



— Policy research shaping the global development agenda

## Consultations on India and FTAs and Way Forward



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

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

As part of its work programme on India's strategy towards FTAs and related issues, RIS organised Consultation Meetings with trade policy experts and senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry in New Delhi on 14 April 2016 and with media on 1 May 2016. Ms. Nirjala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, Government of India chaired the session.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks and highlighted the nature of extensive work done by RIS over the years. This was followed by a presentation on RIS' perspectives on FTAs by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS. Issues being grappled with by

the Department of Commerce were presented by Mr. Arvind Mehta, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Further, interventions were made by Mr. G.K. Pillai and Mr. Rahul Khullar, both former Commerce Secretaries and Ms. Rita A. Teotia, the current Commerce Secretary. Noted experts from premier institutions across the country presented their viewpoints. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS also addressed the opening session on 1 May 2016.



Prof. Ram Upendra Das speaking at the consultation on 14 April 2016. Also seen in picture (to his left) are Mr. Arvind Mehta, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Ms. Nirjala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Ms. Rita A. Teotia, Mr. G.K. Pillai and Mr. Rahul Khullar.

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman discussed issues to increase India's foreign trade. She informed that the present Government aims at enhancing FTA boons and thus India will seek more market access from partner countries with whom it has signed FTAs and will find ways to increase its goods and services exports in the wake of criticism that FTAs have only increased imports.

She mentioned that the government would also expedite domestic reforms and work towards removing infrastructure bottlenecks, and ensuring regular power supply, especially to small and medium

enterprises which account for more than 40 per cent of India's exports in order to gain further from FTAs. Moves to increase India's agriculture exports were also discussed.

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

Adopting an integrated approach towards trade in goods, trade in

services and investment along with developmental role of rules of origin were highlighted. Creation of a social safety fund was also discussed. The fund could help sectors which suffer adverse impact due to FTAs. Experts were of the view that India should re-work on its strength in trade in services at all levels.

Presentations on various themes including market access, services, investment, IPR and e-commerce were made by experts from RIS and Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

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



On the issue of India's trade policy as being ambivalent the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman said that India has a clear picture of how to move on the trade front, and is certainly not aimless when it comes to trade negotiations.

She also informed the media that we are not moving unduly fast on FTAs as investment for job creation and national interest are our priorities. She also hinted out at the protectionist measures of many developed nations. For example, she referred to protectionist measures of many countries in the G20 and said if India (also a G20 member) took any measure which they (the rich nations) perceived to be negative, they would go on a campaign to brand India as protectionist. "But if they [rich countries] take protectionist measures, they don't want to talk about it," she said.

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

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

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

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

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



Hon'ble Mr. Kevin Rudd speaking at the dialogue. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Ms. Preeti Saran, Amb. Shivshankar Menon, and Mr. Marshall Bouton.

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

Hon'ble Mr. Kevin Rudd, ASPI President and former Prime Minister of Australia discussed the need of a pan-regional institution in the Asia-Pacific that can manage peace and security. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS moderated the conversation. Amb. Shivshankar

Menon, India's former National Security Advisor; Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Marshall Bouton; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS were the panellists.

### Study on Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rita Teatota highlighted that border trade between India and Myanmar through the land routes has seen a paradigm shift from barter to normal

trade and also abolishing the list of items restricted until recently. This effectively means that now India and Myanmar trade through the border can take place under the

Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme and ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA). She also underscored the need



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

for making trade an instrument for achieving developmental objectives in the border areas through employment generation. Investment in infrastructure on both sides was highlighted as an essential prerequisite for trade.

A distinguishing feature of India's border trade with Myanmar and bilateral normal trade is that, in case of border trade both import and export growth exceed growth rates in overall bilateral trade, said Mr. Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry while presenting the rationale and genesis of the Study. He amplified the role of integration with Myanmar for development of Myanmar and also accessing ASEAN and other markets with which Myanmar has preferential access.

Mr. Capoor also mentioned that this study is comprehensive, as it adopts an integrated approach towards border trade by focussing on trade in goods, trade in services, cross-border investment, trade facilitation, and infrastructure at the India-Myanmar border region. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS highlighted that the study has been conducted by combining desk-top research with field survey and

stakeholders' consultation, in a quest to make the analysis realistic and the recommendations practical. He further emphasised that it is time that we adopt a 'fast-track' approach to implement policy recommendations that could address the constraints acting upon border trade in particular and development of the region in general. It is in this context that the study presented its analytical and empirical basis for enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade.

Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS argued that one of the reasons for less than optimum levels of economic activities in the region under consideration and the low quantum of border trade is the absence of peace in the region along with other constraints. The study in a novel way argues towards a new framework of 'peace-creating prosperity' whereby focussing on employment generation in the region could unlock the potential that the region possesses. It is in this backdrop that the enabling conditions to augment border trade could well serve as a driver for greater economic activities in the region and at the border, generating newer employment opportunities for the youth a real possibility, and preventing them from resorting

to unfair means of earning their livelihood.

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

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

## Visit of Indonesian Delegation to RIS

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



*From RIS Amb. Shyam Saran and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi addressed the delegation and spoke on various aspects of RIS work programme on South-South Cooperation.*

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

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

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

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

The book *"India's Approach to Development Cooperation"* traces and analyses the evolution of



Amb. Shyam Saran speaking at the Dialogue on South-South Cooperation. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are H.E. Mr. Ajit Kumar, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Ms. Anthea Mulakala and Mr. Vicente Yu.



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

Indian development cooperation. It highlights its significance both to global development and as an effective tool of Indian foreign policy.

Focussing on how India has played an important role in supporting development efforts of partner countries in South Asia and beyond through its

various initiatives in the realm of development cooperation, the book tracks the evolution, trends and the challenges India faces in the current international context.

The contributions provide a rich mix of academic and government policy and practice, Indian and

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### Interactive Session on India-Afghanistan Cooperation in Agriculture

RIS, jointly with the Centre for South-South Cooperation, Sharda University, organised an interactive session on “Public Delivery Mechanism and Change Management in Indian Agriculture” with the delegation from Afghanistan during 23-25 May 2016. On the first day lectures were organised at Sharda University. Mr. Prasoon Kashyap, Project Associate, Centre for South-South Cooperation welcoming the delegates presented “A Comparative Perspective on Indian and Afghan Agriculture.” Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, Director, Centre for South-South Cooperation, Sharda University and Visiting Fellow, RIS presented a broad outline of government schemes in agriculture sector in India and later spoke on “What works and what does not?: Lessons from Evaluation Studies in India.” The second day had field visits to Organic Horticultural Garden and farmers’ fields in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh



*Mr. Gopal Baglay interacting with delegation. Also present (to his right) are Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and (to his left) Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti.*

and Greenhouse Agricultural unit in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

On the third day lectures were organised at RIS. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr. Gopal Baglay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; and Prof. T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS held a discussion on agriculture with the delegates. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of

India delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Experiences from Indian Horticulture Sector.” Dr. Arvind Kaushal, Distinguished Fellow, Teri delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Indian Experience in Livestock and Animal Husbandry Sector.” Dr. R.K. Singh, CMD, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Indian Experience in Change Management in Agriculture.”

### Consultation on Indian Science Diplomacy

RIS, in collaboration with National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, organised a half-day long discussion meeting on 7 April 2016 at NIAS for developing an approach for promoting Indian science diplomacy, under the proposed RIS work programme on science diplomacy.

Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS welcomed all the participants and gave a brief introduction on how NIAS can contribute in the realm of science diplomacy. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, began his opening remarks by giving a brief introduction of RIS and MEA and how the S&T is important for India’s international relations. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director



*(From left to right) Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Amb. Shyam Saran, Prof. Baldev Raj, and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi at the meeting.*

General, RIS; Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, Visiting Professor, NIAS and Dr.

Suba Chandran, Professor, NIAS and Dr. Amit Kumar, Research Associate, RIS participated in the meeting.

### Roundtable Discussion on IPR and Access to Technology



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

In the wake of the recent debate on IPR and access to technology, RIS organised a Roundtable Discussion on 'Intellectual Property Rights, Access to Technology and Policy Deliberations' on 4 June 2016 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the

welcome remarks. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission delivered the keynote address reflecting on the IPR related issues and price control mechanism especially related to seeds.

Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao, President, National Seed Association of India and Dr. Paresh Verma, Head, Management Committee, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises - Agriculture (ABLE-

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### Consultation on BRICS Wellness Forum

India is the current Chair of the BRICS. The BRICS Summit is to be held in mid-October 2016. Before that, various activities are planned across the country in the form of seminars/workshops and exhibitions on the following themes: Traditional Systems of Medicine – Bio-resource Management and Institutional Architecture and Trade Classification and Standardisation of Bio-resources; Nutrition: Ensuring Productive Health – Nutrition for Health Security and Access to Nutrition; Wellness and SDGs – Concept of wellness and Centrality of wellness in SDGs; Wellness and Medical Tourism; and Holistic Wellness: physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental and social – an Integrated Approach, among others.

As part of these, RIS along with the Ministry of Ayush and Ministry



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi speaking at the consultation. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Prof. T. P. Rajendran, Dr. T. G. Vinod Kumar, Dr. Ranjit Puranik, Prof. T.C. James, Dr. Ashok Pandey, Dr. Rama Jayasundar, and Dr. C. K. Katiyar.

of Tourism is planning a two-day Wellness Forum in September 2016 in Bangalore. The objective is to give push to the general concept of Wellness and highlight the role of Traditional Systems of Medicine in the efforts to achieve Wellness. To discuss the organisation of BRICS

Wellness Forum expert meet was organised at RIS on 30 April 2016. Dr. Ranjit Puranik, Chief Executive, Shree Dhootapapeshwar Ltd., Mumbai and General Secretary Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association

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### Workshop on Socio-Economic Assessment of Living Modified Organisms

RIS coordinated the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's project on Socio-Economic Considerations under Article 26.1 of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) with specific mandates on developing methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment, Methodology for Cost-Benefit Analysis and Guidance Document. As part of this, RIS, in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP organised the project review meeting and final workshop in New Delhi on 26 May 2016. Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Adviser, MoEFCC, Government of India delivered special address.

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

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



*Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi making welcome remarks at the workshop on 26 May 2016. Also seen in picture (to his right) are Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Adviser, MoEFCC, Government of India, Prof. P. G. Chengappa, Dr. R. N. Padaria and (to his left) are Prof. T. P. Rajendran and Prof. Manmohan Agarwal.*

Srinivas, RIS presented the outline of way forward and extended the vote of thanks.

Earlier to this, RIS, in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, had organised the project review meeting on 28 April 2016. The programme began with introductory remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director, General, RIS. Presentations were made by Principal and Co-Principal Investigators (PIs/Co-PIs) from six institutions. These included: Dr. R. N. Padaria, IARI, New Delhi; Prof. N. Lalitha, GIDR, Ahmedabad; Prof. Suresh S. Patil,

UAS, Raichur; Dr. S.P. Subash, NAARM, Hyderabad; Dr. A. V. Manjunath, ISEC, Bangalore; and Dr. S. Varadha Raj, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Prof. P. G. Chengappa, ICAR National Professor, ISEC, Bangalore; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS and RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; Prof. T. P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS and Prof. Chandrasekhara Rao, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi presented expert comments on the presentation. Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

As an outcome of the project, the final report has been submitted.



*Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi making welcome remarks at the workshop on 28 April 2016. Also seen in picture (to his left) are Prof. P. G. Chengappa, Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Prof. T. P. Rajendran and (to his right) Dr. R. N. Padaria.*

## Capacity Building Programmes

### RIS Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practice

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

On the first day, Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office delivered the inaugural addresses. Prof. S.K. Mohanty gave an introduction to Trade Data. Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Jamia Millia Islamia delivered a lecture on Industry and Trade Data: Concordance Issues. Dr. Priyadarshi Dash delivered a lecture on Data on Trade in Services.

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

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external perspectives. Theory is complemented with empirical research, and case studies on countries and sectors as well as comparisons with other aid providing countries are presented.

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



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

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

Fourth day began with lecture by Dr. Neelam Singh on Trade and Technology. Mr. Arvind Mehta,

Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India delivered lecture on India's Trade Relations and Strategies. Prof. Rajesh Chadha of NCAER spoke on GTAP Modelling and Trade Complementarity. Dr. Nitya Nanda, TERI spoke on Gravity Modelling and Trade Potential.

The last day had group discussions on Data, Methodology and Techniques; Technology and Trade; and WTO and FTAs. Prof. Rajat Kathuria delivered a lecture on Mega Regional Trade Agreements. In the concluding session Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Prof. S. K. Mohanty distributed the Certificates.

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

issues covered in the book. The programme was organised by RIS in association with The Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD), IDS.

The High Commission of India, London also organised launching of the book on 30 June 2016. H.E. Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Indian High Commissioner to UK made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran made welcome remarks and set out the context of book. The panel discussion on the issues raised in the book was moderated by Ms. Anthea Mulakala. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Prabodh Saxena, Mr. Taidong Zhou, and Ms. Supriya Roychoudhury were the panellists.

## Capacity Building Programmes

### Workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities

RIS supports Myanmar in Building Capacity through its capacity Building programme on Building Trade and Investment Capacity. Under this RIS, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok; the Centre for Economy and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar; and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce organised the sixth workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities at UMFCCI, Yangon on 12-13 May 2016. The workshop comprised six sessions covering global and regional issues

of trade facilitation. Mr. Soe Win, Dy. Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce delivered the opening address. Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Dr. Tangfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP, Bangkok introduced the workshops to the participants.

The workshop had lectures on various themes including: Why trade facilitation?; Trade facilitation in multilateral and regional arrangements; and Demonstration of trade facilitation databases and analysis by Dr. Prabir De; Analysing

trade processes and procedures: Business Process Analysis (BPA) by Mr. Tangfei Wang and Dr. Prabir De; Measuring trade facilitation performance: Trade and transport facilitation monitoring mechanism (TTFMM) by Mr. Tangfei Wang; Business Process Analysis (BPA) of trade procedures in Myanmar by Captain Aung Khin Myint, Chairman, Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association and Chairman, GMS Freight Transport Association (GMS FRETA), Yangon. The workshop concluded with group exercises.

### Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration

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

several aspects of the Regional Cooperation and Integration.

Dr. Mia Mikic and Dr. Prabir De made an introduction about the objectives of the workshop.

The workshop had lectures on various themes including Trade theory and regional integration by Dr. Mia Mikic; Regional integration in the world: political and economic dimensions by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Regional trade agreements in the context of Myanmar's development strategy by Mr. Sjamsu Rahardja, Senior Economist, Trade and Competitiveness, The World Bank, Myanmar; Principles and modalities of regional integration: Contrasting

stories of ASEAN and BIMSTEC by Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri; WTO and regional integration (including a demonstration of the WTO RTA database and ESCAP APTIAD) and features of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific by Dr. Mia Mikic; Myanmar in regional and subregional initiatives (ASEAN, BBIN, BCIM, BIMSTEC, SAARC) by Prof. Prabir De; Mega-regionals in Asia (TPP, RCEP, EAEU) by Dr. Mia Mikic; Global value chains and preferential trade agreements by Mr. Thomas Bernhardt, Researcher and Policy Analyst, Myanmar Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Yangon; and databases and analysis by Dr. Mia Mikic, Dr. Prabir De and Prof. Ajitava Raychaudhuri. The workshop was concluded with group exercises.

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of India; Dr. D. Ramanathan, CMD, Sitaram Ayurveda Pharmacy Ltd., Thrissur; Dr. T. G. Vinod Kumar, Scientist, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Unit (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram; Dr. Ashok Pandey, Eminent Scientist, Centre for Innovative and Applied Bio-processing, Mohali; Dr. C. K. Katiyar, CEO Healthcare (Technical), Emami

Ltd. Kolkata; Dr. P. K. Anand, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog, New Delhi; Dr. Rama Jayasundar, AIIMS, New Delhi; and Prof. T. C. James, RIS participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

The meeting discussed major issues confronting the traditional

systems of medicine and ways to promote the systems. It suggested discussing in the BRICS Wellness Forum the issues related to trade classification, trade barriers, wellness indicators and the basic concepts of wellness. It was also suggested to organise an exhibition of traditional medicine systems during the Forum.

### Pre-Civil BRICS Consultation at FIDC

This year India is Chair for BRICS. The 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit would be organised in Goa on 15-16 October 2016. The key theme for the Summit is Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions with a special focus on

institution-building, implementing past commitments, and exploring innovative solutions in a spirit of continuity with consolidation.

At the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India RIS organised an informal

FIDC consultation on 2 April 2016 at RIS on the possibility of a BRICS Civil Society Meet, prior to the BRICS Summit to explore the key issues, level of participation, dates and possible themes.

*Roundtable Discussion on IPR and Access to Technology  
continued from page 7...*

AG) put forth the perspective of the industry. Both of them presented views related to issues in the field of agriculture and seeds. The panellists: Mr. Siraj Hussain, former Agriculture Secretary; Dr. Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research (ICRIER); Dr. Jeet Singh Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Dr. S.R. Rao, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology; Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority; Dr. Dinesh Abrol, Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID); and Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS expressed their insights.

The representatives from the industry stressed the need for predictable, transparent regulatory process and cautioned against regressive regulation that would retard growth and innovation. Acknowledging the applicability of Indian Patents Act and the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Act with respect to plant varieties and seeds, it was pointed out that Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) covered transgenic varieties but concerns were expressed

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

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

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

It was pointed out that two traits, i.e. herbicide resistant technology, and insect resistant technology and their combination have been successful and these have been commercialised in cotton, soya bean, canola and maize which are the major GM crops world over. The current processes and procedures for risk assessment and economic valuation of GM technologies were also elucidated.

Further the need to resolve uncertainties in decision making regarding GM crops awaiting clearance from GEAC was emphasised. PPVFR and the Authority under the Act have a key role in regulating registration for new varieties and in balancing the interests of plant breeders, seed companies and farmers.

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

A large number of participants representing different stakeholders took part in the programme.

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

### Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

#### Director General

- Chaired a Panel Discussion on 'Paris COP 21 Outcomes and its Implications for India's Future Energy Policy' at the Managing Global Governance (MGG) National Alumni Meeting, organised by GDI and ICRIER on 4 April 2016 in New Delhi.
- Panellist at the Discussion Meeting at the launch of book: *India-Myanmar Relations: Changing Contours* by Rajiv Bhatia, organised by the India International Centre in New Delhi on 8 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'Socio-Economic Considerations in LMOs: Key Challenges' at the Regional Conference on Biosafety for Sharing of Experiences, organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in Hyderabad on 8 April 2016.
- Participated in the meeting of the Heads of Think Tanks (HoTT) Forum, organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in New Delhi on 27 April 2016.
- Participated in the Future Lab on Germany's Development Policy and Development Cooperation, organised jointly by GIZ and BMZ in Berlin on 3 May 2016.
- Moderated the discussion on the two day Workshop on Water, Drought and Related Issues, organised by Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) in New Delhi on 4-5 May 2016.
- Participated in the discussion on 'India's Economic Prospects', organised by Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi on 6 May 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'SDGs and Technology Facilitation Mechanism' at the Informal dialogues of BMZ and MGG Network held in Berlin on 11 May 2016.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Global Governance in Transition: How Can the G20 Help with Overcoming Regional Fragmentation?' organised jointly by The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), German Development Institute (DIE) and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) in Berlin on 12 May 2016.
- Speaker at the session on 'The G20's Contribution to an Inclusive World Economy' held at the Berlin T20 Conference on The 2030 Agenda and Pathways to Sustainable Development International Cooperation and the G20 Presidencies of China and Germany, held in Berlin on 13 May 2016.
- Participated in the meeting of the 'Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) Core Group Members' held in Berlin on 15 May 2015.
- Made a presentation on 'SDGs and Technology Facilitation Mechanism' at the Asian Regional Dialogue on the Starting Strong: the first 1000 days of the SDGs - Asian regional dialogue, organised jointly by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) and the Southern Voices in Sri Lanka on 19 May 2016.
- Participated in the Informal Luncheon Meeting to deliberate on the idea of New Development Bank Institute (NDBI), organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and EXIM Bank in New Delhi on 23 May 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable discussion on Trade Strategy on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 27 May 2016.
- Chaired the thematic session on 'Challenge of Improving Environment' in the Global Conference on Prosperity, Equality and Sustainability: Perspectives and Policies for a Better World, organised jointly by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and the World Bank in New Delhi on 1 June 2016.
- Participated in the launch function of Agricultural Atlas of Madhya Pradesh, organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Research and Madhya Pradesh Council for Science and Technology in New Delhi on 1 June 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on 'India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development', organised by the Symbiosis School of International Studies in New Delhi on 2 June 2016.
- Speaker at the session on 'Enabling environment for science, technology and innovation' at the Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (IATT)'s first multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) organised by the United Nations on 6 June 2016 in New York.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on Trade and Investment at the Dialogue on Global Economic Governance Think 20 (T20) Meeting, organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Gateway House in Mumbai on 13 June 2016.
- Moderated the session on 'Mega Trade Agreements: Economic Fragmentation or Integration?' at the Gateway of India Dialogue: Where Geopolitics meets Business, organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

and Gateway House in Mumbai on 14 June 2016.

- Made a presentation on 'Evolving Context of Multilateral Diplomacy' at the Second Special Course for ASEM Diplomats, organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in New Delhi on 15 June 2016.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on 'Regional Perspectives: Geo-Strategic Overview, Political and Security Outlook' at the DEVCO Regional Seminar on Central and South Asia, organised by the European Commission in New Delhi on 20 June 2016.
- Made a presentation (in absentia) at the session on 'Promoting Sustainable Development' at the Silk Road Forum 2016, organised by Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD), and the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency (PAIIZ) in Warsaw on 21 June 2016.

### Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Made a presentation on 'Rising Importance of the Blue Economy Engagement of India with Its South Asian Partners' at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 27 April 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable discussion on 'Trade Strategy on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)', organised by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on 27 May 2016.
- Participated in the Roundtable Dialogue for international conference on the theme 'India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development', and made a presentation on 'India and Indian

Ocean: Emerging Regional Issues', organised by Symbiosis School of International Studies in New Delhi on 2 June 2016.

### Prof. Ram Upendra Das

- Participated in the meeting on 'Joint Feasibility Study Group (JFSG) Report for entering into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU)', organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 6 April 2016.
- Addressed the 61st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) on 'Regional Groupings: ASEAN & BRICS' organised by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on 12 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Export Strategy for CIS region' organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 29 April 2016.
- Made a presentation on 'India-Myanmar Border Trade' at a meeting organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 29 April 2016.

- Made presentation in a session on 'Friends of Malaysia' for Dato' Sri Mustapa Bin Mohamed, Minister for International Trade and Industry, organised by the High Commission of Malaysia, in New Delhi on 2 May 2016.
- Participated in a Discussion-Meeting on 'India-EFTA', organised by the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi on 11 May 2016.
- Participated in the review meeting on 'JSG between India and Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region' organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 25 May 2016.
- Participated in an academic exchange programme on 'China, India and ASEAN-The Strategic Trilateral Relations from the Perspective of Economy' organised by Academy for World Watch, Shanghai in Bali, Indonesia on 28-30 May 2016.
- Made a presentation in an Outreach Programme on 'India-Myanmar Border Trade' organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and the Ministry of Commerce, State



Prof. Ram Upendra Das at G20 Think Tank Seminar on "A New Start of Global Governance, Openness and Cooperation" organised by China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), Beijing, China on 29 June 2016.

## Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Government of Manipur, in Imphal on 6 June 2016.

- Participated in the meeting on 'JSG between India and Eurasia Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region', organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in New Delhi on 13 June 2016.
- Participated in the meeting on 'JFSG between India and Eurasia Economic Union (EaEU) and Export Strategy for CIS Region', organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in New Delhi on 22 June 2016.
- Participated in G20 Think Tank Seminar on 'A New Start of Global Governance, Openness and Cooperation', organised by the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), in Beijing, China on 29 June 2016.

### Prof. T.C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Delivered lectures on 'Intellectual Property Rights' to young scientists at Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), organised by the Department of Science and Technology, in New Delhi on 4, 5 and 18 April 2016.
- Gave special talks on 'Commercialisation of Intellectual Property Rights' to the staff and officers of John Deere Corp, Pune on 26 April 2016.
- Delivered keynote address at the World IP Day Workshop on 'Make in India: Role of Industry-University Collaboration in creating value' organised by the Symbiosis University, Pune on 26 April 2016.
- Delivered talks on 'Intellectual Property Rights' at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Summer

School, ISIL in New Delhi on 25 and 28 April 2016.

- Made a presentation on 'Effective Use of Technology in Drinking Water Conservation and Management' at the Workshop for Parliamentarians organised by Speaker's Research Initiative in New Delhi on 4 May 2016.
- Delivered talks on 'Intellectual Property Rights' and 'Ethical Principles in Research' to technical officers of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Human Resource Development Centre, Ghaziabad on 13 May 2016.
- Participated and gave inputs in the Committee on IPRs of ICMR on 18 May 2016.
- Panellist in a discussion on 'National Intellectual Property Policy' on the Lok Sabha TV on 24 May 2016.
- Addressed district judges of Delhi on different branches of intellectual property law at Delhi Judicial Academy on 28 May 2016.
- Participated in the North East Regional Conference of Speakers and Deputy Speakers at Agartala and spoke about the need for research support for legislators and new research initiative of the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker on 1 and 2 June 2016.
- Addressed the participants in the Refresher Course for Law Teachers at the National Law University, New Delhi on patent law on 16 June 2016.

### Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

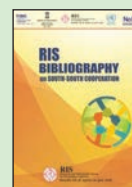
- Participated in the Regional Conference on Biosafety for Sharing of Experiences, organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in Hyderabad on 8 April 2016.

### Dr. Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor

- Delegate to the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Government of Germany, Berlin for the Meeting of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and BMZ held on 11 May 2016.
- Discussant in the session on 'Trade and Investment' in T20 Berlin Conference organised by Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), German Development Institute (DIE) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) at Berlin, Germany on 12-13 May 2016.
- Panellist in Discussion on 'Exchange Rate and Export Competitiveness', organised by Business Standard and Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation in New Delhi on 31 May 2016.

### RIS BIBLIOGRAPHY ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION



A comprehensive RIS Bibliography on South-South Cooperation has been compiled by the RIS Research Team from selected books/ reports, documents and research articles on five selected broad sectors, viz. Overall South-South Cooperation such as bilateral, trilateral and regional cooperation like SAARC, ASEAN and IBSA etc; Trade and Investment; Technology and Technology Transfer; Broad Sectors such as Agriculture, Capacity Building, Climate Change, Connectivity, Development Aid/Cooperation/ Financing, Economic and Technical Cooperation, Education, Energy, Environment, Health, Infrastructure and Poverty, etc; and Miscellaneous.

## Latest Publications

### REPORTS



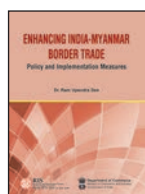
**South-South Cooperation 2016  
Conference Proceedings**  
RIS, 2016



**Insights from South-South  
Capacity Building Programme**  
RIS, 2016



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



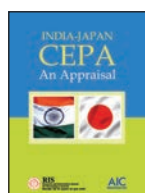
**Enhancing India-Myanmar Border  
Trade: Policy and Implementation  
Measures**  
*Ram Upendra Das, RIS, and Ministry  
of Commerce and Industry, Government  
of India, 2016*



**ASEAN-India Air Connectivity  
Report**  
*AIC at RIS, 2016*



**FIDC Regional Consultation at  
Chennai: Summary of Proceedings**  
*RIS, FIDC, 2016*



**India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal of  
Progress**  
*V. S. Seshadri, RIS, 2016*

### DISCUSSION PAPERS

- No. 203 The Development Compact: A Theoretical Construct for South-South Cooperation by Sachin Chaturvedi
- No. 204 Emergence of LoCs as a Modality in India's Development Cooperation: Evolving Policy Context and New Challenges by Prabodh Saxena

### RIS DIARY

Vol. 12 No. 2, April 2016

### Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2016. "Towards health diplomacy: emerging trends in India's South-South health cooperation" in Sachin Chaturvedi and Anthea Mulakala (eds.) *India's Approach to Development Cooperation*. Routledge Contemporary South Asia Series. New York: Routledge.
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- Chaturvedi, Sachin, K.V. Srinivas and V. Muthuswamy. 2016. "Biobanking and Privacy in India." *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*, 44 (1), 45-57.
- De, Prabir and Ajitava Raychaudhuri. 2016. "Trade, Infrastructure and Income Inequality in Selected Asian Countries: An Empirical Analysis", in Malabika Roy and Saikat Sinha Roy (eds.) *International Trade and International Finance: Explorations of Contemporary Issues*. New Delhi: Springer, May.

### OPINIONS

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2016. "A new path to South Asian integration." *Nikkei Asian Review*, 20 April.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2016. "Trading Places: India must focus on enhancing its position in foreign trade." *India Today*, 30 June.
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- Das, Ram Upendra. 2016. "Event Recap: The International Turkic Academy Convenes Symposium on the Silk Road at the UN Headquarters." *Yahoo Finance*, 13 April.
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## मुक्त व्यापार समझौते और भारत पर आरआईएस में परिचर्चायें

मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (एफटीए) पर विचार-विमर्श के अपने कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत, आरआईएस ने 14 अप्रैल एवं 1 मई 2016 को वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के सहयोग से दो विशेष परामर्श सत्रों का आयोजन किया। इन विचार-विमर्श बैठकों में व्यापार विशेषज्ञों, पूर्व वाणिज्य सचिवों, शिक्षाविदों और मीडिया के विशेषज्ञों ने भाग लिया। प्रोफेसर सचिन चतुर्वेदी, महानिदेशक, आरआईएस ने स्वागत भाषण दिया और आरआईएस द्वारा पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इन विषयों पर किए गए व्यापक एवं महत्वपूर्ण काम की प्रकृति पर प्रकाश डाला। राजदूत श्याम सरन, अध्यक्ष, आरआईएस और श्रीमती रीता तेवतिया, वाणिज्य सचिव, भारत सरकार ने भी उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित किया। पूर्व वाणिज्य सचिवों ने भी एक सत्र में अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए जिनमें श्री जी के पिल्लई और श्री राहुल खुल्लर शामिल थे।

बाजार पहुंच, सेवाओं, निवेश, बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकार और ई-कॉमर्स सहित विभिन्न विषयों पर श्री अरविंद मेहता, अपर सचिव, वाणिज्य विभाग, वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार और प्रोफेसर राम उपेंद्र दास, आरआईएस द्वारा प्रस्तुतियाँ की गईं।

यह कहा जा रहा है कि मौजूदा सरकार कि व्यापार नीति मिली जुली है। इस पर माननीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि व्यापार में किस प्रकार आगे बढ़ना है इसकी हमारे पास एक स्पष्ट तस्वीर है, और जब बात व्यापार समझौतों की आती है तो निश्चित रूप से मौजूदा सरकार लक्ष्यहीन नहीं है।

उन्होंने मीडिया को यह भी जानकारी दी कि हम व्यापार समझौतों पर अनायास तेजी से नहीं बढ़ रहे हैं क्योंकि रोजगार सृजन और राष्ट्रीय हित के लिए निवेश हमारी प्राथमिकताएं हैं। उन्होंने कई विकसित देशों के संरक्षणवादी नीतियों की ओर भी इशारा किया। उदाहरण स्वरूप, उन्होंने जी-20 में कई देशों के संरक्षणवादी उपायों का उल्लेख किया और कहा कि अगर भारत (जो की जी-20 का सदस्य है) कोई भी कदम उठाता है जिसे वे (अमीर देश) नकारात्मक मान लेते हैं, तो वे भारत को संरक्षणवादी साबित करने के लिए अभियान चलाते हैं। लेकिन अगर वे (अमीर देश) संरक्षणवादी कदम उठाते हैं तो वे इसके बारे में बात नहीं करना चाहते।

श्रीमती सीतारमण ने जोर देकर कहा कि अमीर देशों की "विशाल व्यापार-विकृत" कृषि सब्सिडी पर अभी तक भी विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यूटीओ) में ठीक से चर्चा नहीं की गई है। उन्होंने चीन द्वारा अपने उद्योग क्षेत्र को सब्सिडी देने का भी उल्लेख किया और कहा कि इससे भारतीय निर्माताओं को स्टील सहित कई क्षेत्रों में नुकसान हो रहा है।

अपने निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए चीन सहित कई देशों द्वारा मुद्रा के प्रतिस्पर्धी अवमूल्यन की पृष्ठभूमि में, उन्होंने भारत के निर्यात में लगातार आ रही गिरावट का हवाला दिया और कहा कि वे व्यक्तिगत रूप से महसूस करती हैं कि भारतीय मुद्रा के थोड़े अवमूल्यन की जरूरत है। हालांकि, ऐसा करना या न करना भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के फ़ैसले पर निर्भर करता है।

क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी (आरसीईपी) समझौते के संबंध में उन्होंने कहा कि भारत इस 16 देशीय प्रयास का विरोधी नहीं है, लेकिन समझौते में वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के व्यापार को खोलने के लिए जो भारत ने प्रस्ताव रखे हैं वह उन पर झुकेगा नहीं और अंत तक इन्हें मनवाने का प्रयास करेगा।

वास्तव में, आरसीईपी में मोड 3 सेवाओं पर भारत का प्रस्ताव जो विदेशी व्यावसायिक उपस्थिति की अनुमति देता है दूसरे देशों की तुलना में अधिक उदार है क्योंकि इसमें केवल वित्तीय, बीमा और कानूनी सेवाओं के लिए भारतीय बाजार को खोलने पर आशंका है।



### RIS

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