

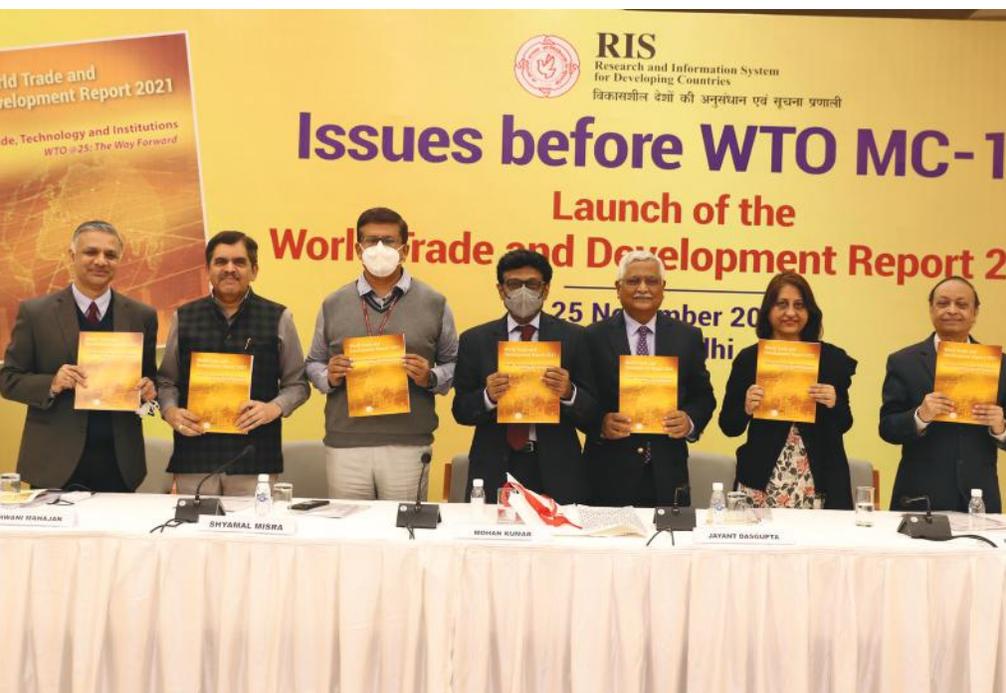


RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

WTDR

World Trade and Development Report 2021 launched



Launching of the "World Trade and Development Report" on 25 November 2021 at New Delhi.

RIS organized programme on "Issues before WTO MC-12: Launch of the *World Trade and Development Report*" (WTDR) on 25 November 2021 at New Delhi. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired. Shri Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address.

Presentation of Key Findings of WTDR was made by Professor

S. K. Mohanty, Professor; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor; and Dr Pankhuri Gaur, Assistant Professor, RIS. In the panel Discussion that followed, Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Former Ambassador to WTO; Shri Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Professor Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; and Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER shared their valuable insights. Vote of thanks was extended by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS. ■



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Applauds RIS Work Programme and Calls for Deeper Policy Connect

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, visited RIS on 30 December 2021 for an interactive session with faculty about the work programme of RIS. In the intensive session, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the history and organisational structure of the institution,

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Postponement of MC12 Leaves Scope for More Work



Prominent speakers at a webinar organised by the RIS on 27 November 2021 following launch of 'World Trade and Development Report' (WTDR), 2021.

By the time the webinar took off, postponement of MC12 due to Omicron spread was already announced. But speakers stressed that India should use postponement of WTO Ministerial to connect with South. Developing countries should analyse the impact of postponement of the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) on the outcome of the event and use the time till it is convened again to protect their interests by staying united and consolidating their positions, according to international trade experts from the Global South. The decision on the postponement of the MC12 (slated for November 30-December 3, 2021) was taken late Friday by the WTO General Council "after an outbreak of a particularly transmissible strain of the COVID-19 virus."

Speaking at the webinar, Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Geneva, said the developing country think tanks like the South Centre and RIS should analyse all the proposals and ensure that the postponement of the MC12 will help consolidate developing country positions on various issues including fisheries subsidies, agriculture, TRIPS waiver and Special and Differential Treatment.

Referring to the WTDR's focus on how technology and trade are impacting each other, Prof Correa said this issue, though very important especially in the post-COVID scenario that saw acceleration of digitalization, has not been dealt with seriously at the WTO.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, said developing countries need to get their act together by looking at the opportunities and challenges that have emerged due to the postponement of MC12. Ensuring 'success of the MC12 at any cost' should not mean that 'success' is cornered by the developed world and developing countries are left to bear the 'costs', he said.

Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, formerly India's Ambassador to WTO, said the postponement of the MC12 gives an opportunity to developing countries to prepare strongly to counter some proposals which are against their interests. He said developed countries will have to come clean on issues such as sustainability and gender through which they have been indirectly trying to gain market access in the developing world.

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), referred to the importance of the proposal on TRIPS waiver by India and South Africa and said that the WTO should demonstrate that protection of the lives of billions of poor people in the developing world is more important than protection of the bottom line of a few MNCs that have developed COVID vaccines, diagnostic kits and drugs. He said the discussion on investment facilitation for development should ensure a balance in the rights and responsibilities of investors, home country and host country. He said major developing countries like India should be a part of the plurilaterals including on investment facilitation so that they can ensure that their outcome is not against developing country interests.

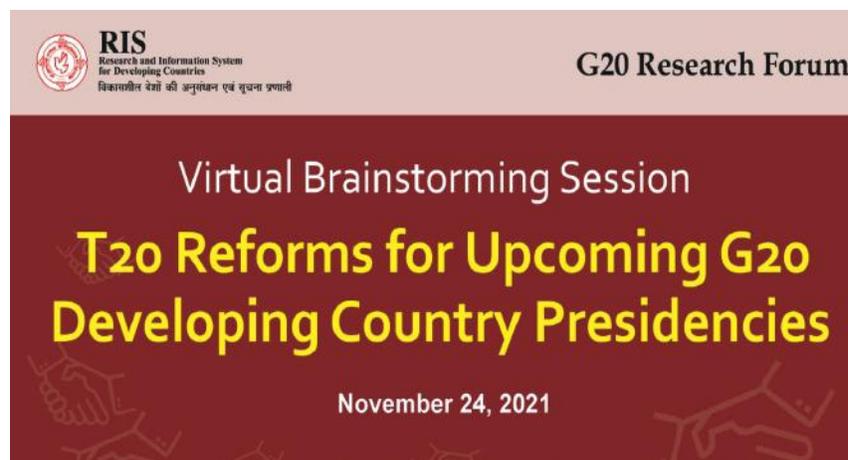
Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said it is all the more important to strengthen developing country coalitions and ensure that the Global South remains as a cohesive unit on various MC12 issues including on the Joint Statement Initiatives to ensure that they do not take away the

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T20 Should have Greater Representation from the Developing World: Researchers

The Think20 - one of the important Engagement Groups of the G20 comprising the 20 leading global economies - should have greater representation from developing country think-tanks, and must bring out their policy recommendations on global governance issues well in time for the G20 leaders to analyse and incorporate them in their final Declaration, according to researchers from across the world. This assumes importance as major developing countries Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa are slated to assume G20 Presidency in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively. The expectation is that the development agenda will now be at the front and centre of the discussions by G20 and its Engagement Groups including Business 20, Think 20, Women 20, Youth20, Labour 20, Urban 20, Civil 20 and Science 20. There are now calls for greater representation and voice from developing economies to make the processes more inclusive.

Speaking at a virtual Brainstorming Session on 'T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies' organized by the RIS on 24 November 2021, Professor Bambang Brodjonegoro, lead Co-Chair, T20 Indonesia and former Minister of Finance of Indonesia, said Indonesia is looking to ensure proportionate representation from all the continent and countries of all income groups. He added that issues such as cooperation in international taxation, infrastructure financing, SDGs, digitalization and revival of multilateralism are of great importance to developing and developed countries, and therefore



should be accorded continuity in the T20 process for their effective implementation by the G20 Members. He said issues such as poverty and income inequality as well as sustainable financing of the Sustainable Development Agenda will be given priority during the Indonesian G20 Presidency.

Prof. Djisman Simandjuntak, lead Co-Chair, T20 Indonesia, said with a view to get innovative policy ideas, Indonesia will be reaching out to African think-tanks and will consider Policy Briefs from think-tanks and researchers who have not had the chance to participate in the T20 process so far. Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa, mentioned about 'T20 Africa Standing Group' as important interlocutor and part of the T20 process from now on. Ms. Anita Prakash, Senior Policy Advisor (Int. Economic Relations), ERIA, Jakarta, briefed the participants about the newly launched the G20 Research Forum by ERIA, RIS and 'LPEM-FEB IU' of Indonesia to collate ideas from various think-tanks and researchers on global governance issues. Dr. Imme Scholz, Deputy Director, German Development

Institute (DIE), Germany, referred to the way T20 Germany was organised and some tips to Indonesia and India. She also mentioned that Germany going to hold the G7 Presidency in 2022 and sought a mechanism for close collaboration with Indonesia (G20 Presidency for 2022) on various issues. She said this G7-G20 (and their Engagement Groups) coordination mechanism should be made applicable to all G20 events.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, Prof. Naoyuki Yoshino, Professor Emeritus (Economics), Keio University, Japan, Ms. Gala Díaz Langou, Executive Director, CIPPEC, Argentina, Dr. Antonio Villafranca, Research Director, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy, Dr. Riatu Mariatul Qibthiyyah, Director, LPEM, University of Indonesia, Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri, Head, Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, Dr. Nicolas Buchoud, Grand Alliance, Paris, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, and Mr. Augustine Peter, Visiting Fellow, RIS. ■

Reform of Multilateral Institutions



Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs and India's BRICS Sherpa Speaking at the 'BRICS Virtual Economic Conclave 2021' hosted by the RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the RBI on 26 November 2021.

BRICS Needs to Strengthen Efforts for Reform of Multilateral Institutions

The BRICS countries will continue their efforts to strengthen and reform multilateral institutions including the UN and IMF, in addition to enhancing cooperation in important areas such as counter-terrorism, 'green and digital' transition, as well as 'Science, Technology and Innovation' (STI), according to Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs and India's BRICS Sherpa.

Speaking at the 'BRICS Virtual Economic Conclave 2021' hosted by the RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the RBI on 26 November 2021, Ambassador Bhattacharyya said the three pillars of BRICS engagement are: 'reform' of structures within BRICS and at the multilateral level;

'consolidation' of the work that BRICS countries have done so far; and 'future orientation' through STI as well as ensuring that the 'green and digital' transition on the basis of the 'Access, Equity and Inclusion' principle. He also stressed that 'The five major emerging economies will also enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism, 'green and digital' transition, and STI.'

He said the focus on counter-terrorism is important as "peace and stability form the basis for development". The demand for reforms of multilateral institutions including the UN and IMF was due to the existing system being unable to deal with the present day challenges, particularly those being faced by the developing world. Since the BRICS countries

are among the largest developing economies of the world, actions taken by these five countries can form a template for the rest of the world, and especially the Global South, to follow, he said.

Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, dwelt on the importance of ensuring economic recovery from the global crisis. He said India studied and addressed supply side shocks for staging a recovery through reforms by effectively dealing with supply side frictions. In this process, India also focused on capital expenditure to create productive assets including resilient and sustainable social infrastructure in education and health sectors, he said. He emphasized that BRICS

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38th STIP Forum Lecture

The 38th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, Director, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Nainital, Uttarakhand on 29 October 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was "Growth of Solar Physics in India from Ground and Space-based Platforms". The event was chaired by Prof. Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Department of Physics, IISc, Bengaluru. Dr. Nakul Parashar, Director, Vigyan Prasar, delivered the welcome remarks.

In his very insightful address, Prof. Dipankar Banerjee provided an overview of the status and prospect of solar physics in India. He began his lecture by giving a detailed overview of the solar facilities existing at various places across the country and explained the technical nuances of the subject. He talked about sophisticated instruments such as Multi Application Solar Telescope, which is needed to study the variability of different timescale in the Sun, sunspots, solar flares and

so on. Prof. Banerjee elaborated on the proposed National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) which will be 2m class optical and near infra-red (IR) observational facility in the country. It is designed to address an array of key scientific issues related to origin and dynamics of solar magnetic fields at a spatial resolution of 0.1-0.3 arc-second. The instrument has a broad scope to support and substantiate the multitude of solar atmospheric observations from space-based mission and ground based MAST telescope (Udaipur).

Prof. Banerjee further mentioned about the upcoming India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, Aditya L1. It is a multi-institutional mission led by ISRO and is expected to be launched sometime in mid-2022. The seven payloads (instruments) will study solar corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), as well as capture images of the Sun. This project will enable a comprehensive understanding of the dynamical

processes of the sun and address some of the outstanding problems in solar physics.

At the end, Prof. Banerjee talked about the role of his institution, ARIES, in training the next-generation of solar scientists/physicists in India. Aditya-L1 Support Cell (AL1SC) has been established at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), which will primarily produce the required trained manpower. An MoU in this regard was inked between ARIES and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) earlier this year. The Support Cell will be a one-stop online platform for students, faculty and researchers from colleges, universities and institutions in India to get free access to a sample of processed scientific data pertaining to the Sun. All the data will be hosted at the Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) of ISRO with ARIES Cell acting as a manpower training centre. ■

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture Series

TOPIC: Growth of Solar Physics in India from Ground and Space-based Platforms



29th October 2021
TIME :- 4:00 PM



CONVENER

DR NAKUL PARASHAR
Director, Vigyan Prasar,
New Delhi



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROF. DIPANKAR BANEERJEE
Director, Aryabhata Research Institute
of Observational Sciences (ARIES),
Nainital



CHAIRPERSON

PROF. ARNAB RAI CHOUDHURI
Department of Physics,
Indian Institute of Science (IISc),
Bengaluru

Promoting South-South Collaboration



Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RIS and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

RIS signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to advance cross-sharing of ideas, innovations, and solutions across developing countries and beyond through its specialized wing, Global Development Centre (GDC). GDC-RIS and BMGF will work together towards strengthening and building new partnerships for South-South cooperation in areas such as nutrition, health systems, pandemic preparedness, agriculture, digital financial inclusion, and women empowerment among other key development issues.

This partnership will facilitate knowledge sharing of development innovations and best practices among the Global South, with a vision towards building a vibrant, constructive, and continued engagement for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This engagement will

encompass horizontally and vertically integrated partnership to identify and document innovations and best practices across development solutions, outreach to a wide range of stakeholders including national/state governments, private sector, think tanks, civil society and academia. It aims to facilitate thought partnerships to boost knowledge exchange programs, capacity building and implementation support efforts. The association will enable a platform for engaging with various stakeholders in addressing developmental challenges in India and the Global South by providing comprehensive holistic support to curate best practices locally and globally to strengthen the overarching goals of South-South Cooperation.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS said that "At the outset our idea of the Global



Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs

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Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Minister said "India is perceived as a first responder in the region in times of crisis, a climate action leader, the pharmacy of the world, a reservoir of talent and a reliable development partner. I am extremely glad to note that RIS has established a specialised center at its premises, the Global Development Center, GDC for taking Hon'ble Prime Minister's ideas forward to other developing countries, within the framework of South-South Cooperation. "This partnership between RIS and BMGF would pave the way for institutionalized transfer of knowledge, promotion of policy research and outreach for knowledge exchange, capacity building and skills development among their interested partners countries and institutions as part of India's policy to promote global goods. I'd very much like to congratulate the GDC team at RIS and our friends from BMGF for this very constructive initiative for a better world.”

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Project on Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South at Paris Peace Forum

GDC's project, 'Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South' got selected as part of solutions for Global South under South-South Cooperation. The project orchestrated the pioneering achievements of Co-WIN as a best practice for suitable adoption in Asia and Africa.

This year, GDC participated in the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) between November 11-13, at La Grande Halle de La Villette at Paris in the wake of unending impact of Covid-19 pandemic globally. The conference drew the participation of a number of Heads of State and Governments, notably

President Emmanuel Macron of France, President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Vice President Kamala Harris of the United States, among others. Other notable participants included Heads of Government and non-government international organizations, philanthropic organizations, and different organisations of repute.

A four-member delegation from GDC consisting of: Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman RIS; Mr. Rohit Deo Jha, Deputy Director, National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India,

Technical Expert for Co-WIN Digital Vaccination Platform; and Ms. Rituparna Banerjee, GDC Manager; and Mr. Omegere John Patrick, GDC Resource Person based in Uganda took part in the forum.

GDC fostered international and multi-stakeholder collaboration at the Paris Peace Forum Summit 2021 as part of its outreach to get across such a major global platform to advance its aims and objectives despite the enormous challenges posed by COVID-19.

Web link: <https://gdc.ris.org.in/gdc-project-creating-digital-public-goods-global-south-paris-peace-forum> ■

Panel Discussion on 'Future Strategies for SIDS and Climate Change: Looking through the Lens of South-South Cooperation Practice'

A Panel Discussion on "Future Strategies for SIDS and Climate Change: Looking through the Lens of South-South Cooperation Practices" was held virtually on 1 November, 2021. It was aimed to analyse climate change vulnerability and potential use of South-South Cooperation practices and experiences to take care of the threats to SIDS existence. Dr Eberhard H. Weber, the University of the South Pacific, Fiji Islands and Ambassador Vinod Kumar participated in the discussion and shared their ideas on subject. They explained how climate change is posing serious challenges to SIDS and these nations do not have resources to effectively adapt and mitigate the challenges. It was noted that global cooperation is essential



Dr Eberhard H. Weber



Ambassador Vinod Kumar

for facilitating the climate change adaptation and mitigation in the SIDS. The ideas of both Panelists would be developed in research papers, which would be published in a special issue of *Development Cooperation Review (DCR)* on climate change and SIDS. The Panel Discussion was moderated by Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS ■



Professor Milindo Chakrabarti

Pandemics and New Frontiers of South-South Cooperation

The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), RIS organised a panel discussion, as part of its monthly seminar series, on the topic 'Pandemics and New Frontiers of South-South Cooperation' on 18th October 2021. The lecture was given by Professor Dan Banik, Director, The Oslo SDG Initiative with initial remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and special remarks

by Dr Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, Coordinator, Africa, LAC & UN, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. The discussion was moderated by Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Former Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The discussion was organised to shed light on the status of Agenda 2030 and how the situation has worsened due

to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 pandemic has reversed development milestones of countries in terms of many economic and social crises. Professor Banik highlighted the idea of politics of development and urged to think solutions beyond the 2030 Agenda. The role of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation was also emphasised as an essential to meet the SDGs. ■

COP-26

Issues and Challenges during the Run-up to and at COP 26 – Indian Perspectives

Recognizing the growing concerns on climate change and its impact, and the significance of the upcoming COP 26, Vijnana Bharti (Vibha) and RIS jointly organized the webinar on 'Issues and Challenges during the Run-Up to and at COP 26 – Indian Perspectives' on 24 October 2021.

Dr J. R. Bhatt, Advisor (Climate Change), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India was invited to deliver his insights on the Indian perspectives concerning issues and challenges in the run up to and at COP 26. Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Ambassador of India; Dr Laxman Singh Rathore, Former Director General, India Meteorological Department and Permanent Representative of India at the World Meteorological Organization, and Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Organizing Secretary, Vijnana Bharti were invited to share their expert views on the theme.

In his presentation, Dr Bhatt discussed the warning signs of climate changes, timeline of climatic conventions, governance frameworks, and narratives

associated with the climate change. He noted that India has a right to fair share. India will not exceed its fair share of global carbon budget, but cannot compensate for over-consumption by others. The developed countries must declare the time of net zero in keeping with their fair share of the remaining carbon budget. They must provide carbon space to the developing countries through negative emission to compensate historic carbon debt. India's contribution to current temperature increase is very low. However, there is a high level of future climate risk. Therefore, sectors like agriculture (including livestock and fisheries), rural livelihoods, forest and biodiversity, informal and MSME sectors need time to adapt to climate change. India has been making extensive efforts to combat climate change. Dr Bhatt discussed some of the initiatives like the launch of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). India co-leads the Leadership Group on Industry Transition with Sweden for hard-to-abate sectors.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi discussed the issue of finance in climate action. He noted that about 71 per cent of climate finance

provided by developed countries are in the form of loans, which are mostly given on market rates. Given the huge gap with OECD countries, there is a greater need for South-South cooperation. Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan recognized the need for net zero emission target for the world as a whole. However, he underlines that developed countries should achieve the target before the developing countries, and also set a target for negative emissions. For developing countries, the net zero emission target should be flexible. India should work with other countries to oppose any binding commitment, while making continued efforts towards the target, provided technology, finance and other large scale incentive measures are given. Dr Laxman Singh Rathore highlighted that the climate change is a global collective problem, and it requires global and collective efforts and actions. Role of NGOs and collaboration between diverse stakeholders will be important. In his concluding remarks, Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe emphasised on the significance of collective efforts towards mitigating climate change. The vote of thanks was given by Avinash Rayarikar. ■



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First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue



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Korea National Diplomatic
Academy (KNDA) and Korea
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REIMAGINING INDIA-KOREA RELATIONS IN THE EMERGING REGIONAL ORDER
SYNERGISING THE 'ACT EAST POLICY' AND THE 'NEW SOUTHERN POLICY'

First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue

RIS, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea organised the First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on Reimagining India-Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy' on 27 October 2021 virtually.

Programme began with Inaugural Session. Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Dr. Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Ambassador Chang Jae-bok, South Korean Ambassador to India; and Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Indian Ambassador to Republic of Korea addressed the dialogue.

Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group chaired the Session on India-Korea Relations in a Changing Global and Regional Context: Strategic Perspectives. Speakers included, Dr. Cho Wondeuk, Research Professor, KNDA); and Dr. Jagannath Panda, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi (MP-IDSA). Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, ICWA; and Dr. Paik Wooyeal, Associate Professor, Yonsei University were discussant.

The session on Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order was chaired by Dr. Cho Choongjae, Deputy President of Center for Area Studies, KIEP. Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS; and Dr. Han Hyoungmin, Associate

Research Fellow, KIEP were the speakers. Discussants were: Dr. Lee Soon-Chul, Professor, Busan University of Foreign Studies; and Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS.

Ambassador Skand Tayal, Former Indian Ambassador to Republic of Korea, chaired the session on Way Forward: India-Korea Bilateral Relations. Speakers were: Dr Kim Chanwan, Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies; and Dr. Jitendra Uttam, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Concluding Session had the following speakers: Dr. Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA. ■

Postponement of MC12 Leaves Scope for More Work

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policy space of developing country governments in taking decisions in national interest. He said trade should be a catalyst for domestic production and domestic growth and not just

for greater imports. India should use postponement of WTO Ministerial to connect with South.

Prof S. K. Mohanty and Dr

Pankhuri Gaur of RIS presented the details of the *WTDR*, and Dr Sabyasachi Saha, RIS also spoke on the occasion. ■

Roundtable on India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World



The roundtable discussion is underway in hybrid mode.

RIS, in collaboration with University of Oslo, Norway organised a roundtable discussion on “India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World” in hybrid mode on 9 December 2021. The purpose of the roundtable was to examine the future of India-Africa relations spread across two sessions on overall foreign policy orientations and sectoral cooperation in the areas of health, IT, renewable energy, capacity building, traditional medicine, etc.

In his welcome remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS highlighted the major milestones in India-Africa relations as well as recent trends in their development partnership. He noted that India is today more keen in timely implementation of development and infrastructure projects. Prime Minister Modi has taken initiative to monitoring the progress. He also suggested to set up India’s development agency for facilitating development

cooperation in Africa and other regions. Professor Dan Banik, University of Oslo, Norway, said that there is a big departure from India’s past policy towards Africa. There are more high profile visits in recent times. Defence cooperation between India and Africa is also evolving. He noted that there is an element of shift from idealism to pragmatism in the Indian foreign policy.

In his special remarks, Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, India noted that cooperation with Africa is always important for India. Underlining India’s historical relations with Africa, Shri Ravi noted that currently New Delhi is widening its cooperation in health, renewable and IT- financial technology sectors. Apart from COVID vaccines, India provided medical assistance to African nations and is also ready to support in the future as well. He opined that there is also scope for deepening

India’s relations with Africa in telemedicine. Trade is not up to mark with Africa. Today, Africa wants to make manufactured goods not just only export of the raw materials. Therefore, India would like to set up manufacturing zones there with support of African nations. Shri Ravi said that India is exploring prospects for tri-angular cooperation with France and Britain in Africa.

India-Africa cooperation in areas of health and fintech has been extensively explored in the roundtable discussion. Panellists also noted that agriculture sector also offers opportunities for cooperation between India and Africa.

It was also suggested that India should be cautious in developing cooperation with European nations in Africa because of their colonial rule. Panelists also noted that India’s Africa policy should be de-continentalised because of the diversity in Africa. ■

Moving Ahead with Bilateral Dialogues

India-Kenya Bilateral Technical Session on Co-WIN

GDC made a presentation on India's digital vaccination platform, Co-WIN with the support of GOI's National Health Authority, MoHFW to participants from Ministry of Health in Kenya to explore the possibility of its possible replication by the Kenyan Government.

Earlier, GDC had organised webinar on 'Coping with COVID: Experiences of developing countries in vaccine platforms and rollout' on May 19, 2021. The event was attended by health officials from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Nigeria. Subsequently, GDC was constantly pursuing with relevant health officials from these countries to explore opportunities for possible adoption of Co-WIN platform or upgrading their existing vaccination platforms in lines of Co-WIN.

The main objective of organizing the presentation was to open avenues for possible upgrading and/or providing need based appropriate



solutions to Kenya through India's substantial experience, expertise and capabilities in this field.

The technical session held on 27 October 2021 was well appreciated by senior officials from Ministry of Health, Kenya and respective technical team members from Kenya. One of the technical official from Kenya informed

about several advancements their country has attained in developing it's digital vaccination platform. In line with GDC's mandate to curate and promote development experiences in Global South, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health, Kenya was approached to share details of their vaccination platform. ■

Development Cooperation

The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

On the occasion of launch of 'The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda,' a panel discussion was organised by NeST, RIS on 26 October 2021. The panel included editors of the handbook Professor Li Xiaoyun, CAU; Dr Stephan Klingebiel, DIE; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS. Dr Jurgen Karl Zattler, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Dr Haley Swedlund, Radboud University. The panel was moderated by Mr Artemy Izmetiev, UNOSSC, Istanbul with concluding remarks by Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS.

The editors of the handbook highlighted the importance and relevance of the book for practitioners in developing countries. Development cooperation need to be taken ahead to collectively achieve the Agenda 2030. The discussants pointed out the importance of



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS at the launch of 'The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda.'

contestation and the need for developing countries to learn from each other in advancing mutual goals. ■

India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy

The India-European Union (EU) Connectivity Partnership will be a vital component of the EU's Global Gateway initiative that aims to create 'links and not dependencies' through investments in quality infrastructure in order to connect goods, services, institutions, banks, businesses and people across the world, according to Ugo Astuto, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan.

Launching a report by the RIS titled '*India-EU Connectivity: Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy*,' on 28 October 2021, Ambassador Astuto also said leveraging the strengths of the European Investment Bank and the private sector will be key to effective implementation of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership.

Speaking at the event organised by the RIS, Mr Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs, said India and the EU have ensured that their bilateral Connectivity Partnership was of a 'high standard' and focuses on people-to-people connectivity as well as mobility. The bilateral Partnership has spurred similar ideas in other countries and regions for reasons including the importance of forging 'secure and trusted' supply chains, he added. Mr Chakravorty said there is a plan to launch an India-EU 'Connectivity Forum' soon to take forward viable projects in this context.

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, highlighted the strategic importance of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership and stressed the need to

expedite negotiations on India-EU trade and investment pacts to ably support the implementation of the bilateral connectivity agreement. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the RIS report has an in-depth coverage and analysis of India-EU trade and investment, areas of cooperation in connectivity as well as ways to use connectivity for sustainable development and green transition by leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). He said the report also looks at alternative energy resources such as green hydrogen, solar and other kinds of non-conventional energy, in addition to financial connectivity from the institutional perspective where linkages between financial institutions, banks and providers of fintech have been examined in detail.



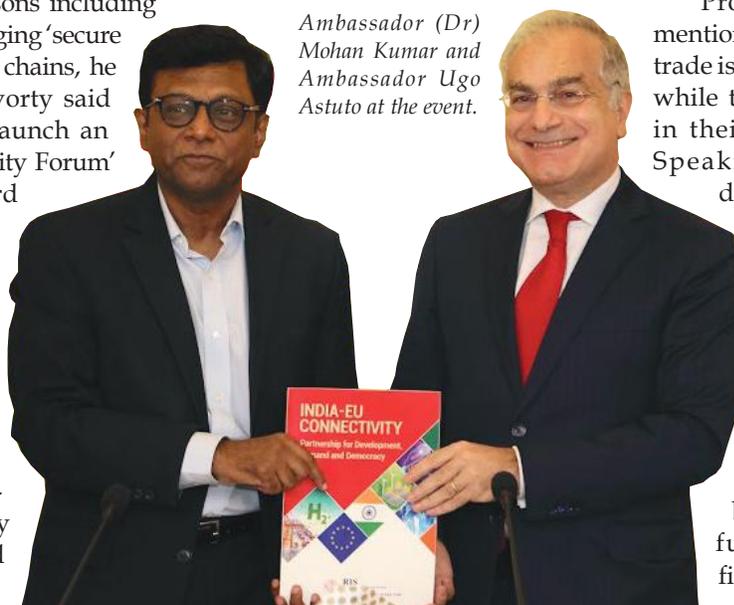
During the subsequent panel discussion, Ms Bhaswati Mukherjee, former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, pointed out the

convergence between India and the EU on connectivity principles including on sustainability. She said the partnership agreement will be able to address the emerging challenges including that of financial and environmental sustainability. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chairperson, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the India-EU Connectivity Partnership has huge potential and geo-political value with regard to enhancing connectivity in third countries as well, and will be an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative of China.

Dr Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, said since the bilateral connectivity partnership is based on democratic principles and lays emphasis on interoperability, in addition to transparency and good governance, it could help set regional standards and even help in the formation of a global connectivity partnership. Another important aspect was the decision of India and the EU to ensure that they, at a governmental level, will lead and facilitate, but not play an overwhelming role.

Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, mentioned that technology intensive trade is at the core of India-EU trade, while there are complementarities in their bilateral services trade. Speaking about the trends in development finance, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, said there is now a focus on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) norms. He observed that there was a need for greater financial connectivity between India and the EU in order to help both the sides achieve their full potential including on fintech. ■

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar and Ambassador Ugo Astuto at the event.



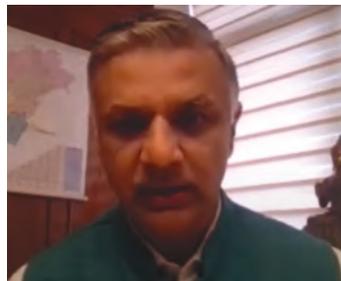
Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region



Mr. Bishow Parajuli



Professor Mustafizur Rehman



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi



Professor S.K. Mohanty

On 28 October 2021, RIS organized a webinar in association with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on “Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region”, where distinguished speakers, chairs, and panelists participated from the member states.

The webinar was inaugurated with the welcome remarks of Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. He highlighted several important points on capacity building and collaborative work of the member states, expanding the development frontiers in the region, identifying the investment opportunities, and several others. Dr Suresh Babu, Senior Research Fellow & Head of Capacity Strengthening, IFPRI, Washington gave his opening remarks pointing out the importance of the priority alignment in the region. He further mentioned how a sustainable food system is the most important link in achieving the SDG goals and directly or indirectly affects nine out of seventeen SDGs.

The inaugural address was given by Professor Satish Y. Deodhar, Professor, Economics Area, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He talked about the impact of climate change on food security, the need for a nudge in

connectivity, promotion of going vocal for local, weather forecast, value chains, knowledge sharing, and also highlighted the problem of lopsided production in agriculture.

After the inaugural session, there were three sessions. The first technical session was on ‘Promoting Trade in Agriculture in BIMSTEC’ where the chair and the panelists highlighted that agriculture in the region is highly vulnerable to climate change, hence, there is a risk on food security and value chain disruptions. Several suggestions were also made like increasing labor productivity and produce quality, promoting fair trade practices, food safety regulations, focusing on regional trade, etc.

The second technical session was on ‘Prospects of Food Processing and Regional Value Chains in BIMSTEC’ suggesting addressing and overcoming the bottlenecks, higher involvement of farmers in the value chains, improving the packaging at farm level, higher regional performance in various processed food sub-sectors, value chain upgrading, efficient use of data and improved data collection, etc. The third session on ‘Food Security and Safety Issues in Agriculture’ pointed out to focus on the nexus between agriculture and nutrition, to diversify the



Professor Satish Y. Deodhar



Mr. Rajeev Kher

produce, to spend on reducing the food loss and waste, to focus on private sector participation, etc.

The programme ended with a closing session chaired by Dr Suresh Babu, key recommendations were presented by Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS. Valedictory address was given by Mr Han Thein Kyaw, Director-in-Charge (Agricultural Cooperation), BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS, New Delhi gave vote of thanks. ■

BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development

An interesting Symposium on “BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development” took place on 25-26 October 2021. It was organized jointly by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kolkata, and RIS. In the inaugural session, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, gave welcome remarks wherein he talked about the transport connectivity in the region, digital and people-to-people connectivity, the importance of traditional medicines, and harnessing the potential of Regional Development Banks to facilitate the connectivity. Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India spoke about focusing on counter-terrorism, energy, technology, climate change, disaster management, trade, and maritime cooperation.

Special address was delivered by H.E. Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary-General, BIMSTEC, in which he emphasised on the master plan for connectivity in the BIMSTEC region and for identifying transnational organized crime, maritime connectivity, illicit activities such as drug trafficking, and security as the areas for cooperation. He also highlighted the role of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in India and the BIMSTEC Charter.

H. E. Amb. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India gave the inaugural address making several valuable suggestions on the regional cooperation in cross-border movement of goods, energy, electricity (power grid connectivity), trade, coastal security, maritime connectivity, counter-terrorism, and tourism.

The two-day symposium had four technical sessions. The first technical session was on “Post COVID Economic Recovery and restoring growth momentum in BIMSTEC” in which many important



points were discussed. Panelists suggested incorporating the third space (civil societies and businesses) in the cooperation, discussing and narrowing down the common interest of the member states and bringing out through BIMSTEC as a platform, focusing on sustainable growth, investing in the healthcare sector, and developing health insurance system, investing in green recovery, and improving female labor force participation. Importance of blue economy, renewable energy, knowledge sharing, and best practices were also discussed in the session.

In the second technical session “Strengthening Regional Value Chains-Role of Connectivity and Trade Facilitation”, speakers suggested regional investment liberalization, promotion of SEZs in the member states, more connectivity projects like BBIM. In the session, speakers also mentioned how discontinuity of SAARC Summits gives and window of opportunity to BIMSTEC to come out more prominently as a cooperation platform in South Asia.

The third technical session was on “Regional Cooperation in Public Health Infrastructure and Health Care Services”. In this session speakers discussed how pandemic has highlighted the importance

of regional cooperation for both, during public health emergencies and normal circumstances. It was suggested to enhance the surveillance and information dissemination, to use ICT in medicine, to address mental health concerns, to increase government health expenditure as to reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure of the residents on health, knowledge sharing, and explore traditional medicine in the region. In the special address of the session, cyber security and related threats were also discussed by Lt. Gen. Rajesh Parth, National Cyber Security Coordinator, India.

In the fourth and the last technical session was on “Disaster Management, Maritime Cooperation, and Coastal Security”. Points flagged by the speakers included piracy, human and drug trafficking, pollution control, disaster management, blue economy, development of databases, networking, information sharing, and capacity building. Maritime cooperation was especially stressed up as the coastline of the region is very large and the Bay of Bengal is a very important link for the member countries.

The symposium ended with a valedictory session chaired by Amb. Sumith Nakandala, Executive Director of Indo-Lankan Studies, Path Finder Foundations, Sri Lanka (Former Secretary-General, BIMSTEC). Ambassador Dr. Anupam Ray, Joint Secretary, PP&R Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India gave special remarks. Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, India participated as a distinguished speaker, and Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor, RIS, India made a presentation on the symposium report. Mr. Krishndu Baksi, Programme Coordinator, ISCS, India gave vote of thanks. ■

ASEAN-India



Third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) organised the third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links (AICCL), held at Hanoi and New Delhi on 7-8 October 2021 in hybrid mode. The third edition of the AICCL was a two-day event, which included five Plenary Sessions and a Special Session on Cultural Cooperation. The five Plenary Sessions were (1) Contemporary Cultural Interactions and Diversity, (2) Culture and Digitalisation, (3) Culture and Tourism, (4) Education and Youth, and (5) Shared Heritage. Over 400 delegates including several senior officials from the ASEAN countries and India along with subject experts, scholars, practitioners, diplomats,

academicians and researchers attended this conference. Special remarks were extended by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Prof. Dr. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vice-President, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Ambassador Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Hanoi; Ambassador Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of Vietnam to India, New Delhi; and Mr. Tran Duc Binh, Dy. Secretary General (DSG) for ASEAN Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dzung, Vice Foreign Minister and ASEAN SOM Leader, Viet Nam delivered Inaugural Address. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs

delivered the Keynote Address. Inaugural Session was chaired by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. H.E. Ms. Pen Moni Makara, SOMCA Chair, Secretary of State and SOMCA Chair, Cambodia delivered a special address in the valedictory session. Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) delivered the Valedictory Address. Ambassador Jayant N. Khobragade, Ambassador of India to ASEAN, Jakarta and Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta also delivered Special Remarks in the Conference. Vote of Thanks were delivered by Dr. Pham Cao Cuong and Prof. Prabir De on behalf of VIISAS and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, respectively. ■

Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements

The EXIM Bank of India in collaboration with ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) organised a webinar on 'Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements' in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India Summit 2021 on 18 October 2021 in virtual mode. The webinar focused upon the current issues on India-ASEAN bilateral trade and investment, identifying areas of collaboration to further expand regional trade and integration, and ways for strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the post-Covid-19 world. Opening Remarks was delivered by Ms. Harsha Bangari, Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India whereas Special Addressees were extended by Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair, ASEAN



India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. India Exim Bank Research Publication "*Building Value Chain: Opportunities for India and ASEAN*" was also released at this

webinar. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi moderated the panel discussion which was attended by Dr. Rajan Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, New Delhi; Prof. Ruth Banomyong, Dean, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok; Secretary Carlito G. Galves, Jr., Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar, National Task Force Against COVID-19, Government of the Philippines; and Mr. Mohamed Irshad, Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN, Tata Consultancy Services Asia Pacific, Singapore. Mr. David Sinate, Chief General Manager, Export-Import Bank of India extended the Closing Remarks and the Vote of Thanks. ■

Promoting South-South Collaboration

Continued from page 6

Development Center is to promote several major programs started by Hon'ble Prime Minister which have contributed immensely in terms of both bringing in inclusion in our economic development initiatives and also trying to bring in sustainability. These two dimensions have been the core strength of almost all programs that we have launched such as Aadhar enabled e-payment services or UPI or BHIM or even the National Payment Systems, etc. These programs have been trying to contribute towards the idea of sustainability, inclusion and to bring efficiency in governance by stopping the leakages, identifying beneficiaries targeting benefits to the most desired communities of India."

On this occasion Gargee Ghosh, President, Global Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation stated that "India's leadership on the global stage – from vaccine manufacturing and digital health to digital financial inclusion and beyond – are great examples of innovation and scale that offer enormous potential for cross-learning and collaboration. We are excited about this engagement with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries and optimistic that this platform will offer opportunities for expanded partnerships across the Global South and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals."

Talking about the importance of the collaboration, Mr Hari

Menon, India Country Director, BMGF, stated "Collaboration and partnerships are critical now more than ever, to accelerate research, develop new tools, and drive continued progress in health and development. Given the Government of India's deep commitment to global partnerships, the BMGF is honoured to work with the Ministry of External Affairs and the RIS to support strong collaboration between governments, multilateral institutions, academia, and voluntary and private sectors, to enable joint commitment and shared learning that address the biggest challenges in health and development in the Global South." ■

ASEAN-India Summit 2021: Major Takeaways

The 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related events took place in the last week of October 2021. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India Summit 2021 and Major Takeaways' on 18 November 2021. The young scholars from various ASEAN countries and India participated in the webinar and discussed outcomes of the recently held ASEAN-India Summit. The webinar discussed the outcomes of the ASEAN-India summits. Welcome Remarks was given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS, New Delhi chaired the panel discussion. Panelists were Ms. Joanne Lin Weiling, Lead Researcher, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, VASS, Vietnam; Dr. Shristi Pukhrem, Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi; Mr. Suppawit Kaewkhunok, Researcher, Thailand Political Database Research Centre, Bangkok; Ms. Mahima Duggal, Research Associate, Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi and Dr. Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC, RIS, New Delhi. ■



BRICS needs to strengthen efforts for reform of multilateral institutions

Continued from page 4

economies will have to think for themselves about what is right for them rather than looking at advanced economies for inspiration, adding that there is a need to strengthen BRICS cooperation for supporting the intra-BRICS economic recovery. Effective usage of technology and mobilization of collective strengths are crucial to generate growth dividends and an orderly economic recovery, Dr Subramanian said. BRICS countries will be enhancing cooperation on financial regulation, especially in the context of cryptocurrency, as well as on the 'BRICS Bond Fund' to develop, integrate and deepen the bond markets in BRICS economies, he added.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, stressed

India's idea of creating human-centric digital global public goods architecture through the vaccination platform- CoWIN as well through the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM), trinity or the bank account, digital identity and mobile phone-based digital transactions can now be made use of by the Global South as it works on economic recovery as well as to achieve the SDGs. He underlined that BRICS countries should enhance cooperation in areas such as green finance, green hydrogen and FinTech as they focus on economic recovery and address developmental challenges.

Professor Yarygina Irina, Department of International Finance, MGIMO University, Russia, Professor Haihong Gao,

Professor and Director, Research Center for International Finance, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and Professor Manmohan Agarwal, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS, also spoke on the occasion.

Apart from the above RIS also organised following programmes: Innovative Financing Partnership with Africa; Maritime Security Cooperation (MSC); Indian Perspectives on Innovation Incentives: Health Impact Fund; Building Climate Ready Communities; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and Future Strategies for SIDS and Climate Change. ■

Review of ASEAN-India FTA: Identifying the Potentials and Challenges for Deepening India-Indonesia Economic Engagement



The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and Embassy of Indonesia jointly organised a panel discussion on ASEAN-India FTA to identify the potentials and challenges for deepening India-Indonesia economic engagement on 29 November 2021 in virtual format. Mr Masni Eriza, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indonesian Embassy in Delhi; and Mr Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Jt. Secretary (South and Indo-Pacific), MEA delivered the inaugural addresses. The session was moderated by Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. Speakers were Mrs. Dina Kurniasari, Director of ASEAN Negotiations, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; Ms Indu Nair, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India; Dr Lina Alexandra, Senior Researcher, Department of International Relations, Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi. The eminent panel discussed the prospects of India-Indonesia economic engagements in light of ASEAN-India FTA Review. ■

ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience' on 21 October 2021 in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India and 14th East Asia Summit. The panel consisted of subject experts, academicians, policy planners and practitioners. The webinar discussed the opportunities of the Trilateral Highway, enhanced connectivity between Northeast India and Southeast Asia, disruption and challenges in the supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a few other issues on this occasion. AIC-RIS Report entitled "*Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for Northeast India*"



was released. Welcome Remarks was delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and the Opening Remarks was given by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Special Remarks were extended

by Ms. Alice Cheng, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in India New Delhi and Ambassador Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Jakarta. Dr. Prabir De,

Continued on page 19



Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Australian Government and National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at (RIS), New Delhi, and Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K) organised the fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation held at Kolkata on 23-24 November 2021 in hybrid mode. On-behalf of the organisers, Dr Prabir De, Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar and Major General Arun Roye welcomed the participants. Special remarks were delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation

(NMF), New Delhi; and Former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, President, Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K). Ms. Megan Jones, Director, Regional Maritime Engagement and Programs, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canberra delivered the Special Address. Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, New Delhi.

The two-day conference had five Plenary Sessions: (1) Maritime Security (2) Resource Sharing, (3) Science and Technology Cooperation, Pandemic and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (4). The 5th EAS

Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation discussed issues related to maritime security, information and resources sharing on the maritime domain, science and technology cooperation, disaster risk reduction and pandemic management and a panel discussion on way forward. Discussions reflected upon the importance of Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) and its seven pillars that has the potential to strengthen India's pragmatic diplomacy in the region. IPOI is focused on better management of shared interests of the participating countries. There is an urgent need to facilitate convergences of national and regional interests in the Indo-Pacific and IPOI is suited for such a scenario. ■

ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience

Continued from page 18

Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS chaired the Panel Discussion and made a presentation on the "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Implication for Northeast India". Speakers of the Session were Dr. Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, Economic Research Institute for

ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Mr. So Umezaki, Director, Economic Integration Studies Group, Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan; Mr. Bharat Joshi, Director, Associated Container Terminals Limited (ACTL), New Delhi; Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh, Department of Economics,

Manipur University, Imphal; Dr Tin Htoo Naing, Director, Center for Economy, Environment and Society (CEES Myanmar), Myanmar; and Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, Acting Deputy Director General, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS). Dr Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC at RIS delivered the Vote of Thanks. ■

“Developing GVCs in India: Scaling up Taiwan’s Investment to India”

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerability of global value chains (GVC) that compels the high labour force needs of industries, such as manufacturing industries to cease production. The effect of the epidemic was aggravated during phases of lockdown which induced recession across industrial sectors. This is even more harmful to developing countries, such as India whose GDP contracted by 7.3 per cent in 2020-21 as per the government estimates while the world grew by -3.41 per cent. Therefore, it is a considerable issue to further identify the sectors and possible physical zones of GVCs along with the increase of vaccine coverage and economic recovery.

Based on the long Supply Chains Collaboration of India and Taiwan on electronic components and products, the webinar on “Developing GVCs in India: Scaling up Taiwan’s Investment to India,” that took place on 9 December 2021 focussed primarily on the issue of Electronics, ICTs, and Semi-conductor sectors. The topics included (1) Taiwan’s Experiences in Developing electronics and semi-conductors supply chains; (2) India’s Visions and Current Developments of Electronics, ICT sectors, and Semi-Conductors industries; (3) India-Taiwan collaboration in technology industry supply chains – governments’ roles and business perspectives. This will deepen the

understanding between India and Taiwan on the technology and supply chain cooperation to deal with the U.S.-China trade war, COVID-19 pandemic and global economic turmoil. The increase in interaction between India and Taiwan, and the two countries becoming close trade partners in the future, would be beneficial for both sides.

The participants were Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Chuang-Chang Chang, President, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER), Taiwan; Dr. Kristy Tsun Tzu, Hsu, Director, CIER; Dr. Shin-Horng, Chen, Research Fellow, Director, The Second Research Division, Chung Hua Institution for Economic Research, Taiwan; Ashwini K Aggarwal, Director, Applied Materials, India; Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Former Indian Ambassador and Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF); Dr. Sanjeev K Varshney, Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi; Dr. Chuen-Huei, Hung, Deputy General Director, Market Intelligence & Consulting Institute (MIC), Institute for Information Industry, Taiwan. (Recorded Presentation); Mr. Sunil Acharya, Vice President, India Electronics & Semiconductor Association; Mr. Grant Kuo, CEO & Founder, Digital Doctor Private Limited, India. ■

Innovations and Data with Focus on Sustainable Economy at IEA 104th Annual Conference

RIS organized a Special Session on Innovations and Data with Focus on Sustainable Economy at Bhopal on 26 December 2021. The eminent participants were Professor Shamika Ravi, Former Member, PM’s Economic Advisory Council, India; Research Director, The Brookings Institute, Delhi; Professor Rishikesh T. Krishnan, Director, IIM, Bangalore; Professor Anna Roy, Senior Adviser at NITI Aayog; Professor Amitabh Kundu, RIS; Dr Ankush Agarwal, IIT, New Delhi; and Professor D. K. Nauriyal, Former Vice Chancellor, Kumaun University, Nainital. ■

Kanchenjunga Dialogue

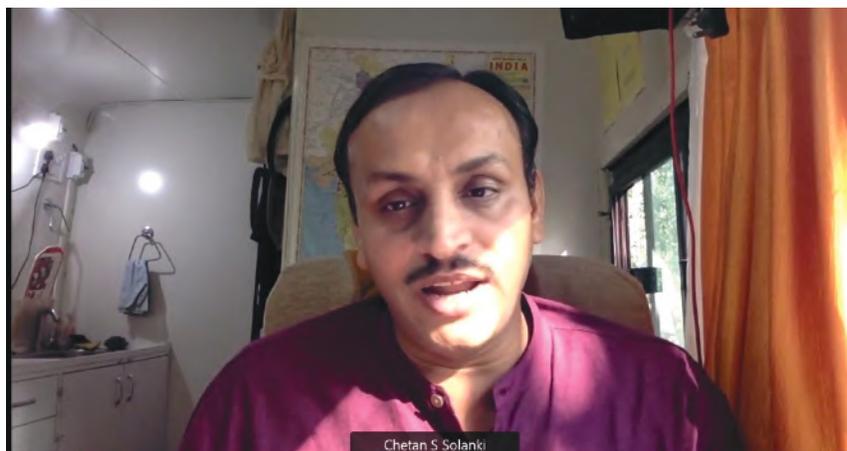
The Brainstorming Session on 28 December 2021, brought together academicians, policymakers and community development practitioners from Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal to discuss the issues as well as challenges of mutual cooperation in areas of community development, regional connectivity, trade, investment, energy, financial and infrastructure development, etc. Thematically, issues of local and grassroots development and practices, especially in

the areas of climate change adaptation, eco-tourism, organic food, floriculture, cultural interaction, etc. were also discussed in the session. Conceptualised as an academic platform for deliberations and dialogue for facilitating sub-regional mechanisms for development cooperation and community practices in India’s North East region and neighbouring countries, the first Kanchenjunga Dialogue is scheduled to take place in February 2022 at Sikkim University, Gangtok. ■

39th STIP Forum Lecture

The 39th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Professor Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor at the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, Founder of Energy Swaraj Foundation and the Brand Ambassador of Solar Energy for the state of Madhya Pradesh, on 22 December 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Realising Energy Swarajya in India through Solar: Towards Ensuring Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation”. The event was chaired by Amb. (Dr.) Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Dr. Krishna Ravi Srinivas delivered the welcome remarks, followed by brief remarks by Dr. Vibha Dhawan, DG, TERI and Mr. Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

In his very insightful and thought-provoking address, Prof. Chetan S Solanki presented an overview of the prevailing alarming state in terms of the increasing pollution and climate change phenomenon, which is going to adversely impact the human species and threaten its sustenance in this planet. He exhorted that the decisive factor in this alarming state is the huge generation and usage of energy, derived from fossil fuels i.e. oil, gas and coal. Today 80-85 per cent of energy consumption is from fossil fuels, which are carbon-based; and when they are burned to generate energy, they use oxygen from the atmosphere and generate carbon-dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ stays in the atmosphere for almost 300 years and being a Green House Gas (GHGs), it is leading to the global warming



Professor Chetan Singh Solanki delivering the STIP Forum lecture.

of the planet, which will be catastrophic, if not checked now. Irresponsible human activities in the last thirty years have led to the excessive concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, which now stands at a dangerous level of about 415 ppm.

Prof. Solanki alluded to the dichotomy between growth and climate change and argued that while increase in energy supply is needed for growth; decrease in the energy supply is required for addressing the serious issue of climate change. Thus the key challenge is how to balance the growth without affecting the climate change. He argued for deploying drastic and immediate measures to deal with this alarming situation. Towards such a solution, Prof. Solanki urged for switching to 100 per cent solar energy immediately (wherever it's possible) and become Atma Nirbhar and adopt energy swarajya. He placed forward the twin principles of “Limited Consumption” and “Localised Production” as key to realise energy swarajya. He further went on to enumerate the benefits of energy swarajya such

as livelihood creation, energy independence, community involvement, strengthening of local and rural economy, energy discipline, energy security and sustainability.

At the end, Prof. Solanki advocated a three-step approach for everyone to follow to achieve energy swarajya and mitigate climate change. First step is to avoid use of energy as much as possible (even if it's solar) by trying to avoid at least by one-third. Second step is to minimize the use of energy as much as possible by practicing discipline and using efficient appliances and try to minimize at least by one-third; and the third step is to generate as little as possible (if possible, only one-third, that too locally!). He argued that this principle or rule of “AMG” (Avoid, Minimize and Generate) is critical for mitigating climate change and achieve energy swarajya. Finally, he appealed for making energy swarajya as public movement, as government actions alone won't be sufficient to address the challenge of such an enormous proportion. ■

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Chaired the 'Inaugural Session'; Session on 'International Trade and Investment: Emerging Dynamics' and Session on 'Economy of Madhya Pradesh' at the 104th Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association organised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis on 25-26 December 2021.
- Delivered Keynote Address at the Conference on Science Policy and Administration, organised during the Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sammelan & Expo on 23 December 2021, Indore.
- Made a presentation on 'Trade negotiations issues' at the Webinar on Is India's approach to Global Economic Engagement Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP26 and Trade Discussion organised jointly by ICRIER and ADBI on 17 December 2021.
- Made a presentation at the Session on 'Leveraging the Power of Research Community and Policy Makers: Role of Think 20 (T20)' at the 27th Edition of CII Partnership Summit on 15 December 2021.
- Moderated the Session on Beyond Borders: Science & Technology Cooperation in the Quad at the Global Technology Summit, organised by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on 14 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Promoting Participatory Democratic Cities through Good Governance at the 2021 Resilient Cities Forum in Taoyuan: Sustainable Economy, Good Governance, and International Cooperation', organised jointly by the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF) and the Taoyuan City Government on 13 December 2021.
- Panelist in the panel discussion on 'Mitigation and Adaptation Measure: Action Plan organised during the 7th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) on Celebrating creativity in science held on 11 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Emerging Global Economic Frontiers' at the Indraprastha Grand Strategy Conference on the Necessity for Choice, organised by The Indian Futures on 10 December 2021.
- Panelist at the discussion on 'AYUSH Systems in Public Health and Primary Health' at the JIGNASA Arogya Fair & International Conference, organised by Jignasa on 10 December 2021.
- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on 'Is India's Foreign Policy Serving Its Economic Interests' on the occasion of Foundation Day of the Alumni Association of Calcutta University, Economics Department on 5 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on Growth Strategy of Asia Pacific at the Asia-Pacific Forum 2021, organised jointly by Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) and China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD) on 3 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on India-Bangladesh Trade at the Dialogue on 50 Years of Bangladesh-India Partnership: Towards a Journey in the Next 50 Years, organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka on 1 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on How Sustainable Development Goals could be embedded into WTO Rules from developing countries perspectives' at the Panel on Role of the G20 in sustaining and improving WTO rules for sustainable development purposes at the Panel Discussion organized jointly by Trade and Investment Research Network (TIRN) and IISD on 1 December 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Financial Tools to Support 4IR Technologies' at the International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies for Sustainable Development organised by APCTT of UN ESCAP and DSIR on 30 November 2021.
- Delivered keynote Address at the Virtual Symposium on "Changing Contours of Development Cooperation: What Roles for Civil Society?" organised by PRIA on 29 November 2021.
- Panelist at the Panel on Renewing Multilateralism to provide Public Goods, including through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the 6th UNDP-OECD-G20 workshop on Sustainable Development and Inclusive Globalization organised by UNDP, OECD and G20 Italia on 29 November 2021.
- Made a presentation at the session on 'Economic Conditions in Post-Covid India' at the Gen Next Democracy Network Programme organised by ICCR on 28 November 2021.'
- Delivered Valedictory Address on Climate Change at the International Conference on Political Economy of Climate Change organised by Association of Asia Scholars on 27 November 2021.
- Chaired the Technical Session on Global partnership on Bio-security at the ICMR Technical Session on Building a resilient biomedical disaster response: learning from the COVID-19 pandemic during the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management on 24 November 2021.
- Addressed the opening session of the Navigating the Financing Landscape of Africa at the

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

2nd CII Summit on Innovative Financing Partnership with Africa, organised by EXIM Bank and CII on 24 November 2021.

- Made a presentation on Health, Environment and Technology as Areas of Strategic Disputes at the VI Conference on Strategic Studies organised by the Centro de Investigaciones de Política Internacional on 24 November 2021.
- Participated as Leading Expert in an Interactive discussion on the Plurilateral Initiatives in the World Trade Organisation organised by Institute for International Trade and TIRN on 23 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on Briefing on India's Development Co-operation at the Meetings of DAC External Relations Group organised by OECD on 22 November 2021.
- Addressed the Research Institutes Network (RIN) Annual Meeting 2021 organised jointly by JETRO Bangkok and ERIA Indonesia on 22 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'The Quad: Global and Regional Perspective' organised by the National Defence Dialogue, Delhi Gymkhana Club on 20 November 2021, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative?' at the Meeting on Leading Think Tanks organised by NITI Aayog on 17 November 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Building Back Better and Accelerating SDGs Achievement Priority Actions for Regional Cooperation' at the Fifth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals organised by UN ESCAP on 16 November 2021 at Colombo.
- Made a presentation on 'South Asia: COVID-19 Protracted Crisis' at the Session on UNICEF

in a fast-changing world – implications for positioning and programming organised by UNICEF on 15 November 2021.

- Made a presentation on 'Future of Medicine and Healthcare' at the 2nd European Corporate Council on Africa and the Middle East annual Summit organised by The European House – Ambrosetti on 1 November 2021 at Rome.
- Made a presentation on 'Ayush Sector in India - Prospects and Challenges' at the AYUR-UDYAMAHA programme, organised by the Ministry of Ayush on 29 October 2021.
- Moderated the Session on 'Role of National Task Force and Partners Institutions in advancing SSC' at the Capacity Building Workshop for National South-South Cooperation organised by Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Dhaka on 27 October 2021.
- Made presentation on 'BRICS and IBSA: A Comparative Perspective' at the BRICS and IBSA: Reflections on Recent Academic Forums, organised jointly by SA BRICS Think Tank, the BRICS, Project at University of Johannesburg and the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) on 26 October 2021.
- Made presentation on 'India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative?' at the Webinar series organised by EGROW Foundation on 22 October 2021.
- Moderated the Technical Session II at the GLOBELICS-INDIALICS Webinar on 'Reimagining Innovation System for COVID-19 and Post-COVID-19 World', organised by GIFT and Khalsa College of Patiala on 13 October 2021.
- Panelist in the Webinar on "Global Poverty and Rural Revitalization: Challenges and Experiences" organised by College of International

Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA), China Agricultural University, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), Institute of Development Studies China Center, the UK, Network of Southern Think-tanks (NeST) on 12 October 2021.

- Made presentation on India International Development Fund (IIDF) at the First Meeting of the CII CPSE Project Exports Forum organised by CII on 12 October 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Perspectives on the Asia Africa Growth Corridor' at the Webinar on India-Japan Economic Partnership: Trade and Beyond organised by Exim Bank on 8 October 2021.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the discussion meeting on India EXIM Bank International Economic Research Annual (IERA) Award 2020: Second meeting of the IERA Award Committee, organised on 9 December 2020.
- Participated in the International Conference on New Southern Policy Plus: Vision, Progress, and the Future, and made a presentation on Dynamism in India-Korea Economic Partnership: A Model for the 21st Century, jointly organised by Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy; National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRC) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Korea on 8 December 2021.
- Participated in the Meeting on Bangladesh's 50th Anniversary - 50 Years of Bangladesh-India Partnership: Towards a Journey in Next 50 Years and made presentation virtually on 'A Story of Half Century Old Indo-Bangladesh Trade', organised jointly at CPD Bangladesh on 1 December 2021.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated as a Speaker in the Think Tank Discussion Meeting, organized by NITI Aayog, New Delhi dated 17 November 2021.
- Participated as a Speaker in First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on Reimagining India - Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy' and made a presentation in the session on Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order, jointly organized by RIS, ICWA, Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea, dated 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, organised by Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi dated 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the trade Discussion Meeting with the United States Trade Representative Delegation organised by Embassy of the USA, New Delhi on 7 October 2021.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Associate Professor

- Panelist at the panel titled "Impact of COVID-19 on Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward for Regional Cooperation" during Twenty-fourth Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by SDPI on 8 December 2021 (participated virtually).
- Resource Person at the Webinar on BRICS and formalisation: ILO Partners Perspectives organized by ILO International Training Centre at Turin on 7 December 2021 (participated virtually).
- Panelist at the panel titled "Role of the G20 in sustaining and improving WTO rules

for sustainable development purposes" organized by G20 - TIRN (Trade and Investment Research Network) on 1 December 2021 (participated virtually).

- Resource Person at V BRICS International School, November 29 - December 3, 2021, Moscow, Russia (participated virtually).
- Panelist at the "APRM High-Level Peer Review Forum on South-South Cooperation: Agility and Resilience in Africa and global South" (HLFSSC) held in Cairo, Egypt from 24 to 25 November 2021 (participated virtually).

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Made presentation in the technical session on "International Trade and Investment: Emerging Dynamics" in the 104th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association held in Bhopal on December 25-27, 2021.
- Made presentation on Fintech in "Roundtable on India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World" organised by RIS and University of Oslo on December 9, 2021.
- Made presentation on "Resource Implications of Profit Shifting, Economic Fugitives and Illicit Financial Flows" in the Asia Africa Forum Summit on Corruption 2021 by Asia-Africa Forum on Corruption, Indonesia on December 7-8, 2021.
- Made presentation on "Indo-Pacific Economic Vision: Larger Role for India in Future Asian Growth Story" in the Second South Asia Research Center International Conference on Memory and Past in South Asia organised by Soka University, Japan on November 26-27, 2021.

Presented the report of the webinar on 'BRICS Virtual Economic Conclave: Reshaping Global Economic Cooperation and Role of BRICS-Exploring Synergies and Complementarities' organized by RIS, Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India on November 26-27, 2021.

Moderated the Virtual Brainstorming Session on 'T20 Reforms for Upcoming G20 Developing Country Presidencies' organized by RIS and G20 Research Forum on November 24, 2021.

Presented report of the webinar on 'Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region' organised by RIS and IFPRI on October 28, 2021.

Made presentation as a Discussant in the technical session on "Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-COVID International Economic Order" in the India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue on 'Reimagining India-Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergizing the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy' organized by RIS, ICWA, KNDA and KIEP on October 27, 2021.

Made presentation on Asia-Africa Growth Corridor in the "India-Japan Economic Partnership: Trade and Beyond" organized by EXIM Bank of India on October 8, 2021.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

Participated in the Disciplinary Committee - Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 18 October, 12 November and 27 December 2021.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the webinar on “Is India’s Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions” organized by ICRIER on 17 December 2021.
- Participated in the book launch on “Unshackling India: Hard Truths and Clear Choices for Economic Revival” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on 16 December 2021.
- Participated in the CII Partnership Summit 2022 on 13-15 December 2021.
- Participated in the lecture series on “Vision Sustainable Mobility: Implications of CoP26” organized by SIAM on 10 December 2021.
- Participated in the flagship seminar on “Revisiting India’s Role in the Bangladesh Liberation War” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on 9 December 2021.
- Participated in an interaction with Ian Bremmer, President & Founder, Eurasia Group, on “Changing Global Geopolitical Dynamics and its Impact on India” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 3 December 2021
- Participated in the 17th Annual Meeting of True North on 2 December 2021
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Goodyear India Limited on 11 and 24 November 2021.
- Participated in the Digital Conference & Exhibition on “India - Taiwan Business Cooperation - Building Synergies and New Partnerships” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on 23 November 2021.
- Participated in the conference on “Competition, Regulation and Development” organized by CUTS-CIRC on 16-17 November 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 29 October 2021 and 10 November 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board Meeting of Airtel Bank on 22 October 2021 and 8-9 November 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on ‘The 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO: Expected Outcomes and the Path Forward’ organized by ICRIER, in collaboration with the India office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on 8 November 2021.
- Participated in the CII Core Group Meeting on China on 2 November 2021.
- Participated in a session on “Integrating Sustainability in Production and Trade Policies for Forest linked Commodities” organized by Centre for Responsible Business on 28 October 2021.
- Participated in a special discussion on “What to Expect from COP26 - A Framework for Indian Businesses” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with The U.S. Consulate in Mumbai & the Atlantic Council on 27 October 2021.
- Participated as a Panelist on "Focus on Exports to Boost India’s Economic Growth” organized by Surya Foundation on 27 October 2021.
- Participated in the Brainstorming on “Institutional Issues and WTO Reform” organized by Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT) on 26 October 2021.
- Participated in the event on “Growing a Green Economy with Renewable Energy” organized by The U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, along with the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and Consulates in Chennai, and Hyderabad, in association with the Ananta Centre on 21 October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on "India’s Economy in a Post-Pandemic World" organized by Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the Institute for International Economic Policy on 20 October 2021.
- Participated in the 13th Annual International G-20 Conference on “Global Economic Coordination in the Age of Pandemic: Views from the G-20 Members” organized by ICRIER on 6-8 October 2021.

Dr P. K. Anand
Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations event on “Is India’s Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions” held on 17th December 2021(virtual).
- Participated in the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) event on ‘16th National Convention TARGET 2030 Assess. Act. Accelerate” held on 15th - 16th December 2021. (virtual).
- Participated in Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on ‘Session on India-Vietnam: Opportunities for business collaborations’ held on 14th December, 2021 (virtual)

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) event on 'Social Enterprises and Disability: Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region' held on 8th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Official Side Event of Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021: Empowering Every Child for Healthier Future - Potential of School Feeding and Nutrition Education held on 2 December, 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in T20 Handover event 'From Italy to Indonesia: T20 Contribution to G20 Recovery Initiatives', held on 30th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the conference jointly organized by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn on 'Africa and India: Experiences with transformation of food and agriculture and opportunities for learning and collaboration' held on 26th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and India Land and Development Conference on Special Economic Zones and India's Industrialization Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward held 24th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on the 5th anniversary of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) organized by the Future

Investment Initiative Institute, FII Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the theme of 'Invest in Humanity' held during 26th - 28th October 2021.

- Participated in the webinar on 'G20 role towards an internationally recognized ESG framework' organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali, Roma of T20:Italian Presidency, held on 11th October, 2021.

Mr K. Krishna Kumar

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations event on "Is India's Approach to Global Economic Engagements Changing? Reflections from the Recent G20 Summit, COP 26 and Trade Discussions" held on 17th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) event on '16th National Convention TARGET 2030 Assess. Act. Accelerate" held on 15th - 16th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on 'Session on India Vietnam: Opportunities for business collaborations' held on 14th December, 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) event on 'Social Enterprises and Disability: Fostering Innovation, Awareness, and Social Impact in the ASEAN Region' held on 8th December 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Official Side Event

of Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021: Empowering Every Child for Healthier Future - Potential of School Feeding and Nutrition Education held on 2 December, 2021 . (virtual)

- Participated in T20 Handover event "From Italy to Indonesia: T20 Contribution to G20 Recovery Initiatives", held on 30th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the conference jointly organized by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn on " Africa and India: Experiences with transformation of food and agriculture and opportunities for learning and collaboration" held on 26th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and India Land and Development Conference on Special Economic Zones and India's Industrialization Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward held 24th November 2021. (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on the 5th anniversary of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) organized by the Future Investment Initiative Institute, FII Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on the theme of "Invest in Humanity" held during 26th - 28th October 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on "G20 role towards an internationally recognized ESG framework" organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali, Roma of T20:Italian Presidency held on 11th October, 2021.

REPORTS

- **World Trade and Development Report 2021**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **India-EU Connectivity Partnership for Development, Demand and Democracy**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India**, RIS-AIC, New Delhi, 2021

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

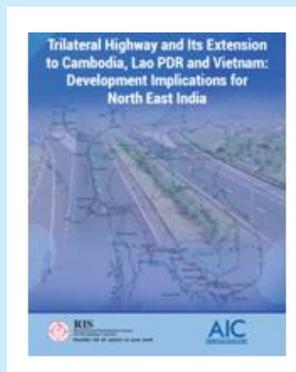
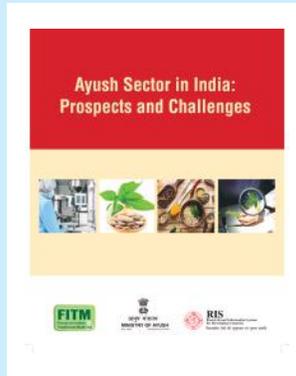
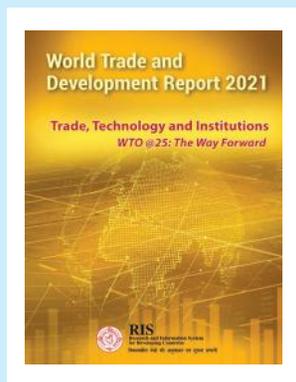
- #108 **Accessing Rare Earth Elements and Prospects for Manufacturing** by Pankaj Vashisht
- #107 **Time to Reform Lines of Credit Striving for Efficiency & Effectiveness** by RIS Team
- #107 **New Approach on Tax Policies and Imperatives for FTAs and FDI: International Trade and Investment Partnerships** by Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

AIC at RIS PUBLICATION

- **Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC): Achievements and Way Forward**

AIC Commentary Series

- AIC Commentary No. 22, October 2021, Promoting Tourism between ASEAN and India in Post-COVID by Dr. Sampa Kundu
- AIC Commentary No. 23, November 2021, ASEAN Summits 2021: Major Takeaways by Sampa Kundu, Sreya Pan and Prabir De
- AIC Commentary No. 24, December 2021, Review of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Broad Contours and the Next Steps by Prabir De and Nida Rahman



AIC Working Paper

- Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport - Suggested Action Plans, AIC Working Paper # 8, by Prabir De

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Dash, Priyadarshi. 2021. 'Why India needs an international development cooperation agency', *Indian Express*, 21 October, New Delhi.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2021. The pandemic is an opportunity to correct some historical wrongs, *Indian Express*, 25 November.

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2021. Renewing Multilateralism - A greener post-COVID development strategy: Time to mainstream new development indicators. OEDC Development Blog, Paris.

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Saha, Sabyasachi. 2021. 'Make Food Security fair 'n' Square'. *The Economic Times*, 29 November 2021.

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Saha, Sabyasachi. Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs post-pandemic: Strengthening Technology Facilitation Mechanism and Global Public Goods for Low- and Middle-income countries" T20 Italy Policy Brief.

De, Prabir, Durairaj Kumarasamy and Sreya Pan. 2021. "Two Decades of ASEAN-India Cooperation: Regional Cooperation Agenda for the Third Decade", in Prabir De (ed.) *Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC): Achievements and Way Forward*, Vij Books, New Delhi.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs applauds RIS work programme and calls for deeper policy connect

Continued from page 1

thrust areas, research pillars, partnership platforms, global networks, publications and capacity building programmes. Faculty members briefed Hon'ble Minister about their research profiles and activities covering international trade; India's economic relations with Latin America; narrative for rule-based Indo-Pacific, India-EU connectivity partnership and development; Blue Economy prospects in the Indian Ocean; multilateralism with special focus on UN SDGs, South-South and Triangular Cooperation; Science Policy and Science Diplomacy and India and Central Asia partnership for regional development. The Hon'ble Minister interacted with all faculty members and applauded efforts of RIS in the above areas to serve as a think tank of developing



countries. She encouraged all faculty members to engage in evidence based and policy relevant research, to undertake rigorous

analysis and to embed national interest as well as connect with Indian thought and culture in our collective intellectual endeavours. ■



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Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India., Ph. 91-11-24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74, Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in
Website: www.ris.org.in



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