

Press Release

Does India need a national aid agency?



*Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs launching the book **India's Approaches to Development Cooperation (in the Middle)** in New Delhi on 9 August 2016 at a programme organised by RIS, The Asia Foundation and FIDC. Also seen in the picture (from left to right): Mr. Sagar Prasai, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation; Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS; Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh; Ms. Anthea Mulakala, Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation; Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Ms. Supriya Roychoudhury of Emerging Powers Coordinator with Crisis Action; Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, JNU; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS*

Despite the growing volume of India's development assistance that has risen to nearly US\$ 1.5 billion in 2016-17, there is little public understanding of India's development assistance efforts and of its various modalities. The book **"India's approaches to Development Cooperation"**, edited by Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi and Ms. Anthea Mulakala, is the first attempt to fully explore this growing aspect in India's foreign policy.

Speaking at the release of the book, Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary(ER), Ministry of External Affairs remarked that "the book provides an intellectual framework, sets an overall context and captures everything that Indian development assistance has done". Ambassador Shyam Saran also echoed similar thoughts while stating that "India's development assistance efforts are underestimated and this book raises the knowledge about Indian development assistance". Among other aspects, the book authors also discussed the relevance of a national aid agency to oversee India's development cooperation efforts and partner country perspectives.

The edited volume carries several insights and perspectives on various facets of India's growing development assistance programme from Indian policymakers, academicians, and global development practitioners. This book traces and analyses the evolution of Indian development cooperation and highlights the significance of the Indian experiences, both to global development and in shaping Indian foreign policy and is aimed at academics, practitioners and decision-makers alike.