



India and Argentina in the New World Order



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Hon'ble Mr. Felipe Solá, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressing the webinar.

The Embassy of India, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, RIS jointly with CIPPEC organised a virtual webinar on 'India and Argentina in the New World Order' on 6th November, 2020. Hon'ble Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Felipe Solá, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressed

the participants.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister Dr. Jaishankar emphasized that our ties with Argentina that were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2019, when we also observed 70 years of our diplomatic relationship. In the last ten years, we have witnessed bilateral trade more than doubling, and a robust economic relationship is further bolstered

by the presence of several Indian companies in Argentina and vice versa. However, there remains unexplored complementarities and untapped potential for increasing engagement in agriculture, mining and minerals, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and automotives. The people of Argentina have great admiration

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Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation

IORA is a very large dynamic economic grouping. It has got tremendous potential in the region to grow and it is one of the fastest growing regions in the world today with very sound macroeconomic fundamentals in terms of growth, inflation and other macro parameters. IORA has a very strong

commitment to the blue economy programme as well. And because of its strong engagement with the blue economy process, there is a strong blue voice emanating from the region showing the relevance of the new development paradigm in the region. Many countries from the region such as Malaysia, Mauritius,

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Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan delivering the Inaugural Address.

'Future Roadmap for Global Economic Recovery: Reflections on G20 Riyadh Summit and Beyond

Italy, Indonesia and India – or the three I's need to play a crucial leadership role in reviving the spirit of multilateralism and helping the group of the world's 20 leading economies to bring out collective solutions to mitigate climate change, provide universal health coverage and revive the global economy, underline India's Sherpa to G7 and G20, said Hon'ble Mr. Suresh Prabhu.

Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'Future Roadmap for Global Economic Recovery: Reflections on G20 Riyadh Summit and Beyond', organised by RIS in collaboration with CII, Hon'ble Mr. Prabhu said multilateralism was being scrutinised even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world due to conditions such as inequality, unsustainable debt, low investment levels, lack of sufficient jobs and stagnating wages. However, given the global nature of these challenges, he said, "denial of multilateralism is not only a folly but a definite recipe for more disasters."

He said the three I's – Italy, Indonesia and India – must take proactive measures during their respective G20 Presidency years "to



Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa of India.

remind the rest of the world that the solution (to these problems) does not lie in saying 'I', but 'we'." He added: "The three I's can shape the future and should work together on global governance issues. The G20 must not only guide and lead the world, but also through action show that they are responsible for future of the humanity and the planet." According to him the G20 must ensure the effective implementation of the Paris climate accord and universal health coverage, in addition to making sure the COVID-19 vaccine is available across the world as well as in dealing with the challenges of digitalisation and the fourth industrial revolution. G20 should also prioritise employment generation and skill

development, he said. Incidentally, the incoming Biden administration in the US has indicated its support to multilateralism and that the US would re-join the Paris climate accord as well as the World Health Organization (the Trump administration had pulled the US out of the WHO and exited the Paris agreement on climate change mitigation).

The OECD G20 Sherpa H.E. Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, speaking on the occasion, said though the economic stimulus measures and the development of the COVID-19 vaccine have boosted consumer and business confidence, the second wave of infections is leading to large-scale uncertainty. Referring to the virtual halt in private investments since the first wave of the ongoing crisis, he said this will impact productivity and growth, delay integration of youth in labour market, slowdown global demand, reduce consumption and further impact growth. Sectors such as tourism and retail, which had employed several women, have been hit badly, he said, adding that millions of people will be pushed

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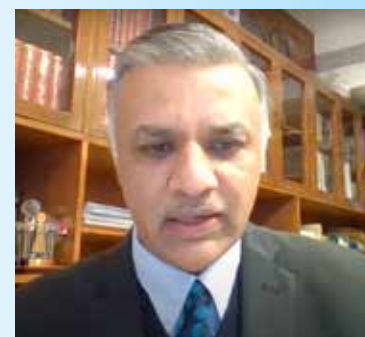
Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, OECD G20 Sherpa



Mr. Deep Kapuria, Chairman of the Hi-Tech Group of Companies and co-chair of the CII national committee on international trade policy



Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS

Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework



RIS hosted the second webinar in the WTO@25 on “Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework: The Way Forward”. The webinar series is part of the process for engaging with stakeholders and experts for the forthcoming World Trade and Development Report 2020 to be published by RIS. This webinar discussed the importance of WTO as the central institutional architecture of global trade governance, given the fact that even FTA rules are largely governed by the WTO disciplines. Acknowledging, the sustained stalemate at the WTO and that the WTO has not been able to function optimally in the last several years, the panel focused on



3 key areas to suggest way forward for revival of the WTO or at best re-engaging various groups of countries with the process to save trade multilateralism.

First, the panelists deliberated upon the conflicts surrounding the reform of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and the appointments

to the Appellate body. The ongoing hiccups in the process of appointment of the next WTO Director General were also discussed. The role of the USA on both these instances was analysed, with optimism expressed about the change of leadership



in the US. The DSM has been key to the functioning of the WTO system. But the merit of the reforms proposals have to be weighed in by both developed and developing countries based on the accumulated experience over the years in terms of the contours of the mechanism and the modus operandi. It is of great significance that the US has been extremely emphatic on the necessity of reforms in the DSM and has set it as a precondition to its meaningful engagement with the WTO.

The second key focus area was the centrality of Special and Differential (S&D) Treatment and the stalled Doha Round of negotiations that have grave implications for the future of S&D provisions in the multilateral negotiations. The panelists highlighted the significant erosion of such provisions under the bilateral and plurilateral arrangements. The significantly rigid posturing by some of the developed countries, particularly the US suggest exclusion of larger developing countries with rising global share of world trade from availing such benefits. There are



issues around heterogeneity in income and trading capacities of developing countries; however the persistent developmental needs and challenges cannot be underestimated. It was suggested that developing countries must analyse the issues that are at stake for them and work towards



newer coalitions at the WTO, in the backdrop of recent shifts in the positions of select developing countries.

The third set of issues covered inclusion of new issues as part of the WTO reforms process and the position of developing countries. It was suggested that proposals on industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises, digital commerce as well as fisheries subsidies may have far reaching consequences for developing countries and need to be responded to from the position of sectoral competitiveness in developing countries. There are also similar considerations about autonomy of supply chains as part of integration with the global trading system. ■

COVID-19-Wakeup Call for Better Cooperation between Science and Policy-Making

While science and policy making have always depended on each other throughout modern history – scientists informing policymaking and policymakers deciding on funding and setting priorities for research – at no time has the relationship between the two spheres been so close and at the same time so complicated as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With scientific insights being merely one input among many that policy makers had to consider when determining economic or social policies in pre COVID-19 times, they are now the main driver behind policy decisions that could either save or cost the lives of millions of people or shatter or maintain whole economies. As global issues such as climate change or environmental degradation – whose solution will equally require intensive collaboration between science and policymakers – become ever more pressing, the question of whether COVID-19 has paved the way for a redefined science-policy-making interface becomes highly relevant.

Organised jointly by UNDP Seoul Policy Centre and RIS on

11 December 2020, the session provided examples of how countries and institutions facilitated the sharing of knowledge and good practices between scientists and policymakers on curbing the spread of COVID-19. It will consider different models and institutional setups for science-policy interfaces to showcase how different countries have managed the translation of scientific knowledge into policy decisions.

The session aimed to explore how knowledge sharing practitioners can build on the experiences in creating networks and fostering cooperation between policymakers and scientists made during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that crucial insights on other issues that require a functioning science-policy-interface are shared among relevant stakeholders. It further discussed whether experiences from country level could be further consolidated and institutionalized to feed into multilateral frameworks and approaches that deal with global issues.

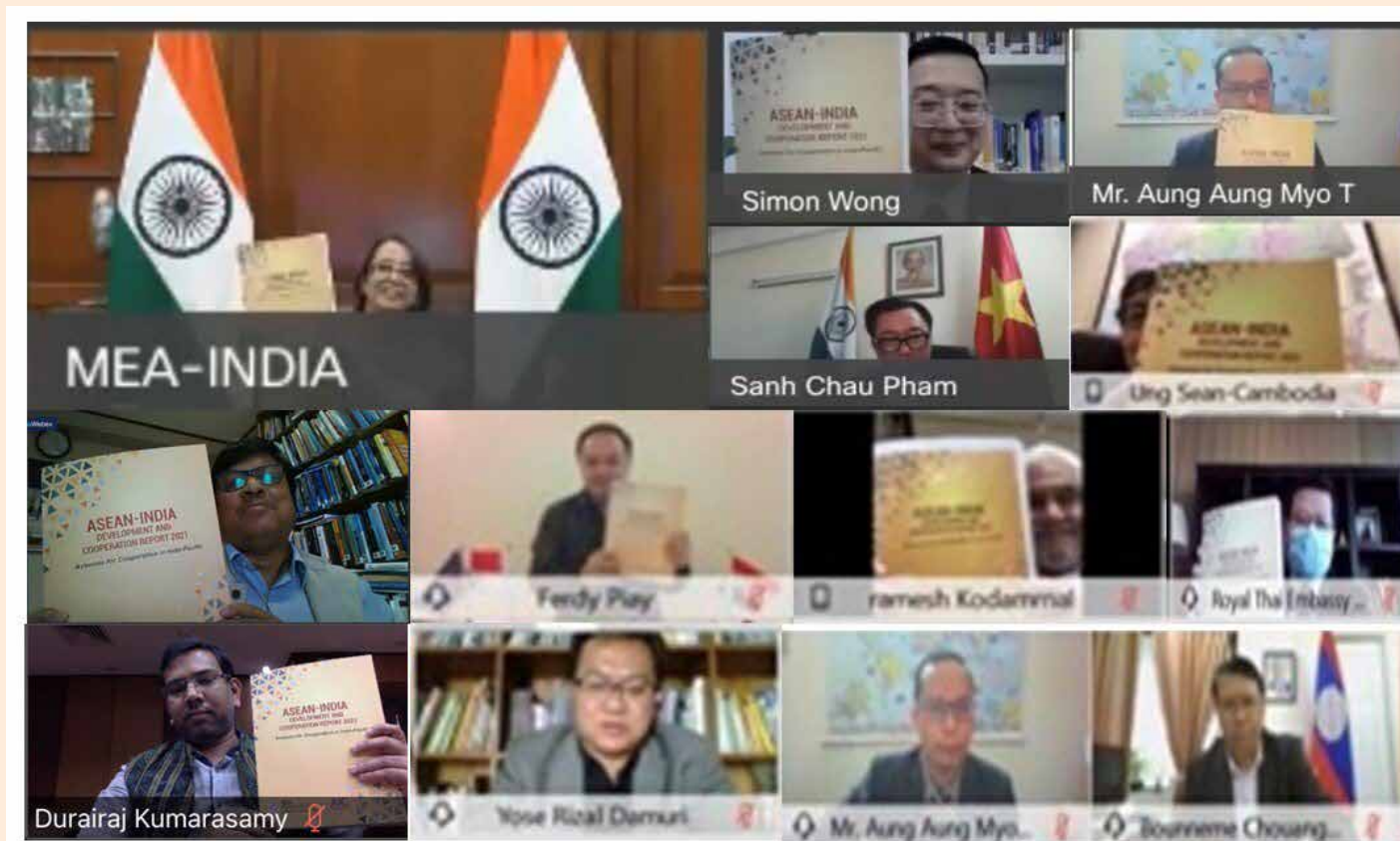
Key Questions that addressed by the participants were: What modalities and institutional setups have proven to be the most successful

in fostering effective cooperation between science and policymaking on COVID-19 relevant issues? Can institutional setups of science-policy interfaces be scaled up to the multilateral level to drive solutions of global challenges?; if yes, how? and How can knowledge actors ensure that their work helps to sustain working science-policy cooperation beyond the pandemic, focusing on other issues of global relevance such as climate change?

The programme began with Opening Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Mr. Artemy Izmetiev, Policy Specialist UNDP Seoul Policy Centre moderated. The main speakers were: Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Director of Future Africa; Dr. Arbinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India; Dr. Zhang Chuanhong, Secretary of the China International Development Research; Dr. Rathin Roy, Managing Director – Research and Policy at ODI; and Dr. Sanusha Naidu, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Global Dialogue. Mr. Stephan Klingebiel, Director UNDP Seoul Policy Centre gave closing remarks. ■



ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19



Screenshot of webinar in progress

A webinar on ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19 Run up to the 17th ASEAN-India Summit 2020 and Release of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2021 was organized on 10 November 2020. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made welcome remarks. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, chaired the session and made special remarks. Mr. Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Delhi; H.E. Mr.

Simon Wong, High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi and Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi made special remarks.

Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, delivered the Keynote Address. It was followed by release of the *ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2021: Avenues for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific* brought out by AIC at RIS.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS also chaired the panel discussion

that was also took place on this occasion. The main speakers were Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri, Head of Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; Prof. Arpita Mukherjee, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi; Dato' Ramesh Kodamal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur and Dr. Huy Hoang Nguyen, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hano. From AIC at RIS, Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy extended the vote of thanks in the closing session. ■

Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors

RIS organised launch of the IBSA Report 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives From Key Sectors' on 10 November, 2020. Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS in his opening remarks welcomed all distinguished guests and IBSA Fellows to the Virtual Launch of IBSA Report. Setting the context of the programme, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS warmly welcomed the guests and emphasised on the immense contribution of IBSA. He noted that IBSA partnership is a manifestation of South-South Cooperation (SSC). The rise of plurilateral societies, convergence of democracies, multilateralism towards global development architecture and access to resources to governments are crucial. RIS has been central to IBSA and its efforts, since its inception. RIS launched the IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme in 2016, with the support from the Ministry of External Affairs to promote academic exchange of young scholars to strengthen research collaboration among

India, Brazil and South Africa. The Fellowship programme focuses on diverse issues covering agriculture, Global Production Networks, Trade and Investment. The first batch of IBSA Fellows (2017-2018) contributed interesting research articles to the first report published by RIS. The second batch too had contributed their research articles to the present report, which is recognised as an important academic contribution. Prof Chaturvedi discussed the key points of all the papers by IBSA fellows, reiterated the importance of IBSA for cooperation and learning from each other highlighting the importance of the issuing of the Joint IBSA declaration on South-South Cooperation and dialogue between think-tanks of these countries.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired the launch session. Dr Kumar noted that IBSA rooted in pluralism and democratic values could play an important role in global alliance or global summit of democracies. He added that the Joint Declaration of IBSA,

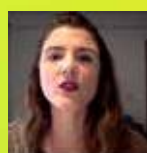
outlining principles and conditions on SSC could act as a guiding charter. He briefly discussed the main arguments of the research articles written by the fellows.

Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs formally launched the IBSA Report, "Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors". Mr Chhabra recognised the significance of IBSA in SSC, a grouping of like-minded countries dedicated to tolerance, strengthening of multiculturalism, participatory democracy, sharing similar views on sustainable development, terrorism, climate change, clean and healthy living, WTO issues, non-proliferation, reforms in UN security council, etc. He underlined the limitation of multilateral institutions in dealing with current issues and challenges and highlighted the importance of IBSA in putting forth the possibilities of reform in multilateralism and multilateral organisations. The inception of the unique IBSA Fund in 2004 and IBSA fellowships was significant

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IBSA FELLOWS



VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF IBSA REPORT

'DEEPENING COOPERATION IN IBSA: PERSPECTIVES FROM KEY SECTORS'

 WEBINAR 10 November 2020

‘COVID-19 and Mental Health Response in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation’

**RIS**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



COVID 19 and Mental Health Response in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation

24 November, 2020, 4.00 pm (IST)



Welcome Address

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, RIS

Inaugural Address

Prof. K. Srinath Reddy
President, Public Health
Foundation of India

Keynote Address

Prof. Vikram H. Patel
Department of Global
Health and Social
Medicine, Harvard
Medical School

Recent studies estimate that more than a quarter of the population in South Asia suffer from at least one mental health disorder. World Economic Forum estimates that, globally, mental illnesses will result in a loss of 16.1 trillion USD between 2010 and 2030. The COVID 19 has further aggravated this situation owing to fear and uncertainty around the pandemic, increased social isolation due to unfamiliar public health measures and financial losses. South- South cooperation through exchange of knowledge and resources in South Asia could go a long way in addressing these concerns and creating proactive strategies on the same. However, discussions and policy strategies on addressing this issue has been minimal. To deliberate upon these issues, RIS along with Sangath,

a leading mental health research organisation organised, a Webinar on ‘COVID 19 and Mental Health Responses in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation’ on 24 November 2020. It brought together academics, policy makers and leaders in mental health research from across South Asia to evaluate the mental health impact of COVID-19, discuss health systems and neuroscience responses in the region, and plan the way forward. Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS offered the welcome address. Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India delivered the inaugural address and Prof Vikram Patel, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School gave the keynote address.

The Panel discussion that followed was moderated by Dr Anant Bhan, Lead, Sangath, Bhopal and the panelists included Dr Sunimale Madurawala, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo; Dr. Rohullah Amin, Biruni Institute, Kabul; Prof. Pushpa Prasad Sharma, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Kist Medical College, Nepal; Mr Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka; Prof Surinder Jaiswal, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; Prof. Neeraj Jain, Director, National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon; Dr. Ishwar V. Basavaraddi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi; and Ms Shubhrata Prakash, Director, NITI Aayog, New Delhi. ■



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Indian National Science Academy

Digital Conference on B-20 GLOBAL DIALOGUE IN INDIA

7 October
2020



T-20 & S-20: COVID-19 Pandemic, Economic Recovery and Global Business

There is need to remove discord regarding Paris accord to achieve climate goals. Governments and business organisations of the world's 20 leading economies –the G20 and B20, respectively - need to prioritise taking forward the Paris climate accord, bridging the digital divide, building quality infrastructure, strengthening value chains and medical supplies as well as ensuring food and energy security, said India's Sherpa to G7 and G20 Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa.

Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'B-20 Global Dialogue in India' on 7 October 2020 organised by RIS, in collaboration with CII and the Indian National Science Academy, Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu, also a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), referred to India hosting the G20 Summit in 2022 and said while the country will seek to push its own priorities at the event, it will also carry forward the work done by other countries as part of them holding the G20 Presidency.

B-20 or Business 20 is the business community from G20 countries and provides inputs and

policy recommendations to the G20 Summits, along with other engagement groups including T20 (think tanks), W20 (women), C20 (civil society), Y20 (youth), S20 (science), L20 (labour) and U20 (urban). G20 has a rotating presidency with each member country holding the presidency for a year. Saudi Arabia, holding the current G20 presidency, will pass on the baton to Italy for the year 2021.

Talking about the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu said India's approach to solving global problems will be to follow its philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ('the world is one family'). Questioning how the global community can consider itself prosperous if any member state was suffering, he asked the business community to focus on not just the bottom line (profit), but also lifting the people at the bottom of the pyramid. Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu said companies need to help in achieving the climate goals as well as in removing digital disparities. He added that the

discord regarding the Paris climate accord (the US had withdrawn from the pact) needs to be sorted out.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, referred to the recent B20 report to the G20 and said the immediate need was to revive the international economy by making the global supply chains resilient as well as by reviving productive sectors. He said despite the need to fulfil the huge domestic demand, India has kept its medical supply chains open and provided generic drugs and medical equipment to several countries. During the ongoing pandemic, India also helped other countries with rapid response teams, information exchange platforms and healthcare training through webinars, besides taking forward the G20's 'debt service suspension initiative' by supporting several countries in this regard.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the institute was engaged in converging the ideas put forward by stakeholders including businesses,

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WTO @25 Series

The Inaugural Webinar on WTO@25 series was held on 22 October 2020 under the circumstances when post pandemic global trade scenario is not encouraging and there are apprehensions about uncertainties over the short and medium term. There is a sudden disruption in production and supply coupled with ongoing crisis in multilateral trade negotiations that predates the pandemic.

The webinar brought together commentators and intellectuals from the North and the South to deliberate on the implications and way forward. It was pointed out that while some developing countries benefitted from the existing institutional mechanisms, large chunks were left out and even gains among developed countries have been asymmetric. The emerging multipolarity as well as the direction of world power contributed to this crisis. The present circumstances are very different from the times of GATT, since the largest trading nation today is a developing country. The existing institutional mechanisms have been unable to deal with strong influence of technology and the associated new issues. Several recommendations were made by the panel to overcome the existential crisis of the WTO system.

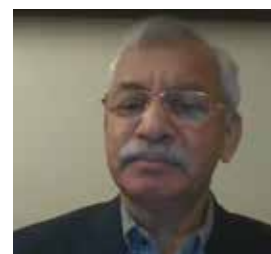
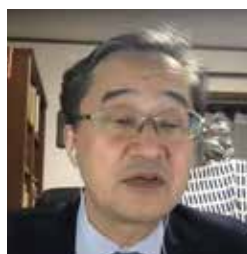
Firstly, the multilateral character of the WTO should be preserved. There are fears, that similar to the case of proliferation

of the regional and bilateral trade arrangements, the proposals on plurilateral agreements might contribute to further fragmentation of the WTO system. Secondly, rather than reforms, WTO perhaps needs rebalancing. This is imperative because several reform proposals that are sponsored by the developed countries might harm the development space of the developing countries including in agriculture, industrial subsidies, investment, data etc. The WTO system has been unable to deal with unilateral actions by developed countries. Thirdly, there must be emphasis on enforceable rule making and reviving the dispute settlement mechanism.

The panel also discussed issues about the discomfort surrounding single undertaking mechanisms

pursued by the WTO and the recognition of the complexities with regard to issues like subsidies and IPRs. Members pointed out the centrality of the Special and Differential Treatment provisions as part of the WTO process and considerations for emerging needs of the developing countries keeping in mind the heterogeneity in their per capita incomes and capacities. This may also necessitate a differentiated approach on Special and Differential Treatment and embedding such provisions even under regional agreements. This is particularly true for LDCs in Africa that aspire to integrate more robustly with regional and global value chains. In the African context, the need for Special and Differential Treatment with regard to infant industry protection for diversification of their economies is a key concern. Several of these countries also seek robust dispute settlement mechanism at the WTO to tackle issues like dumping of low quality products, apart from wishing for top leadership in the WTO echelons and decision making.

Finally, it was pointed out that G20 could play an important role in facilitating multilateral trade negotiations at this juncture keeping in view the emerging needs of resilient supply chains, diversification of supply chains and access to key products like vaccines and pharmaceuticals. ■



Nobel Prize for CRISPR

Given the increasing attention being paid to CRISPR by public and media, on account of the Nobel Prize awarded to two pioneering scientists for their work on CRISPR, on 29 October 2020, RIS organised Webinar on 'Nobel Prize for CRISPR'. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats refers to a family of DNA sequences and is used in genome editing. This year Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier for their pioneering work on CRISPR, which enabled its widespread use.

In his welcome address Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi highlighted the importance of CRISPR in research and its applications in multiple sectors. He emphasised that RIS has been working on impacts and implications of biotechnologies under the Science, Technology and Innovation Programme.

This lecture was organised to facilitate an understanding of CRISPR, its applications in health and agriculture, and, issues in governance of this technology. Prof. B. K. Thelm, Department of Genetics, Delhi University and Member of International Commission on Human Germline Genome Editing chaired the panel discussion. He made a presentation based on the recommendations and report of the International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Editing's on Heritable Human Genome Editing.

Dr. Debojyoti Chakraborty, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) highlighted how CRISPR technology evolved and what it could do. He spoke about its practical applications in health in a wide range of therapies and cures, including stem cells. Taking a case study of Sickle Cell Anaemia project

of CSIR, he explained how CRISPR is being used to find a solution to this condition, which is widely prevalent among tribal population. Dr. M. K. Reddy, Group Leader, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) illustrated its application in agriculture with the example of his work with rice and gave a detailed analysis of how CRISPR can help in increasing yields in rice significantly. Dr. Roli Mathur, Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit underscored the need for public understanding and the need for developing guidelines to regulate its application in human health. Drawing upon ICMR's work on developing guidelines for Gene Therapy, she pointed out that trust and public engagement is critical and only then the technology will gain acceptance. The Panel Discussion was followed by question-answer session. Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas extended the vote of thanks. ■



The Multilateral Response to Covid-19 – Perspectives from South Asia

Webinar on the Multilateral Response to Covid-19 – Perspectives from South Asia was organised jointly by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in partnership with RIS, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) on 27 October 2020. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) chaired.

The programme began with introductory remarks by Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive

Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Keynote presentation was made by Mr Olivier Cattaneo, Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, and Chair, Southern Voice. It was followed by comments by regional partners: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan; Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy

Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka; and Dr Puspa Sharma, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. After comments by region partners floor was open for discussion, followed by special comments by Dr A. B. Mirza Azizul Islam, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, Ministries of Finance and Planning and video message by Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD made closing chair remarks. ■

Virtual discussion on

THE MULTILATERAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH ASIA

Organised by

Tuesday 27 October 2020
3:00 pm (Bangladesh Standard Time)

LIVE /cpd.org.bd

In partnership with

PROFESSOR REHMAN SOBHAN
Chairman, CPD

DR A. B. MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM
Former Advisor to the
Caretaker Government,
Ministries of Finance and Planning

MIR JORGE MOREIRA DA SILVA
Director of the Development
Co-operation Directorate, OECD

DR DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA
Distinguished Fellow, CPD
Convener, Citizen's Platform
for SDGs, Bangladesh

MR OLIVIER CATTANEO
Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy
Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

DR FAHMIDA KHATUN
Executive Director, CPD

PROFESSOR SACHIN CHATURVEDI
Director General, RIS

DR ABID QAIYUM SULERI
Executive Director, SDPI

DR DUSHNI WEERAKOON
Executive Director, IPS

DR PUSPA SHARMA
Executive Director, SAWTEE

B-20 Global Dialogue in India

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scientists, economists and civil society groups to ensure that it would be easier for policy makers to absorb and implement them at the G20 level. In this regard, the RIS has been bringing out a quarterly publication 'the G20 Digest' on G20 issues as part of generating meaningful inputs for India's G20 Presidency in 2022, in addition to actively taking part in the T20

(Think-Tank) process at the G20, he added. RIS Chairman Amb Dr Mohan Kumar also participated in the programme.

Mr Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, B20 Saudi Arabia Chairman, said Saudi Arabia, during its G20 Presidency, has prioritised increasing the participation of women in business as well as addressing issues relating to climate

change, infrastructure finance as well as trade and investment.

H.E. Mr Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to India, Mr Naushad Forbes, Past President, CII and Chairman CII International Council and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, CII Director General, also spoke during the programme. ■

India-Sri Lanka Relations



The virtual dialogue on “India-Sri Lanka Relations: Deepening India-Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order” was organised jointly by ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, ICWA, Pathfinder Foundation and Asian Confluence on 29 October 2020. Dr. T C A Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) chaired. The welcome remarks were given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive

Director, Asian Confluence and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Amb. Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation made opening remarks. Admiral Jayanath Colombage (retired), Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka delivered the keynote address.

The Panel Discussion was chaired by Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese

Studies (ICS), and former Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute, London; Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Founding Chair of LIRNEasia, Colombo; and Mr. Vish Govindasamy, Group Managing Director, Sunshine Holdings PLC and Deputy Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo were the lead speaker from Sri Lanka. From India, Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi; Prof. Biswajit Nag, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi; and Mr. M. S. Negi, Vice-President (Credit), State Bank of India (SBI), Colombo led the discussion.

H.E. Mr. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Colombo delivered the valedictory address and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, AIC at RIS, extended the vote of thanks. ■

Signing Ceremony of the MoU on Bilateral Dialogue Between ICWA, RIS, KNDA, and KIEP

ICWA and RIS signed an MoU with Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea on 22 October 2020 at a ceremony held at ICWA, New Delhi. Prof. Wongi Choe (Head, Center for ASEAN-Indian Studies, KNDA) moderated the programme. Dr. Kim Joon-hyung, Chancellor, KNDA; Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA; Dr. Jung Sung Chun, Senior Vice President, KIEP; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made remarks. It was followed by signing of the MoU. Amb. Sripriya



Ranganathan, Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea; and Amb. Shin Bongkil, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in India

made special remarks. After open discussion, the concluding remarks were made by Dr. Jojin John, Research Fellow, ICWA. ■

India and Argentina in the New World Order

Continued from page 1



for Indian culture, philosophy and spirituality. Argentina also holds a special place in India's collective cultural consciousness. The presence of highest per capita yoga practitioners and a plethora of yoga schools in Argentina is a statement in itself.

The webinar comprised three main sessions along with inaugural and concluding sessions. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to Argentina, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Dr. Julia Pomares, Executive Director, CIPPEC. Amb. Dinesh Bhatia set the context of the webinar and highlighted our deep relationship between two countries in terms of our common principles, our collaboration and strategic partnership in trade and economy, diplomacy, interest and value. The event deliberated upon the current status and future of the relations between the two strategic partners India and Argentina. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi explored and appreciated the common efforts of the countries in shaping the world new order in the digitalised world and evolving narrative of South-South Cooperation from Buenos Aires to G20 Saudi Presidency. Dr. Julia Pomares stressed on development cooperation between Argentina and India and potential

partnership in the future of work in the global South as digitalisation would affect the labour market of both the countries.

The first session on 'India-Argentina Bilateral Relations' was chaired by Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs. The panelist for the session were Prof. Sunanda Sen, Former Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. María Florencia Rubiolo, Córdoba Catholic University - CONICET and Dr. Manuel Gonzalo, General Sarmiento National University - UNDEC and Mr. Bernabé Malacalza, Quilmes National University - CONICET - Torcuato di Tella University moderated the enrich discussion on bilateral and multilateral cooperation between India and Argentina and potential for scaling up the trade and economic relationship in post-COVID-19 world. The session captured the current bilateral trade flow, strategic partnership, potential for further diversification in trading basket and commonality between the two countries as both the countries are juggling to improve some of the macroeconomic indicators during the pandemic. The session also highlighted some of the priorities and focus area particularly in trade and investment and Science Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation. It

was emphasized that concentrated and deep rooted cooperation in the area of clean technology, biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, climate change, as technology and technological disruption poses many challenges for countries, which requires multinational cooperation. Manufacturing and agriculture sector may not have enough to give and the export profile has to be broadened and needs scaling up. Current regime is trying to increase demand. Advanced infrastructure in science and energy challenges are the major concern for both countries that need a stronger focus. Thus, India and Argentina have a big possibility for joining hands to arrive at a better stage and encourage inclusivity through education, health, and infrastructure; empowerment of STI cooperation and enhancement of multilateralism to work together.

The second interactive session on 'Globalisation, Digitalisation and Future of Work: Lessons from Global South' was chaired by Ms. Irene Brambilla, Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies and four panelists were: Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, Dr. Urvashi Aneja, Founding Director, Tandem Research, Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS and Mr.

...Continued on page 14

Ramiro Albrieu, Senior Researcher of Economic Development, CIPPEC. All speakers emphasized the role of technologies and discusses how to harness the potential of new technologies like AI and its contribution to lead an inclusive, sustainable and equitable society. The session focused on the current growth trajectory of India and Argentina and draws a roadmap to become more self-reliant and how technology can increase productivity. Generally, technology gets the blame for its adverse effect due to huge job losses but it has immense potential to imprint positive impact for sustainable consumption and production. The speakers discussed how we can infuse dynamism in the traditional sector for economic growth.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made a presentation in the session III on

'India and Argentina in the New World Order post-COVID'. The session was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Carciofi, Senior Researcher of the Economic Development Program, CIPPEC and other eminent speakers were Mr. Jorge Chediek, Former Director, UN Office of South-South Cooperation, Prof. Harsh V Pant, Director of Studies & Head Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation and Ms. Gladys Lechini, Rosario National University - CONICET. Prof. Chaturvedi highlighted the issue of multilateralism and raised the issue of disengagement among the Global South. Hence, the time has come to revisit the idea of multilateralism and need for global agreement on much more responsive, innovative, constructive and more engaging participation. India -Argentina should join hands in bringing the moral compass back. Prof.

Chaturvedi stated that we need more ideologists to understand each other's cultural connect to play a more important role in the Global South.

The final concluding remarks were delivered by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Felipe Solá, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina. Mr. Sola highlights our traditional support and long-lasting strategic alliance in trade, economy, culture, cooperation and diplomacy. India and Argentina have many joint projects in the area of space technology, nuclear energy, space cooperation agreements, knowledge-based economy, IT, bio-technology, agro-technology etc. as both the countries have very long lasting sharing history and affinity respect for culture, thus the two nations can deepen their relationship. ■

Webinar 'Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation: Way Forward

Continued from page 1

Seychelles, etc are becoming the role model for the world economy while implementing blue economy policies in their respective countries.

Against this backdrop, RIS



in collaboration with the IORA Secretariat had organised a day-long Webinar on 'Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation: Way Forward' on 25 November 2020. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan

delivered the Inaugural Address. He emphasized India's strong commitment to strengthening IORA by intensifying cooperation within its member states and with the other groupings in the region to promote security, peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. During its chairmanship of IORA in 2011, India had worked for its revitalization and strengthening in keeping with the emerging geostrategic challenges that confronted the Indian Ocean region. In the past few years, we have come further on the path of strengthening IORA through regular meetings, creation of new structures, increased efficiency for the secretariat, enhancing greater cooperation with dialogue partners, and taking concrete initiatives in various IORA priority and cross cutting areas. Although there are several areas of cooperation, Minister underscored the need



to revive the tourism industry, promoting Ayurveda and wellness tourism as a step to revive tourism in the region. India also sees values in greater intra IORA work on the blue economy, and on science and technology. The threat of pollution, especially plastic waste, oil spills, unregulated exploitation of resources like illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing needs to be tackled with creative solutions and people's participation. Moreover, he underlined the centrality of



multilateralism in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in our interconnected world for not only matters of international security, but also international governance for strengthening our regional architecture for a diversified and



resilient Indo-Pacific. He also launched the publication Blue Economy Insight. Her Excellency Dr. Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General, IORA Secretariat delivered the Special Address; Ambassador Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director General, South Africa; Ambassador Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs, Bangladesh and Ms. Reenat Sandhu, Additional Secretary (IP, South & Oceania), Ministry of External Affairs and 13 technical experts from various IORA countries participated in the webinar. From RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and



Professor S.K. Mohanty addressed the participants.

Her Excellency Dr. Nokwe stressed on the importance IORA Secretariat has assigned to blue economy in the past five years including three high level blue economy ministerial meetings in Mauritius, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Key areas have been identified to harness oceans, and maritime resources, drive economic growth, job creation, innovation, while safeguarding sustainability of all these areas. The first meeting also witnessed the adoption of the Jakarta concord that reiterates IORA's commitment to promote the blue economy development in the Indian Ocean region as a key source of inclusive economic growth, job creation and education. In addition, she stressed on plastic pollution, SDGs and other sectors in the context of blue economy development. Further cooperation among IORA member states and between dialogue partners both human and financial resources are most crucial for an effective and to combat Covid-19 induced challenges. Both human and financial to address challenges of adaptation, and mitigation and navigate safely the perfect storm.

Ms Sandhu highlighted some of the recent initiatives undertaken by Govt. of India for the IORA. More specifically, during India's chairmanship in 2011 major revitalization and reformulation of IORA priorities assumed centre stage. At the 11th Council of Ministers Meeting in 2011 six priority areas were identified on

the basis of an Indian proposal to focus on cooperation amongst member states of IORA in the years to come. India as the lead country on the IORA priority areas of disaster risk management, and academic, science and technology cooperation has worked to strengthen the capacities of IORA member states, and to encourage research and innovation in the Indian Ocean region. India has contributed US\$1 million to the IORA special fund,



deputed an IT expert from India for strengthening the IORA Secretariat in September this year, taken a lead on structuring IORA's engagement with dialogue partners, for strengthening IORA's institutional frameworks, promoting IORA's engagements with other regional organizations, such as cooperation on renewable energy through the international solar Alliance and maritime information sharing with the information fusion centre, IFC-IOR and finally developing of HADR guidelines for the IORA region.

Panelists in the two technical sessions covered a wide range of issues and priorities for IORA regional cooperation and developing blue economy. Maritime security, fisheries, blue economy, renewable ocean energy, marine technologies, historical and maritime linkages, etc were comprehensively covered in the deliberations. A number of recommendations are drawn from the deliberations in the sessions for further action and regional cooperation. ■

Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors

Continued from page 6

steps towards enhancing people participation. He added that the report entails crucial studies which will be referred by policy makers and researchers.

After the remarks by Mr Chhabra, IBSA fellows presented key arguments of their papers. Ms. Alice Viera Dos Santos from Brazil analysed the voting behavior and mutual support between IBSA countries, and argued that there has been a significant level of convergence in their voting behavior and mutual support. She assessed the areas of convergence and divergence of mutual support, and indicated that IBSA has not received high level of mutual support, and there could be improvement in topics of mutual interest especially health, given their higher tendency to consolidate their support on specific issues. She added that since IBSA was based on strong democratic foundation, it could play a key role in strengthening multilateralism.

Ms. Poliana Belisario Zorzal also from Brazil, called for IBSA biodiversity protection using patent as a check point to legally protect their natural genetic resources. She argued for two approaches for IBSA to reinforce their common multilateral institutional framework including, a harmonized guideline between national patent offices, application of similar standard laws for disclosure requirements in convergence of their national regulations. The need for broadening IBSA collaborations between research institutions and a comprehensive analytical data for genetic data misappropriation, access and benefit sharing were crucial for coordination to protect genetic resources.

Ms. Karin Kritzing from South Africa analysed the synergies, differences and scope for cooperation between IBSA countries on the role of roof-top solar in progressing towards renewable energy. Strong possibilities of research collaborations, technology transfer and tariffs were stressed by the presenter for a way forward in furthering the scope of renewable energy in IBSA countries.

Mr. Kamlesh Goyal, an Indian underlined the importance of mutually recognising the importance of boosting traditional medicine in healthcare. He highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration in R&D, patent protection of traditional medicine, and joint capacity building programmes.

Ms. Rabia Khatun also from India, analysed the challenges that hinder trade in banking services, and provided a set of recommendations that could help in strengthening and furthering its scope in IBSA countries.

Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate, RIS studied the unique nature and scope of initiatives undertaken through the IBSA fund, underlining its significance in poverty alleviation in the nations of the South, debt projects, agriculture, employment and livelihood, youth engagement, infrastructure and capacity building to combat AIDS.

H. E. Mr. Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi noted that the report was extremely important and the papers would help enrichment of the agenda of IBSA. He recognised the importance of IBSA in opening new roads or areas which the

IBSA countries could traverse together through cooperation and collaboration for which political will of the three countries was also significant. He noted that IBSA was the first plurilateral mechanism that Brazil participated and highlighted the legacy of cooperation between India and Brazil in the UN. He added that the three countries could work together to strengthen the agenda of IBSA, underlining the brilliant results that have been achieved and its future prospects through cooperation. He recognised the efforts and amazing role played by RIS.

H. E. Mr. Sibusiso Ndebel, Ambassador, Embassy of South Africa, New Delhi underlined South Africa's financial commitment to IBSA Fund and the importance it attaches to IBSA and its initiatives. He recognised significant efforts made by IBSA in the past and urged on its the role in acknowledging challenges, academic exchange of experiences between the countries and recognised IBSA as a united strong voice of the alliance of the democracies.

The presence of High Commissioner of Tanzania, H. E. Baraka Haran Luvanda was noted and he was requested to give his remarks. He congratulated RIS and acknowledged the efforts of the IBSA. The closing remarks were made by Mr Chhabra. Dr Mohan Kumar and Prof Sachin Chaturvedi who shared their vision on looking forward to future events and strengthening IBSA cooperation further. After the closing remarks of distinguished guests and participants of the virtual launch, vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Sabyasachi Saha. ■

Partnerships to Foster Decent Work for Sustainable Development

As part of Webinar series on the road to Delhi VI, NeST, UNDP, RIS and Anáhuac, Mexico jointly organised the programme on 'South-South Partnerships to Foster Decent Work for Sustainable Development in Latin America' on 18 December 2020. Since 2013, the Conference of Southern Providers (Delhi Process) has been attracting attention on issues and emerging challenges for SSC among relevant stakeholders within the international community configuration. A series of annual meetings and frontier debates around SSC, become a unique space for experts, practitioners, academia, think tanks and international organisations to share their experiences and knowledge. The purpose of the present programme was to liaise and connect with regional actors, nourish interests and address concerns regarding SSC efforts to support countries to better recover from the current COVID-19 crisis.

Aspiring to overcome the paradigmatic 1978 Buenos Aires Action Plan, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), set the stage to finally address the elephant in the room: what is the concrete contribution of South-South (SSC) to sustainable development? The challenge is to assess if SSC programmes and projects are increasing developing countries' capacities to eradicate poverty, reduce Inequality and produce more high-value goods and services (i.e. SDGs 2: "Zero Hunger", 8: "Decent work and economic growth" and 17: "Partnerships for the goals").

The programme began with opening remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr. Sandra Soso, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mexico. It was followed by the session on South-South partnerships

to foster decent work for sustainable development: challenges and opportunities. The main speakers were: Dr. Gabriel Terres, Advisor to the Executive Director, AMEXCID; Dr. Paulo Esteves, Director of the BRICS Policy Centre; Dr. Martín Rivero, Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and SSC unit, SEGIB; and Dr. Lidia Fromm Cea, Executive Director, Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project. Dr. Carlos Cortés Zea, Coordinator of the AMEXCID-UNDP Cooperation Program, UNDP Mexico was the discussant and moderator. The panelists focussed on the concrete examples on the contribution of SSC to fostering decent work for sustainable development in Latin America under Innovative SSC approaches in the field and sharing challenges and opportunities of unconditional cash transfers programmes. Dr. Jorge A. Pérez-Pineda, Nest Mexico/ Universidad Anáhuac México gave closing remarks. ■

'Future Roadmap for Global Economic Recovery: Reflections on G20 Riyadh Summit and Beyond

Continued from page 2

back into poverty. The increase in protectionist measures have been hurting international trade, while rising leverage and downside risks for banks could undermine economic recovery, he said. The increase in debt accumulation and leverage combined with slower earnings growth are eroding corporate debt sustainability of highly leveraged issuers, he said, adding that the jump in bank non-performing loans in 2020 is likely to erode banks' willingness and capacity to lend.

The coming year is likely to witness a tsunami of corporate bankruptcies, he said, adding that there is a need to ensure a good insolvency regime and bankruptcy laws to address the structural problems as well as

those faced by corporates. Citing Italy's G20 Presidency and its prioritisation of 3Ps - People, Planet and Prosperity, he said this will help tackle inequalities, promote equal opportunities, implement commitments relating to the Paris agreement and SDGs, foster new tech and digital transformation as the drivers of growth and better quality of life and promote resilience. Going forward, there is a need to reallocate capital and labour resources in G20 economies, support people through a robust social safety net mechanism and universal healthcare as well as bring out active labour market policies that includes skill development programmes. In order to build back sustainably and resiliently, multilateralism will be the key as there are a lot of cross-

border elements in these challenges, Pinaud said.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said there is a need to focus on skill development and build quality infrastructure in addition to taking forward the key outcomes of the G20 Summit held in Saudi Arabia this year. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, and Deep Kapuria, Chairman of the Hi-Tech Group of Companies and co-chair of the CII national committee on international trade policy also spoke on the occasion. The RIS has been bringing out a bi-monthly publication 'the G20 Digest' on G20 issues as part of generating meaningful inputs for India's G20 Presidency in 2022, in addition to actively taking part in the T20 (Think-Tank) process at the G20. ■

Fifth BNPTT Meeting

The Virtual Fifth BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) Meeting was hosted by RIS on December 21-22, 2020. The meeting was attended by 22 delegates from think tanks of seven member countries of BIMSTEC and seven officials of the BIMSTEC Secretariat. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired the meeting. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, India delivered the Keynote Address. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat presented special remarks on the achievements of BIMSTEC in recent years and shared the priorities and initiatives those are in the pipeline.

The Meeting took stock of the

progress made on the decisions and commitments announced in the Fourth BNPTT Meeting held in Thimpu, Bhutan in 2018. Special focus was given to Covid-19 related economic disruptions in the region and the roadmap for economic recovery in the BIMSTEC region. While prioritisation of sectors for BIMSTEC cooperation was emphasized, certain sectors and issues were considered most important for the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in 2021. Those include early conclusion of BIMSTEC FTA negotiations, need for thrust on sectoral value chains given high potential for intra-regional trade in certain sectors, scientific and technological cooperation in health

and medical equipments, emerging sectors like digital economy and fintech, among others.

RIS delegation led by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi comprised of 10 faculty members including Prof. S.K. Mohanty, Prof. Prabir De, Prof. T.C. James, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Dr. Sabysachi Saha, Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas, Ms. Prativa Shaw, Ms. Pankhuri Gaur and Ms. Sabhya Rai. RIS team made the host institution's presentation on the scope and diversification of BIMSTEC cooperation agenda and on the priorities and recommendations for the upcoming Fifth BIMSTEC Summit besides active contribution to other segments of the meeting. ■

31st STIP Forum Lecture

The 31st STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST on 17th December 2020 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was "The Art of Science in the Brave New World". The event was chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Dr. Purnima Rupal, Director, CEFIPRA and Dr. R. Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog were also present during the event.

In his very insightful address, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary and problem-centric approach to address the challenges of the future. He added that the future of STI is about the convergence of different technology streams. "COVID-19 has reminded us that the disruptive changes are coming at us at an exponential rate. It is a brave world that we are living in today because we have to negotiate the change. In order to negotiate the changes of the new world, we need to negotiate the demands of the



Screenshot of lecture in progress

technology," Prof. Ashutosh Sharma stressed. He also emphasised on the need to strengthen our STI and education ecosystem. "Industry 4.0 is about controlling the flow of data, information, and knowledge. Sharing of information and knowledge is going to define the future for all times to come." he added.

Prof. Sharma expressed the imperative to achieve Atma Nirbharta (Self-Reliance) in the domain of STI and went on to put forward three aspects of Atma Nirbharta viz. Atma Vishwas (Self-Confidence), Atma Samman (Self-Respect) and Atma Chintan (Self-Introspection). ■

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Delivered a special address at the Inaugural Session of the 103rd Annual Conference of IEA (Online) organized by Indian Economic Association on 27 December 2020.
- Panelist in the session on Setting Science Agenda for diplomacy during India's Presidency of G20, BRICS & SCO at the 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) organized by jointly by Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on 23 December 2020.
- Participated in the Meeting on India's FTAs (Performance, Status of Negotiations and Way Forward) organized by NITI Aayog on 23 December 2020.
- Participated in the Pre-Budget Consultations Meeting of Economists with Hon'ble Finance Minister on virtual mode on 19 December 2020.
- Addressed at the virtual panel on Accelerating SDGs Achievement and Building Back Better from COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia, at the Twenty-third Sustainable Development Conference titled Sustainable Development in the Times of COVID-19 organised by SDPI, UNESCAP and South Asia Network on SDGs on 15 December 2020.
- Participated in the 4th Steering Committee Meeting for the South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Network for SSC and addressed on Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) on 8 December 2020, organised by the UNOSSC.
- Participated in the Virtual meeting with Stakeholders of AYUSH Ministry, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH held on 4 December 2020.
- Addressed the Session on 'Regional Economic Integration' at the Asia-Pacific Forum – Navigating Disruption: Rethinking Economic Development in a COVID Era on 4 December 2020.
- Lead Speaker at the 'Solutions Session - Building forward better: the infrastructure of a new sustainable economy, cities in a changing multilateral order' at the Global Solutions Initiative - Urbanization (and infrastructure): Sustainable Responses to the Covid-19 on 3 December 2020.
- Participated in the Virtual Meeting of Fourth South Asia Forum on the SDGs on Fostering Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 in South Asia and addressed the Roundtable on Harnessing Global, Regional and Sub-Regional Partnerships and Means of Implementation for Accelerating SDGs Achievement in South Asia: Finance, Technology, Data and Statistics (SDG17) on 3 December 2020, organised jointly by UNESCAP and the Government of Maldives.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting with UNDP Administrator Mr. Achim Steiner on the UNDP's new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 on 25 November 2020
- Participated in the ICWA Webinar on India and Africa – Looking Ahead – Contemporary Realities and Emerging Prospects, the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) initiative and addressed at the Session III on 'Agenda 2063 and Taking Stock of India Africa Development Partnership' on 24 November 2020.
- Participated in the online First Brainstorming Session of 'Experts' Working Group on 'The Future of International Co-operation' organised by Development Centre, OECD on 24 November 2020,
- Made a presentation on India-Japan Cooperation in STI for SDGs at the 10th Japan-India Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation held on 10 November 2020.
- Participated in the online Workshop on MGG Reflection Group for BMZ Position Paper 'Global Partners organised by the German Development Institute on 5 November 2020.
- Participated in the Open Discussion on Role of South-South Cooperation and Trilateral Cooperation in Restructuring International Development Architecture' at the Webinar on International Development Cooperation Knowledge, Governance and Practice, organised by CIDGA/CIDRN on 28 October 2020.
- Made a presentation on 'Quality and Resilient Infrastructure for Development-India's Recent Experience' at the BRICS Academic Forum on 23 October 2020, organised by National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia and Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
- Delivered special remarks at the Signing Ceremony of the MoU on Bilateral Dialogue between ICWA and RIS of the Republic of India and KNDA and KIEP of the Republic of Korea organised by ICWA on 22 October 2020.
- Made a presentation on India's Policy Response to COVID-19 Pandemic at the Webinar on Examining the COVID-19 Response of India and the Philippines organised by ICSSR on 15 October 2020.
- Made a presentation in the session on Global Governance in Post-Pandemic World and Implications for BRICS Cooperation at the BRICS International School 2020 -Contest for BRICS Young Leaders, organised by BRICS International School, National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia and BRICS Russia 2020 on 8 October 2020.
- Lead Speaker in the Webinar on "Towards the Italian G20 Presidency. Reframing Goals and Priorities of the G20 Agenda in a Post-COVID 19 World" organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on October 6, 2020.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Participated as Key Speaker and made discussion in the Session, 'Economic Revitalization: Situation and Challenges in Key Sectors' in the Indian Economic Association (IEA) on the 103rd Online Annual Conference, held on 27 December 2020.
- Participated in the meeting on India's FTAs (Performance, Status of Negotiations and Way forward and made a presentation on Efficacy of India's FTAs: Joining the Debate, organised by NITI Aayog, Government of India, on 23 December 2020
- Participated as a key speaker in the MP-IDSA-RIETI web Seminar and made a presentation on Changing Shades of India-Japan Economic Relationship Possibility of Trade and Investment in the GVC Sector, organized by The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India, on 16 December 2020
- Participated in the Indo-German 1.5 Track Dialogue, 2020 and made a presentation on Changing Shades of Economic Partnership between India and Germany, organized by Bertelsmann Stiftung, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and the German Federal Foreign Office in partnership with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), RIS and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, on 27 November 2020
- Participated in the India-China Webinar and deliver a lecture on India and China Economic Relationship evolving Chinese linkages with South Asian Economies, organised by the Jamia Millia Islamia University on 18 November 2020
- Participated in the International Webinar on the topic: Post-Strategic Outlook of the Countries of the Bay of Bengal region, organised by Society for Indian

Ocean Studies (SIOS) on 26 October 2020

- Participated in the Interactive session with Maritime Research Center (MRC), Pune regarding Institutional collaboration on Blue Economy, held on 15 October 2020
- Participated as resource persons for the Panel Discussion on 'Opportunities and Challenges for the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region' and made a presentation on Blue Economy, organised by the Blue Economy Forum in collaboration with the Chair in Indian Ocean Studies, University of Mauritius, held on 12 October 2020.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in Disciplinary Committee (Bench II) Meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India held on 9 and 16 October 2020, 9 and 29 December 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Transforming Logistics Performance in BBIN Countries" organized by CUTS International held on 16 December 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Why Should India 'Join or Not Join' the RCEP - Pros and Cons" organized by CUTS International held on 9 December 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Director's Colloquium Power Talk Series 3 on "Corporate Governance and International Profit Shifting: Evidence from India" organized by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs held on 9 December 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the "2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee constituted for IPRS 2.0" organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry held on 8 December 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in IP Experts Group meeting organized by

Vivekananda International Foundation held on 3 December 2020 at New Delhi.

- Participated as an Independent Director in the True North: Annual LP Conference 2020 held on 3 December 2020.
- Participated in the ICRIER Seminar Series on G20: The Riyadh Summit, 2020 held on 30 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Agriculture-Nutrition disconnect in India: A Look through Policies and Programmes" organized by India International Centre held on 25 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "The Agriculture - Nutrition disconnect in India: A look through Policies and Programmes" organized by India International Center held on 25 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Deciphering the US Elections: Implications for India, the Region and the World" organized by Kalinga International Foundation held on 19 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Conversation of Pradeep Mehta with Pascal Lamy on "Broader Role of the WTO in Underwriting Peace, Security, Stability and Prosperity in the World" organized by CUTS International held on 18 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a series of webinars on "Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System to Promote Development and Inclusivity" organized by The Centre for WTO Studies (New Delhi), in partnership with the South Centre (Geneva), Third World Network (Geneva), the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town (South Africa), the Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), South Africa, and Trade Training and Research Institute (Cambodia) held on 17 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director of Board and Committee

meetings of Goodyear India Ltd. held on 6 November 2020 at New Delhi.

- Participated as an Independent Director in the Audit Committee, Independent Directors, Customer Service Committee, IT Strategy Committee and Board of Directors" meetings organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 2 November 2020.
- Participated in a meeting of CII Core Group on China held on 30 October 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Moderator in the First High Level Panel on "Designing an Enabling Ecosystem to Build Back Better-Government to Governance" organized by CRB held on 28 October 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in Indo-Pacific Experts' Group meeting organized by Vivekananda International Foundation held on 23 October 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Hidden hand of the State behind the Technology Edge: What can the WTO do?" organized by the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in collaboration with Third World Network, Geneva, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), South Africa and Trade Training and Research Institute, Cambodia held on 20 October 2020.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Risk Management Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee and Board of Directors Meetings organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 16 October 2020.

Professor T. C. James
Visiting Fellow

- Made a presentation on "IPR-Relevance in Agriculture in the current Scenario" at the Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthi on 19 October, 2020.

- Delivered Keynote address on the topic "Changing Dynamics of Intellectual Property for Development" at the Inaugural Session of National Symposium on Intellectual Property Rights organised by Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad on 11 October, 2020.

Dr. B. Balakrishnan
Science Diplomacy Fellow

- Participated in the closed panel discussion on Biosafety and Biosecurity in India organised by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on 21 December 2020.
- Participated as a main speaker on "Science Diplomacy- An Introduction" in the workshop organised by the South Asia Science Diplomacy Working Group of Global Young Academy on 21 November 2020.

Dr P. K. Anand
Visiting Fellow

- Participated in Think Tank 20 (T20) Summit event on 31 October -1 November 2020, and handover event to Italy on 30th November 2020.
- Participated as a speaker in the T20 side event on the issue of 'Early childhood care and sustainability', on 4th November 2020.
- Participated in all the eleven Task Forces meetings organized by T20 Saudi Arabia, including the Task Force 10 on 22 October 2020 covering our co-authored *Policy Brief* on Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems.
- Participated in the Webex Discussion meeting on the issue related to childhood care and education with Professor Mathias, Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, Dublin City University on 1 October 2020.

Mr K. Krishna Kumar
Visiting Fellow

- Participated in Think Tank 20 (T20) Summit event on 31st

October -1st November 2020, and handover event to Italy on 30th November 2020.

- Participated in all the eleven Task Forces meetings organized by T20 Saudi Arabia, including the Task Force 10 on 22nd October 2020 covering our co-authored *Policy Brief* on Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems.
- Participated in the Webex Discussion meeting on the issue related to childhood care and education with Professor Mathias, Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, Dublin City University on 1 October 2020.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha
Assistant Professor

- Made a presentation at the session on "Economic Impact of Covid-19 on BRICS countries" at the IV BRICS Conference of the University of São Paulo (USP) organised by the Faculty of Law (FDUSP) and the Department of International and Comparative Law (DIN) on 26 October 2020.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash
Assistant Professor

- Made presentation on "Fintech and Changing Landscape of Global Trade" in the First International Conference titled 'Japan-South Asia Connections on Economy, Health and Education' organized by South Asia Research Center at Soka University, Japan on October 31, 2020.
- Presented remarks at the webinar on "Strategising India's Policy Direction in G20" organized by VANI-FIDC-Heinrich Boll Stiftung on October 28, 2020.
- Made presentation on "Quality and Resilient Infrastructure for Development- India's Recent Experience" in the BRICS Academic Forum held on October 13, 2020.

Latest Publications



REPORTS

Deepening Cooperation In IBSA: Perspectives From Key Sectors

China's Policy Initiatives For National And Global Promotion of TCM

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

#259: Bulk Drug Industry in India: Challenges and Prospects

#258: Strategising India's Exports

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

#101 Price Discovery becomes Robust in Gas, Electricity and Coal Markets in India in Post-Covid 19 Reforms by Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

#100 G20 Sherpa and Finance Tracks: Commonalities and Opportunities by Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Ms Sonal Garg & Ms Sabhya Rai

#99 STI for SDGs: G20 Partnership and National Imperatives* by Prof Sachin Chaturvedi & Dr Sabyasachi Saha

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REVIEW

• Volume: 3 No: 2: October, 2020

G20 DIGEST

• Volume: 2 No: 2, January, 2021
• Volume 2, Special Issue, PP 1-21, October, 2020

FIDC DISCUSSION PAPER

• #3: India-Africa Development Partnership Dynamics

IORA PUBLICATION

• Blue Economy Insight, November, 2020

AIC PUBLICATION

• Asean-India Development and Cooperation Report 2021

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Anand, P. K., Krishna Kumar et.al (2020). 'Integrated Nexus

Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems', T20 Policy Brief under Task Force 10 Sustainable Energy, Water and Food, Saudi Arabia.

Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). 2020. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.

Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi. 2020. 'Introduction' in Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Dash Priyadarshi. 2020. 'AAGC and Economic Prosperity in Indo-Pacific' in Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Use external funds effectively as debt keeps rising', *The Daily Star*, October 28, 2020.

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Holding cos will separate promoters from banks - No Attempt to Dilute Regulatory Architecture', *The Times of India*, 30 November 2020.

Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Will Joe Biden be able to defeat Trumpism in trade?', *The Economic Times*, 21 December 2020.

Chaturvedi, S., A. Alharbi and Sabyasachi Saha 2020. "G20 Leadership and Relevance of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps", T20 Saudi Arabia Policy Brief, October 2020.

Dash, Priyadarshi. 2020. Growth Triggers in Asia-Pacific: Quality Infrastructure & Digital Economy, *Japan Spotlight*, November-December 2020.

Kher, Rajeev 2020. "Does India's PLI Scheme Put the Cart Before the Horse?" Bloomberg, November 2020.

Mohanty, S.K. 2020. Paper on 'Regional Economic Dynamics of BIMSTEC during the Global Recession: China Factor in the Regional Caucus.' Pondicherry University.

Mohanty, S.K. 2020. "Taka Talks in a Tailored Suit: Exports, robust domestic economy and macroeconomic stability fuel Bangladesh's growth since 2004". Outlook India Magazine, December 28.

Srinivas, K. R. 2020. 'Governance of Emerging Technologies/ Applications in the Bio/Life Sciences: Genome Editing and Synthetic Biology' in Chaurasia, Anurag, Hawksworth CBE, David L., Pessoa de Miranda, Manoela (Eds.), *GMOs: Implications for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Processes*, Springer 2020 Pp 441-462.



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