Presentation on Strengthening BRICS and Bilateral Strategy of Technological Modernisation.
- Participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Global Forum of National Advisory Councils on Science, Technology and Innovations, Pretoria, South Africa, 5-6 December 2017 as Panel Member in the Session on STI and SMEs.



India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Cooperation (IMT-TC): Way Towards a Stronger ASEAN - India Partnership
AIC – RIS, New Delhi, 2017



South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Key Takeaways
RIS, New Delhi, 2017



RIS-ITEC Programme on Science Diplomacy
RIS, New Delhi, 2017



RIS SPOTLIGHT
Housing for All
RIS, No. 1, New Delhi, 2017

RIS/AAGC DISCUSSION PAPERS

- #219 **People-to-People Partnership in Asia Africa Growth Corridor: Historical and Cultural Linkages** by V. Selvakumar
- #218 **Asia-Africa Cooperation in Human Resource Development** by Santosh Mehrotra
- #217 **Trade Facilitation in Asia Africa Growth Corridor: Potential for India-Japan Cooperation in Africa** by S.K. Mohanty, Priyadarshi Dash, Vaibhav Kaushik and Bhaskar Kashyap
- #216 **Women in the Economy: An Untapped Resource for Growth in the Asia-Africa Region** by Renana Jhabvala
- #215 **Health Sector Cooperation in Asia Africa Growth Corridor** by Harpreet Sandhu

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#79 **India and Japan's Strategic Opportunity in Africa: The Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) Initiative** by Mukul Asher and Mahalakshmi Ganapathy, December 2017

RIS DIARY

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Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

- Chaturvedi, Sachin and Sabyasachi Saha. 2017. "Competing Imperatives of Global Governance and National Interests within BRICS: An Indian Perspective." *Rising Powers Quarterly*, Vol. 2 No. 3, August.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin and Sabyasachi Saha. 2017. "Competing Imperatives of Global Governance and National Interests within BRICS: An Indian Perspective." *ORF Occasional Paper*, No. 136, December.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2017. "What government can do to bring back growth and create more jobs." *The Week*, October 07.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2017. Sri Lanka's economic future: Robust Growth guaranteed. *Daily News*, October 16.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2017. Finding the way forward in the northeast region. *The Week*, November 13.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2017. 'Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation, and Rice Strategy for India'. In Samarendu Mohanty (eds.) *The Future Rice Strategy for India*. Academic Press.

Latest Publications

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2017. 'Towards Sustainable Development of India' in Bibek Debroy and Ashok Malik (eds.) *India @70 Modi @ 3.5: Capturing India's Transformation under Narendra Modi*. New Delhi: Wisdom Tree.

De, Prabir. 2017. "Connectivity Cooperation in South Asia: Review of Major Initiatives. in Mustafizur Rahman and Fahmida Khatun (eds.) *Reimagining South Asia in 2030*, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka.

De, Prabir. 2017. "Facilitating Cross-Border Paperless Trade in BBIN: A Proposal." DPG Roundtable Report, Vol. 2, Issue 6.

De, Prabir. 2017. "Celebrating 25 Years of ASEAN-India Partnership." *On Trade*, Vol. 4, No. 1.

Dash Priyadarshi. 2017. Financing Development in South Asia: Beyond Orthodox Approaches" in conference volume of South Asia Economic Summit (SAES)-IX held in October 2015, Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Durairaj Kumarasamy and Reddy, K Shiva. 2017. "Impact of Credit Cards and Debit Cards on Currency Demand and Seigniorage: Evidence from India", *Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal*, Vol. 21, No.3.

Delegations received at RIS

- Mr Marcos S. Jank, CEO, Asia Brazil Agro Alliance, Singapore; Mr Breno Hermann, Counsellor, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi, and Mr Rui Santos Rocha Camargo, Trade Officer, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi, on 1 November 2017 for an interactive session on issues related to agriculture and its development chain.
- The GLOBUS delegation comprising Dr Helene Sjurson, GLOBUS Scientific Coordination and Research, Professor at the ARENA Centre for European Studies, Norway; Dr Pundy Pillay, Professor at the Wits School of Governance, South Africa; Dr Thomas Diez, Professor at University of Tübingen, Germany; Dr Ben Tonra, Professor at the University College Dublin, Ireland; Prof Michael C. Davis, Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (USA) and JGU; Dr Ivor Sarakinsky, Senior Lecturer at the Wits School of Governance, South Africa; Dr Sonia Lucarelli, Associate Professor at the University of Bologna, Italy; Dr Mai'a K. Davis-Cross, Associate Professor at the Northeastern University, USA; Dr Nikola Tomic, Postdoctoral Fellow at the University College Dublin, Ireland; Dr Franziskus von Lucke, Researcher at the University of Tübingen, Germany and Dr Antonio Zotti, Research Fellow at the University of Bologna, Italy, on 8 November 2017 for an interactive session on the work programme of RIS.
- Mr David Wilcox, founder of Reach Scale, Brookline Massachusetts, United States, and Ms Meagan Fallone, CEO, Barefoot College International, on 5 December 2017 for an interactive session on issues concerning SDGs.
- Mr Jerome Pons, Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, European Union, Delegation to Thailand and Ms Cecillia Costa, Attaché, Cooperation Management, Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan, on 13 December 2017 for interactions on SDGs, global partnerships and triangular cooperation.



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Development of North East and India's Act East Policy: A Quest for Synergy



Mr. Naveen Verma
Secretary, DoNER

The agenda for the development of the North Eastern Region (NER) must address specific issues. The region is not homogenous; each state within it differs from the other on many parameters such as the level of urbanization, per capita state domestic product, and the number of ethnic communities. Therefore, the agenda for the development of NE must be in terms of giving practical suggestions on the specific areas in a way that the regions on both sides of the border should gain. This would also involve addressing state-specific issues in the NER.

The issues identified in the NER states include problems faced by 'Border Haats' and Land Customs Stations (LCS) and how the region has become a source of cheap raw materials for the neighbouring countries. The products, such as bamboo, exotic fruits and vegetables, orchids and spices, such as ginger, produced in the NER, have great demand in the neighbouring countries. Bangladesh, for example, imports pulses from Canada, which in the foreseeable future can be imported from the NER with the setting up of Dal Mills in the NE states. In another example, the excess supply of pork from the NER can be exported to the ASEAN countries and also to China by initiating the right policy. On the other hand, bamboo products, for example, sold in Bengaluru are imported from Vietnam, instead of getting them from the NER. Therefore, efforts should be made to supply them from the NER. On textiles' front, even though Vietnam and Bangladesh are competitive, still the NER can have gains by contributing for textile technology. There is a need to formalize prevailing informal trade along the borders of the NER. The neighbouring countries are unhappy over the Non-Trade Barriers (NTBs), erected by India. The ITEC (Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation) programmes should be conducted with neighbouring countries to inform them about the trade regimes followed by India. Product-testing labs could also be established in the NER; based on the mutually accepted standards by the NE states and the neighbouring countries. Such a mechanism in place would stop imports of uncertified products such as untested health drinks from across the border.

Another area that needs emphasis is the challenge in logistics to ease both internal trade with other parts of India and external trade with the neighbouring countries. The handicrafts and the handloom can get a further push through partnerships between the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) and the neighbouring countries to explore markets across the Eastern borders for high-end handloom products, made by local fashion designers and handicrafts made by local artisans. Tourism - adventure, medical and religious would get impetus in the NER through the India-ASEAN connectivity; given the advantage the NER has in terms of its location. There has also been considerable progress in connectivity through air, rail and road; it needs to be improved further while new ventures are in the pipeline. On rail connectivity, it is to be noted that 30 per cent of the total investment in new railway tracks was in the NER, as the broad gauge extended to Tripura. We can visualise that in the long run connectivity would extend from Imphal in India to Mandalay in Myanmar, and even beyond towards Far East. Inland waterways would reduce distance considerably, for which services such as Ro-Ro ferry have been explored. Although flights do exist from the NER to the neighbouring countries, there is a need to augment their frequency to different destinations. Performing contemporary arts such as music, folk dance etc. in addition to sports and local cuisine also need to be popularized to supplement development cooperation. Such measures would help in promoting people-to-people connect within the NER and across the borders.

** Based on the Keynote Address delivered by Mr Naveen Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Development of North- Eastern Region (DoNER) at the Regional Consultation on "Development of North East India and India's Act East Policy: A Quest for Synergy" held during 24-25th October 2017 at Guwahati, Assam.*