



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda



Mr Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa delivering the Inaugural Address during Delhi Process-VI.

Delhi Process: Focuses on Indian G20 Presidency

RIS organized a two-day programme on "Towards Indian G20 Presidency: Exploring New Development Paradigms and Growth Strategies-Partnerships in Times of Transition and Contestations" on August 27-28, 2022.

India's G20 Sherpa Mr Amitabh Kant delivered the inaugural address. He stated that India's year-long G20 Presidency beginning December 2022 will focus on building a consensus within the grouping of the world's 20 major economies on measures to revive global economic growth in a human-centric and inclusive manner, ensure just green and digital transitions, and achieve SDGs by 2030. Observing that India's G20 Presidency comes at a time

of multiple challenges including the geo-political tensions, global supply chain disruptions, climate action deceleration, international trade slowdown, high global debt, inflationary pressures, and the impending recession, Mr Kant said India will use its political capital and leadership to evolve a consensus to achieve short-term goals including on climate finance.

Referring to the bleak scenario within the G20 currently, Mr Kant said that the G7 countries are not even willing for photo opportunity or discussions with Russia on account of the Ukraine conflict. Noting that challenges, especially in the post-COVID era, could throw up opportunities to take 'development'

to the core of the G20 agenda, he said India will showcase its achievements including in SDG localisation as well as its development of open-source platforms including on COVID-19 vaccination registration and unified payment interface. He emphasized that India has created a unique digital public infrastructure on the basis of individual consent – a model that can be replicated across the world as sensitive personal data in India is not in the hands of the Big Tech companies. He urged emerging economies like Brazil and South Africa, which will be sequentially holding the G20 Presidency after India, to focus on being leaders in 'sunrise sectors' such as green hydrogen, and digitalisation of

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health and education to penetrate global markets instead of fighting for space in the sunset sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Anil Sooklal, Ambassador-at-Large for Asia and BRICS, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa, said that during India's G20 Presidency, 'development' needs to be brought in from the margins to the centre of the G20 agenda. He opined that issues such as women's empowerment, industrialisation of Africa, elimination of illicit financial flows from the Global South, including Africa, were critical components of the development agenda, but due to lack of continuity, they did not find a place in the mainstream of G20 agenda so far. Prof Sooklal stated that India's G20 Presidency gives a marvelous opportunity for IBSA coordination to ensure the implementation of the development agenda by the G20. He suggested that the landmark IBSA Fund for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation should be expanded by bringing it into the G20 agenda.

Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, India, emphasized on a need to look at greater partnerships between developed and developing countries by finding synergies in their respective strengths. It is also vital to encourage the private sector to play a greater role in the development agenda.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said that the Delhi Process is a great opportunity to take forward South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, and tackle global challenges including inflation, as well as to ensure supply chain resilience and infrastructure building with local participation.



Distinguished participants at the inaugural session of the Delhi Process-VI.

Mr Jorge Chediek, Director and Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation (UNOSSC), said that the Delhi Process is important as it gives an opportunity for IBSA countries to bring back development into the global governance processes by addressing the human dimensions including employment. Mr André Aranha Corrêa do Lago, the Ambassador of Brazil to India, expressed concern over countries going back on their climate commitments. He said the G20 Presidency of India, Brazil and South Africa should also be seen as an opportunity to revitalise the IBSA dialogue process.

There after all three sessions were held Session 1 on New Development Paradigm and Principles of Cooperation highlighted the key themes of - the New Development Paradigm, Global Development Initiatives and Scope for Partnership and Cooperation, Going beyond Modalities of SSC, NSC and TrC, Development Banks and Resource Mobilisation. It covered the deliberations on the similarities and dissimilarities in initiatives of EU, US, G-7 and China, namely

- Blue Dot Network, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Global Gateway Initiatives of EU, Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment by G-7; Global Development Initiative and Belt and Road Initiative of China.

Session 2 deliberated on Global Governance and Agenda 2030 with key themes on - Adaptation at and for Multilateral Institutions and Global Governance; Macroeconomic Challenges and Weakening Means of Implementation (Finance & Technology); Declining enthusiasm for leveraging multilateral institutions, and the Need for recalibration towards SDGs 2.0.

Session 3 on Development Pathways and New Measurement Approaches focused on the key themes of Sustainable Consumption and Production and Beyond GDP - Measuring Development and Wellbeing. It highlighted the Statistical and Data issues of Developing countries and the need to revamp Census data, and strengthening of National statistics System, which consists of extensive social dimensions parameters.

(Full Report is available on RIS website www.ris.org.in). ■

Rejuvenating Growth through Partnership: Role of BIMSTEC

RIS is a founding member and nodal point for BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) in India. During the official visit of H.E. Mr Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC, RIS and Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized an Interaction Meeting with H.E. Mr Lekphell on “Rejuvenating Growth through Partnership: Role of BIMSTEC” on August 24, 2022 at New Delhi. Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Ms Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador of Myanmar H. E. Mr Moe Kyaw Aung and Ambassador of Bhutan H. E. Major General Vetsop Namgyel attended the meeting and shared their perspectives on regional cooperation in BIMSTEC. In addition, Mr Rudrendra Tandon, Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, India; representations from diplomatic missions of BIMSTEC countries in New Delhi; officials from Ministry of Agriculture, India, experts and media persons attended



H.E. Mr Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC.

the meeting. On this occasion, a joint RIS-IFPRI report on “Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region” was also launched.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General briefed about RIS research programme on BIMSTEC, and presented key perspectives on the future of BIMSTEC in the development of the region. In the meeting, H.E Mr Lekphell highlighted the recent initiatives by BIMSTEC including finalization of the Charter, rationalization of priority sectors and strengthening of BIMSTEC Secretariat. He also

acknowledged the disbursement of US\$1 million commitment by India to the BIMSTEC Secretariat. The Secretary General underlined the importance of the BIMSTEC cooperation in terms of a new era of partnership that would be leveraged on the unique strength of BIMSTEC as a bridge of connectivity and bridge of prosperity. He stressed on the critical role that financing could play in achieving economic growth and meeting sustainable development goals. The idea of BIMSTEC Development Fund was also emphasized.

Ambassadors of Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand shared their visions of BIMSTEC cooperation and the priority areas of collective action. Professor S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS presented the key findings of the report, especially, the major trends in agriculture trade and the possibility of expanding regional trade in numerous agricultural products.

(Full Report is available on RIS website www.ris.org.in). ■



Distinguished dignitaries at the launch of the RIS-IFPRI Report on Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region.

Panel Discussion on Current Economic Scenario in Sri Lanka and the Way Forward



Panel discussion in progress.

The South Asian countries witnessed different recovery trajectories in the post-Covid period. Risks emanating from the evolving global economic scenario, high debt level, rising prices and associated macro-economic challenges remained elevated for the regional economies for quite some time. Sri Lanka, in particular, has faced the worst economic crisis in recent years. Fall in export revenues, unsustainable public debt and low foreign exchange reserves amidst political instability worsened the economic crisis in the country.

In view of the evolving situation in Sri Lanka, RIS organized a virtual Panel Discussion on 'Current Economic Scenario in Sri Lanka and the Way Forward' on 6 August, 2022. The panelists included Ms Usha Thorat, Chairperson, Foundation for Ecological Security and Formerly Deputy Governor, RBI; Professor

S. D. Muni, Former Ambassador and India's Special Envoy to South East Asian countries on UNSC Reforms (2005-06) and Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS & Non Resident Senior Fellow, ISAS, Singapore.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired the session. In his welcome remarks, Professor Chaturvedi pointed out the importance of sequencing of policies, strong institutions and reform of global monetary authorities. He emphasized the need to strengthen the idea of South Asian integration and highlighted the major challenges at the global level disrupting value chains, the post-covid and post conflict challenges among others.

Ms Usha Thorat highlighted the severity of Sri Lanka's twin deficits, the current account deficit and the fiscal deficit. She suggested that Government should encourage

banks to lend and help recovery of economic growth and employment. Refinance for agriculture and SMEs was also stressed for.

Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja referred to the root causes of debt crisis in Sri Lanka in terms of tax cuts, overnight ban on chemical fertilizers, an attempt to manage fixed exchange rate and dependence on homegrown solutions. He also emphasized that China fueled debt trap narrative in Sri Lanka by providing US\$13.2 billion in infrastructure loans, since 2006 to July 2022 and suggested the need of political reforms in Sri Lanka.

Professor S. D. Muni emphasized the need of political stability in restoring economy and growth in Sri Lanka. Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS presented key takeaways and proposed vote of thanks.

(Full Report is available on RIS website www.ris.org.in). ■

55th ASEAN Day Celebration



Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS with other distinguished participants.

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, organised a panel discussion to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN on August 8, 2022 at New Delhi, India. ASEAN symbolizes the spirit of solidarity and peaceful, prosperous and socially responsible ASEAN Community. The theme of this year's ASEAN Day is "Stronger Together" that invites and welcomes the forward-minded people of ASEAN to come in synchronization and work as a collective to face the challenges of 21st Century. H.E. Ms. Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador, Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi and H.E. Mr Ung Sean, Ambassador, Royal Embassy of Cambodia, New Delhi to deliver the Special Remarks. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS; Ms Geetika Srivastava, JS (IP), MEA and Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS were present in the event.

The panel discussion, themed as "75 years of India and 55 years of ASEAN: Partners in Progress" was moderated by Professor S.D. Muni, Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

H. E. Mr Dato Alaihuddin Mohammad Taha, High Commissioner, High Commission of Brunei Darussalam, referred to the mantra of ASEAN including promotion of peace, social cohesion, development, ASEAN Community, peace with the neighbours and strategic partnerships with external partners. H. E. Mr Bounneme Chouanghom, Ambassador, Embassy of the Lao PDR, spoke about the bilateral partnership between India and Lao PDR and the former's developmental assistance to the latter in narrowing the developmental gaps. He also appreciated Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S. Jaishankar's recent visit to Lao PDR and the friendly relation between the two countries.

Mr Masni Eriza, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, put thrust on issues that can build up the upcoming Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India. He focused on areas like medical capacity building, food security, maritime cooperation, blue economy and building bridges in the Indo-Pacific. In this regard, Indonesia's role is important as well as convergence of interests between

ASEAN and India in the maritime domain. H. E. Mr Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, spoke about the multifaceted relationship between ASEAN and India and the role of Myanmar as a bridge in that dynamic. Geographical proximity and India's Act East Policy play key roles in the ASEAN-India partnership. The next speaker, H. E. Mr Simon Wong, High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, referred to the terms like cohesive integrity which identifies ASEAN's balance with the big powers to maintain peace and tranquility in the region.

He also defined ASEAN centrality as a term that denotes ASEAN's power to negotiate with the competitive and geopolitical big powers and not to allow them to distort peace in the region. He also appreciated India's stance in maintaining peace at the critical juncture of the 21st Century when most of the big powers are fighting with each other. Therefore, he suggested the non-confrontational

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International Conference to Commemorate Thirty Years of India-ASEAN Relations



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh with other dignitaries at the International Conference.

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in collaboration with ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organized a two-day International Conference to commemorate thirty years of India-ASEAN relations on the theme "Geopolitical Shifts and Opportunities: New Horizons in India-Southeast Asia Relations" on 20-21 July 2022. The seminar had more than forty speakers from think tanks, academic institutions as well

as former diplomats from India and ASEAN countries.

The Inaugural Session of the International Conference was held in-person at Sapru House on 20 July 2022. Remarks were made by Amb. Vijay Thakur Singh, DG, ICWA and H.E. Mr Simon Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to India. Special Remarks were made by Dr C Raja Mohan, Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi. The keynote address was

delivered by Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. Thereafter all the seven technical sessions of the conference were held in virtual mode.

The conference came to a close with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), ICWA, New Delhi and Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS, New Delhi. ■

AIC Webinar IV G-20: Converging Interests between ASEAN and India

The AIC at RIS organized the 4th webinar of "G-20: Converging Interests between ASEAN and India". We already had three webinars on strategic pillars of the ASEAN- India relations, the economic partnership, and the

socio-cultural partnership on 18 February 2022, 22 April 2022, and 30 June 2022, respectively. The fourth webinar was important as Presidency of G20 will pass on to India from December this year till 2023. The webinar covered

the broad ambit of cross-sectoral partnership between ASEAN and India at the global level. This had also set the platform to discuss India's upcoming G-20 presidency from December 2022 which is currently held by Indonesia. ■

Indian Economy in the Context of Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Trade Relationships



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

As part of its capacity building programme, RIS, in collaboration with Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi, conducted a three-day Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the IFS Officer Trainees and two Bhutanese diplomats during July 05-07, 2022 at RIS. The training module covered the contemporary challenges faced by the Indian economy in the context of bilateral, regional and



Professor S. K. Mohanty

multilateral trade relationships and other economic cooperation issues. The three-day programme comprised of 12 sessions, including the inaugural and valedictory. The inaugural session began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General (DG), RIS, and followed by Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS, who presented the outline of the programme. Professor Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, delivered the inaugural address.

The specific themes covered under the programme include: (i) WTO, Multilateralism and Plurilaterals (Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, Former Ambassador of India to WTO); (ii) Broad Trade Dynamics, Mega-Regionals and new FTA Approach (Prof S.K. Mohanty, RIS); (iii) Regional



Professor Abhijit Das

Energy Cooperation (Mr R.V. Shahi, Distinguished Fellow, RIS); (iv) Financial Inclusion and Payment Gateways (Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS); (v) Innovative Experience in Technology (Mr Hemang Jani, Secretary, Capacity Building Commission); (vi) Science Diplomacy (Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS); (vii) ASEAN-India Relations and Economic Agenda for Indo-Pacific (Dr Prabir De, Professor & Coordinator, AIC, RIS,



Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta

and Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS); (viii) South-South Cooperation and Outgoing Assistance by India (Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS), (ix) Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs (Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS) and (x) Blue Economy (Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS).

The valedictory session was chaired by Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Dr C. Raja Mohan, Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi, delivered the valedictory address. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi made the closing remarks and Professor S.K. Mohanty summarized the proceedings of the three-day programme. The session ended with vote of thanks delivered by Dr Durgesh K. Rai, Fellow, RIS who coordinated the programme. ■



IFS Officer Trainees attending the Capacity Building Programme at the RIS.

Capacity-Building Programme on Agriculture Trade and Policy Analysis

RIS in collaboration with Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) organised a two-day capacity-building programme in Chandigarh to acquaint young researchers in the areas of agricultural trade and policy analysis on September 29-30, 2022. The programme was attended by 20 scholars from different parts of the country. The programme highlighted contemporary challenges in the global, regional and local agriculture sectors.

Prof S. K. Mohanty, RIS, New Delhi, in his welcome remarks, emphasised that the global economy is at a cross-road since the net availability of food is accompanied by food insecurity in many countries. "Further, the rise of middle-income groups in several developing countries is posing the issue of nutritional challenges. Again, developing countries

are witnessing the challenges of livelihood security amidst trade surplus in agriculture and trade competitiveness in a sizable number of commodities," he said.

Dr Rajib Sutradhar, Christ University, Bengaluru discussed the plight of smallholders and highlighted that such challenges can be addressed through food supply chains. Much of these value chains involve high-value crops, reflecting that the food basket of an average consumer has also undergone a change in favour of high-value crops in many developing countries. Smallholders in India figure prominently in the production of high-value crops, particularly, fruits and vegetables, accounting for more than half of high-value produced in India.

In his address, Prof Jitender Mohan Singh, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, said that for making agriculture more sustainable, crop diversification

is undertaken in certain Indian states to promote agricultural value chains. The approach towards crop diversification had limited relevance due to the lack of a sustainable mechanism of price support to the farmers in case of a sharp fall in the prices of alternative crops. In the case of high-value crops, assured marketing of farmers' output at remunerative prices need to be ensured. He stated that the rotation of rice-wheat cultivation is persisting in the region (particularly, Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh) because of an assured and effective food grain procurement policy for paddy and wheat crops.

Dr Pankhuri Gaur, RIS, while presenting RIS-IFPRI Study - 'Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region', mentioned that the Intra-Regional agriculture trade in the BIMSTEC has been much higher than the overall performance of the regional trade during the past two decades. ■



Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS with scholars from different parts of the country.

MEA Internship Programme 2022



Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, launched an Internship Programme 2022. A total of 75 internships were offered. RIS hosted 37 MEA interns on 6 July 2022.

Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, along with Dr Beena Pandey, Assistant Professor, RIS, welcomed the interns at RIS, New Delhi. After making the welcome remarks Professor Mohanty gave an overview of the world economic scenario and explained the key aspects of global

trade and investment. He also put out a historical perspective regarding how RIS was established in 1983. In addition, he briefed the interns about the mandate of RIS and its current work programme on G20.

Dr Pandey made a presentation on the RIS work programme and interacted with the interns. RIS shared with them the copies of its recent publication "*75 Years of Development Partnership: Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress*", which has also been brought out as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, as work programme of RIS. ■



Group of MEA Interns at RIS.

55th ASEAN Day Celebration

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ways to play the bigger role in the Indo-Pacific. Mr Hai Thanh Do, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, illustrated well the criticism ASEAN as an institution had faced in the past for not being able to manage some of the inter-state and intra-

state conflicts. He then moved to the convergence of interests in the Indo-Pacific in strategic and security terms. The other speakers included Ambassador Gurjit Singh, Former Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Indonesia, Germany, Ethiopia, and the African Union and Dr Constantino Xavier, Fellow,

CSEP, New Delhi. Dr Constantino Xavier underscored that ASEAN and India have the choice to co-exist with the big powers and that is the key of today's geopolitics. Dr Prabir De thanked the distinguished participants and audience in the event. ■

45th STIP Forum Lecture

Marine Litter and Microplastic Pollution along Indian Coast-Need of a National Marine Litter Policy

The 45th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Pravakar Mishra, Senior Scientist, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR, Chennai), on 30 August 2022 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was "Status of Marine Litter and Microplastic Pollution along the Indian Coast - Need of a National Marine Litter Policy". The event was chaired by Dr Nakul Parashar, Director, Vigyan Prasar and moderated by Dr Kinkini Dasgupta Misra, Senior Scientist, Vigyan Prasar.

Dr Mishra began his very insightful and thought-provoking lecture by stating that almost all the marine litter we see today in the oceans is originated in the land, with more than 75 per cent of them being plastic alone. This is going to hugely impact the marine organisms and marine ecosystem. He pointed out that the world's worst offenders in terms of causing plastic pollution are the major corporate companies such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi, who are producing millions of plastic bottles every day.

He further highlighted the key problem regarding plastics and that



Dr Pravakar Mishra

is related to the longevity of plastics. Plastics take hundreds of years to get disintegrated and thus can remain as a great environmental and health hazard for long time. Dr Mishra went on to point out that the production of plastics worldwide has increased tremendously over a period of time. The total production of plastics has increased from about 2 million metric tons in 1950 to 8.3 billion metric tons in 1917. By 2050, its predicted to increase to 34 billion metric tons; in which case, the weight of plastics in oceans will be more than the weight of fishes in the oceans.

Dr Mishra further elaborated on the issue of micro-plastics, which

is emerging as a major hazard. The plastics released in the environment gets converted into micro-plastics and even to nano-plastics. The presence of micro-plastics in the oceans is going to seriously interfere with the carbon fixation capacity of oceans, thus leading to global warming. The rich countries are producing much more plastic waste per person than the poorer ones.

He also mentioned that India has joined the global 'Clean Seas Campaign' and is actively taking part in International Coastal Clean-up Day. Besides, he highlighted the campaign "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar", that was launched by the government in July 2022 in order to clean 75 beaches in 75 days.

At the end of his talk, Dr Mishra put forward some key policy recommendations and strategies to limit marine litter. He emphasized on proper solid waste management, putting in place an effective plastic waste collection mechanism and need for exploring alternative packaging design. He exhorted on the imperative to bring about the change in the social and civic behaviour of people so that we behave in a responsible manner. ■



FISD Lectures on India and the Arctic



Captain (Dr) Nitin Agarwala

The Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD), RIS, organized two online lectures on India and the Arctic in September 2022 as part of its series of lectures on issues related to Arctic, Antarctica and the Cryosphere. The first lecture was delivered by Captain (Dr) Nitin Agarwala, Naval Architect, India Navy on 14 September 2022. The topic of the lecture was 'India's Evolving Engagements in the Arctic'. The session was chaired by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. The chair noted the significance of the Arctic from an economic and strategic angle and stressed on the severe impact of climate change and global warming.

In his lecture, Dr Agarwala highlighted the reduction in ice cap over the years in the Arctic, and discussed its impact of monsoons, temperature and sea-level rise. He stressed on the geo-political

and strategic significance of the Northern Sea Route which would also reduce the travel time, distance and fuel consumption. At the same time, oil and mineral resources, hydrocarbons, biodiversity, marine species and biogeochemistry of the region is extremely important. While speaking about the strategic importance of the North Sea Route, the speaker discussed the interests of several countries in the region like Japan, South Korea, China and Russia. He traced India's interests in the Poles and emphasised on its growing engagements in the Arctic, historically tracing the developments since the signing of the Arctic Treaty until the release of India's Arctic Policy in March 2022.

The speaker also discussed several challenges in the region and in particular for India. He also provided vis-à-vis administrative, collaborative, scientific, economic, trade and strategic. With the timely Arctic Policy, India needs to maintain relevance in the region in scientific research, trade and defence.

The second lecture 'India's Arctic Policy' on 20 September 2022 was delivered by Captain Anurag Bisen, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. The session was chaired by Dr



Captain Anurag Bisen

Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Senior Fellow and Consultant, RIS. Captain Bisen began his lecture by providing a background of the Arctic region and its governance. He underlined that the region is governed by domestic laws, bilateral agreements, global treaties like UNCLOS, customary law and international maritime convention.

The thrust areas of India's scientific research in the Arctic and Arctic science management provided a context for India's growing activities in the Arctic. As a part of the committee involved in shaping India's Arctic Policy, he discussed in detail the making of the policy.

The Policy is likely to have a multiplier effect towards a more synergised and focused scientific research. Release of the Arctic Policy augurs well for India's Arctic endeavours and will create capabilities for research on Arctic governance and geopolitics. ■

Digital Payment Solutions for Malawi

A seven member delegation comprising senior officials were led by Mr Fraser H. Mdwazika, Director, National Payments System Department, Reserve Bank of Malawi & Ms. Jean Jayne Munyenyembe, Accountant General, Government of Malawi visited India from 25-30 September 2022. The delegation comprised

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Meeting in progress.

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senior officials from Reserve Bank of Malawi and Ministry of Finance, Malawi. In collaboration with NIPL, workshop and exposure visit

on digital payment solutions were organised by GDC at RIS for the delegation in NIPL headquarters, Mumbai. Detailed presentation on

UPI and multiple UPI 'use cases' were showcased by NIPL officials in the workshop. ■

India-Malawi Interactive Meeting on Digital Payment Solutions



Participants at the India-Malawi Interactive session.

Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS organised an India-Malawi interactive session on digital payment solutions on September 28, 2022 at RIS. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm and ideate strategies which can be of help for Malawi in adopting digital payment systems.

Representatives from Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India spoke about the support that India has been providing Africa especially Malawi in capacitating through ITEC programmes. Participants from RIS emphasized on taking forward India's experiences and at the same time bringing in experiences from peer countries as well for the accelerated economic advancement of Global South.

The core discussion centred around, how digital payment mechanism has been helping India in swiftly adopting Goods and Services Tax (GST) culminating

into improved tax revenues, disbursement of pensions, with increased transparency and reduction in corruption. Malawi can productively reap benefits with a similar focussed approach. British High Commission, New Delhi acknowledged the advancement made by India in digital payment sector and reiterated their support to Malawi through India-UK innovation partnership.

As a way forward for future engagements, the Malawi delegation was offered the support of GDC in conducting the gap analysis with respect to adoption of digital payment technology in Malawi.

The meeting was attended by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS; Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, RIS; Ms. Rituparna Banerjee, GDC Manager, RIS and

Mr Amit Arora, GDC Manager, RIS. Malawi Representation consisted of H.E. Mr Leonard Mungezi, High Commissioner, Malawi High Commission, New Delhi, Mr Fraser H. Mdwazika, Director, National Payments System Department, Reserve Bank of Malawi, Ms. Jean Jayne Munyenembe, Accountant General, Government of Malawi and other members of the Malawi Delegation.

Dr Arindam Bhattacharyya, Director (DPA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Mr Raj Kamal, Deputy Secretary (E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India also attended the event.

From British High Commission, New Delhi the key participants include Mr David White, Senior Political Advisor, British High Commission, New Delhi and Ms Evelyn Ashton-Griffiths, Head of Global Partnerships, British High Commission, New Delhi. ■

Workshop on Direct Benefit Transfer System for Malawi

The workshop on 'Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)' for Malawi was organised by GDC at RIS on September 29, 2022 to orient the Malawi delegation about the direct transfer of government assistance or funds to the target sections of the society for the accelerated economic development. As a result of the DBT system adopted by India 100 per cent funds get transferred to the accounts of the targeted beneficiaries unlike in the past where a major portion of them was swallowed by intermediaries or others. Importance of India's

biometric ID system, Aadhaar was also contextualized in digital payment sector. The magnitude of the programme was explained, wherein 318 DBT schemes from 53 government ministries are currently operational. The upcoming plans by the DBT mission were also shared with the delegates.

Mr Saurabh K. Tiwari, Joint Secretary, DBT Mission, Government of India; Mr Anshuman Kamila, Assistant Director, DBT Mission, Government of India; Mr Vijay Kumar, Assistant Director, DBT

Mission, Government of India; and Mr Narayan Singh, Under Secretary (E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India responded to the queries raised by the visiting delegation and briefed them about the wide range of safeguards taken by the government for guaranteed 100 per cent transfer of intended funds to the concerned section of society. They also explained the linkage between DBT, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) & NIPL's UPI platform for enhancing digital financial inclusion. ■



Distinguished participants at the workshop on DBT system.

India's Inevitabilities for the Global Space Economy

RIS organized a webinar on "India's Inevitabilities for the Global Space Economy during the Amrit Kaal" on 28 September 2022. Speaking at the event, Dr Chaitanya Giri, Consultant, RIS, said that Amrit Kaal as the theme of the discussion highlights space activities in India for the next 25 years and how and what the country needs to leverage the space sector to achieve excellence in space.

Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS said that space companies can play a great role in serving the underserved areas where traditional telecom has not been reached. India Space Congress 2022 will not only bring all stakeholders together but is also well timed as we are almost at the heels of space reforms. ISRO, Government

and Private sector collaboration and working cohesively is critical for the sector.

According to Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director - National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, the Indian space program is unique as it is the only country that started its space initiatives with civilian applications, unlike other nations which started with military applications. Participation of the private sector in space technology will enable startups to flourish which will lead to an invigorating growth for the sector.

Lt Gen Vinod Khandare, Advisor, Ministry of Defence said this is an opportunity to chart out our course for the next 25 years. By the 100th year of Independence India should be a 'Viksit' and

'Surakshit' nation. Economic heft is very important for any nation's growth and space is a critical part of this growth. As a nation, it is time we learnt to look ahead of the curve. Lt. Gen. PJS Pannu (Retd.), Distinguished Fellow - United Services Institution of India, said, we need to attain self-sufficiency in space technology and applications. The future of warfare space is going to be the 4th frontier. Digital warfare and networking would leverage IoT activities in the country. In Amrit Kaal we need to be the forerunner. According to Mr Anil Prakash, Director-General - SIA-India, India Space Congress is well timed international conference and expo which will discuss and deliberate on how the private sector leverages their support in the global space economy. ■

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Participated in the Interactive Session on 'Behind the curve: what the global experience tells us about manufacturing employment' with Professor Robert Z. Lawrence Albert L. Williams Professor of International Trade & Investment from Harvard Kennedy School organized by NITI Aayog on 11 July 2022.
- Made a presentation on 'Trade in FinTech and FinTech-Enabled Services: Emerging Trends and Potential for Growth' at the workshop on 'The Future of UK-India Trade and Cross Border Investment in a Changing Global Environment' organized by Indian Council of Social Science Research on 12 July 2022.
- Panelist in the Public Forum on 'The G7: Understanding Its Strategic Direction & What It Means for the World' organized by Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI) on 14 July 2022.
- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on 'Perspectives on Climate Change and Food Systems in India' organised during the Launch of IFPRI Global Food Policy Report 2022 and Policy Forum on Climate Change and Food Systems in South Asia organized by IFPRI on 21 July 2022.
- Panelist in the Session on 'Prospects and Avenues for New Space in India' at the IIC Diamond Jubilee Science Exhibition by ISRO organized by India International Centre and Indian Space Research Organisation and India on 27 July 2022.
- Panelist in the Interactive Session on 'Reforms of the International Monetary Order: What Should Emerging Markets be Seeking' organized by NITI Aayog on 3 August 2022.
- Delivered Remarks in the Talk on "G20 @ 2023 - The Road Map to Indian Presidency" organized by Indian Council of World Affairs on 08 August 2022.
- Made a presentation on 'G20 & SCO' at a Brief Meeting under

the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on G20&SCO organized by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare on 10 August 2022.

- Provided inputs at the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) organised by India Council of Agricultural Research on 17 August 2022.
- Made a presentation on "The Challenges in Developing Madhya Pradesh as a \$550-billion Economy" at the Madhya Pradesh First Conclave organised on 20 August 2022.
- Panelist in the Session on Participatory Water Management for Sustainable Agriculture and Aquaculture in Asia at the World Water Week 2022 organised by GIZ India's project C-SASA and NABARD on 25 August 2022.
- Panelist in the regional launch for Asia of UNIDO's Industrial Development Report 2022 "The Future of Industrialization in a Post-Pandemic World" organized jointly by UNIDO and UNESCAP on 30 August 2022.
- Moderated the Session on 'AI governance and ethics - The role of the G20 Community' at the T20 side event on G20 and AI: Connecting the dotted lines between technology and humanity organised jointly by IPAG Asia Pacific, Australian Information Security Association (AISA), and SCICC on 4 September 2022 at Bali.
- Chaired the Special Session on 'Launch of G20 Research Forum: Towards Multi-Dimensional Perspectives on G20 Development Agenda' organised during T20 Indonesia Summit 2022 jointly by RIS in collaboration with ERIA and T20 Indonesia on 5 September 2022 at Bali.
- Panelist at the session on 'Future Growth Pathways and Vision for STI in States during the Centre-State Science Conclave' organized by Department of Science & Technology on 10 September 2022 at Ahmedabad.
- Panelist in the session on 'From Growth to Wellbeing: A Shared

Vision of a Green, Digital and Just Transformation?' at the GIZ Future Forum 2022 - From Growth to Wellbeing: Rethinking Development for a Digital, Green, and Just Transformation organised by GIZ on 13 September 2022 at Potsdam.

- Panelist at the High Level Side Event to the UN General Assembly on Government-Philanthropy Roundtable: Realigning Development Finance with the SDGs through Economic Systems Transformation organised by Ford Foundation Centre for Social Justice on 21 September 2022, New York.
- Panelist at the High-Level Event on Rethinking Africa's Development Cooperation & International Partnerships organized by AUDA-NEPAD on 22 September 2022, New York.
- Delivered a lecture on Atma Nirbhar Bharat and India's Foreign Trade organized by Indian Institute of Public Administration on 28 September 2022.
- Panelist at the session on Overriding Disruptive Changes in the Global Economy during the Indian Economy Conclave on A Mid Semester look at the Indian Economy organized by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 29 September 2022, Kolkata.
- Panelist in the Water Conclave organized by Madhya Pradesh State Policy and Planning Commission on 30 September 2022, Bhopal.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the virtual Conference on MSME Conclave 2.0 - 'Strengthening OEM Supply Chain Competitiveness: Future Prospects on Global & Indian Engineering Sector' and made a presentation on 'Targeting Engineering Exports for MSME Participation: Strategy to Take Advantage of the Expansionary Engineering Sector,' in the session on Leveraging Digital Tech & E Commerce Platforms for

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Engineering MSMEs, organised by EEPC India, New Delhi on 14 July 2022.

- Participated in First Meeting of the G20 Core Committee on Agriculture Working Group, organised by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 1 August 2022, New Delhi.
- Participated in the NeST Board Meeting and Chair the Session on Development Pathways and New Measurement Approaches, New Delhi on 28 August 2022.
- Participated in the meeting of the Board of Trade (BoT), Chaired by Union Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 13 September 2022.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on Brainstorming session on India's G20 Presidency, organised by Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 14 September 2022.

Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan

Science Diplomacy Fellow

- Delivered a lecture on Science Diplomacy as part of the Induction Training Programme of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) for IFS Officer Trainees of the 2021 batch on 7 July 2022.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in UN DESA event on "International Day of Cooperatives Celebration at the UN HLPF" on 7 July 2022 (virtual).
- Participated in IFPRI event on "Are healthy diets affordable?:" on 15 July, 2022 (virtual).
- Participated in T20 Indonesian Presidency side event on the "Emerging Economies Towards Net Zero Emission" on 20 July 2022 organized by ERIA (virtual).
- Participated in IFPRI event on "Global Food Policy Report 2022: Climate Change and Food Systems" on 21 July, 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in Indonesia's Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Industry and ERIA event on "G20 High Level Forum on Trade Investment and Industry" on 26-27 July 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in T20 Indonesia side event on "Airborne Infection Defense Platform" on 2 and 3 August 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in T20 Indonesia side event on "Optimising access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic" on 4 August 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in T20 Secretariat Indonesia event on "Enhancing Philanthropies' Contributions in SDGs Blended Financing" 9 August 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in ERIA and IDEAS event on "Regional Roundtable: Cross-border Data Flows in South-East Asia" on 23 August 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in G20 Indonesia Working Group event on "Exploring Short Term Solutions to the Global Gas Crisis" on 29 August 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in T20 Summit 2022 during 4 to 6 September 2022 under Indonesia Presidency (virtual).

- Participated in German Centre for Research and Innovation - DWIH event on "Societal Transformations for a Resilient Future" on 8 September 2022 (virtual).

Mr Krishna Kumar

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in UN DESA event on "International Day of Cooperatives Celebration at the UN HLPF" on 7 July 2022 (virtual).

- Participated in IFPRI event on "Are healthy diets affordable?:" on 15 July, 2022 (virtual).

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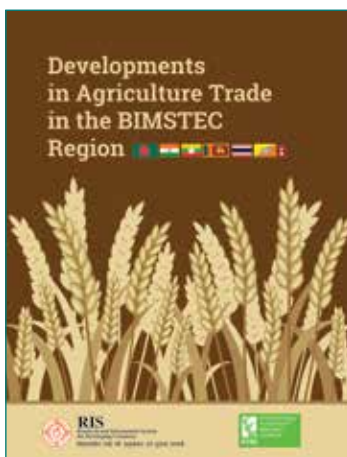
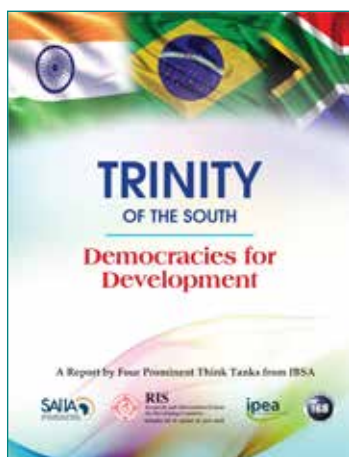
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Latest Publications



REPORTS

Trinity of the South: Democracies for Development RIS, New Delhi, 2022

Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region
S. K. Mohanty and Pankhuri Gaur
RIS-IFPRI, New Delhi, 2022

JOURNALS

- G20 Digest, Vol 2. No. 1
- Journal of Asian Economic Integration, Vol. 4, No. 2, September

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#273: **SDG Target 10.1 Inequity and Inequalities: Measurement Choices and Building Blocks of Poverty Sensitising Indices**
by Pramod Kumar Anand and Krishna Kumar

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WORKING PAPERS

- Melinda Martinus, "Assessing ASEAN-India Future Cooperation Opportunities through the

Sustainable Development Framework", AIC Working Paper # 11, New Delhi

AIC COMMENTARY

- Toward ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Chintamani Mahapatra, September 2022
- G20 and ASEAN-India Cooperation for Equitable Global Sustainable Development, Nitya Nanda, August 2022
- ASEAN-India Cooperation in the Next 30: Towards Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Muhammad Waffaa Kharisma and Sampa Kundu, July 2022

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin, Tim Büthe, Peter B Payoyo, and Krishna Ravi Srinivas, India and the Philippines in Global Health Governance' in *Rethinking Participation in Global Governance* edited by Joost Pauwelyn, Martino Maggetti, Tim Büthe, And Ayelet Berman, Oxford University Press 2022, forthcoming (Pp 349-378).

Chaturvedi, Sachin, Saha, Sabyasachi, and Shaw, Prativa India in Leveraging Trade in High Technology for Emergence: The BRICS Experience, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. LVII, No. 39, September 2022.

Chirathivat, Suthiphand, Charit Tingsabadh, Prabir De (eds.) (2022) *Between the Two Oceans of Indo-Pacific: Strengthening Myanmar-Thailand Southern Corridor*, Sage, New Delhi, September 2022.

De, Prabir (2022) "Thailand-Myanmar East-West Corridor: An Indian Perspective" in Chirathivat et al. (2022).

De, Prabir and Nida Rahman (2022) "Review of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Broad Contours and the Next Steps", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 57, Issue No. 33, 13 August, 2022

De, Prabir and Durairaj Kumarasamy (2022) "ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership: Malaysia's Role in Intensifying Cooperation", in MEA-ISIS Malaysia (eds.) *India-Malaysia@65, Focus*, Kuala Lumpur



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