



## RIS Conference on Asian Economic Community in China

RIS and Shanxi University of Finance and Economic, China organized the Third High-Level Conference on Building a New Asia: Towards an Asian Economic Community on September 15-16, 2005 in Taiyuan, P.R. China.

The Inaugural Session of the Conference was chaired by Dr. Zhao Guohao of the Shanxi University of FE and was addressed by Mr. Vijay Kwatra, Deputy Chief of Indian Mission in China on behalf of the Ambassador of India, H.E Mr Nalin Surie, Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS and authorities of the Provincial Government, Mayor of Taiyuan, and an official of the Chinese Ministry of Education, Beijing. Prof Yuan Meisheng, President of SXUFE conferred Visiting Professorships of his University on Dr. Nagesh Kumar and Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, Delhi University, India. A delegation of the Conference called on the Vice-Governor of the Shanxi Province.

The first session on Relevance of an Asian Economic Community was chaired by Professor Takehiko Kondo, President,



Speakers at the inaugural session at the Taiyuan Conference.

Hamamatsu Gakuin University, Japan. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS presented the theme paper. Dr Eric Teo, Council Secretary, Singapore Institute of International Affairs; Professor Aftab Seth,

President, GSEC, Keio University, Tokyo; and Dr Tiziana Bonapace, Chief, Trade Policy, TTD, UN-ESCAP were the key discussants.

*Continued on page 6*

## Regional Conference on the Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges for South Asia



(From left) Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS; Prof. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, RIS; Mr. S.N. Menon, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Onkar S. Kanwar, President, FICCI; and Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, IUCN, Asia at the Inaugural Session of the Conference.

RIS organized the Regional Conference on the Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges for South Asia jointly with Global

Biodiversity Forum, IUCN, Asia, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on August 11-12, 2005 in New Delhi.

In the inaugural session Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, National Commission on Unorganised Sector; and Chairman, RIS was in chair. Mr Onkar S Kanwar, President, FICCI; and Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, IUCN, Asia made the welcome address. Mr. S.N. Menon, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS extended a vote of thanks.

The Conference began with a Panel Discussion on WTO, Trade and Development. Professor Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development chaired. The main speakers were Dr. Kamal Malhotra, UNDP, New York; Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, WTO Secretariat, Geneva; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; and Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, CPD, Bangladesh.

The first Technical Session on WTO and Agriculture was chaired by Professor Anwarul

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## **World Trade and Development Report 2005/06**

The RIS research team began preparing the *World Trade and Development Report 2005/06 (WTDR06)* for the sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held in Hong Kong from 13-18 December 2005. The *WTDR06* is the second in the series of reports launched by RIS in 2003 with the *World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond* which was presented and discussed in New Delhi and in Cancun on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference of WTO. It has received a very favourable feedback from the policy makers and development-related international organizations. *WTDR06* examines the emerging trends and patterns in the global trading system overall and in select important areas, will highlight the growing asymmetries especially from a development perspective and will put together an agenda for reform. It will highlight the developmental concerns in different issues on the agenda of the Ministerial such as agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, special and differential treatment. It will also reflect on issues concerning transfer of technology and South-South Cooperation in trade and development. *WTDR06* is expected to be published towards the end of November 2005 and will be launched in New Delhi and in Hong Kong on the sidelines of the Ministerial Conference. Contact for details: dgoffice@ris.org.in.

## **Market Access for Non-Agricultural Products in WTO Development Round Negotiations: A Research Advisory Project – Phase II**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has sponsored the Phase II of the above-mentioned project which was launched in June 2005 for next two years, i.e. 2005-2007. The objectives of the project is to provide consultations and inputs in preparations for ongoing negotiations on NAMA at WTO by the Department of Commerce. RIS submits inputs as requested by the Department from time to time. RIS has already submitted following jobs in the Phase II: "India: Applied Basic Import Duty/Tariff Rates at 8-digit based on HS-2002 Classification and final bound rates matched from 6-digit HS-1996 and India: List of Non-agriculture items based on 6-digit HS 1996 Classification". Contact for further details: rajeshmehta@ris.org.in

## **Rules of Origin under ASEAN-India FTA**

RIS has undertaken this study at the request of the Department of Commerce. It aims at dwelling upon the dimensions specified below

in order to contribute to the understanding of General Rules of Origin as well as Product-Specific Rules (PSRs): (i) the analytical context; (ii) identification of products (HS 6-digit) requiring (CTH + 40 per cent domestic content because CTH alone does not ensure 40 per cent value addition; (iii) identification of products (HS 6-digit) where CTS + 40 per cent domestic content required because CTS alone does not ensure 40 per cent value addition; (iv) identification of products (HS 6-digit) in (ii) and (iii) where value addition could be less than or greater than 40 per cent domestic content; (v) identification of products (HS 6-digit) where only 40 per cent domestic content is sufficient; and (vi) exploring into some new modalities of determining origin. Contact for further details: upendra@ris.org.in

## **Consistent Interpretation of the Precautionary Principle/Approach in Application to Different Agreements**

Since the first Meeting of the Parties (MoP-1) of Cartagena Biosafety Protocol the work agenda before developing countries and for India in particular, has expanded immensely. The Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) though discussed some of these issues earlier as well but still lot more has to be addressed at the policy level especially in context of emerging debates at WTO. The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and the Ministry of Commerce have constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. Nagesh Kumar to delineate some of these complex issues.

The Group would look into the issues related to the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and precautionary principle/ approach. There is a need to take an overview to distinguish between 'principle' and 'approach' apart from looking into specific MEAs to identify the available policy maneuvering spaces. Cartagena Protocol plays an important role in terms of tackling risk and uncertainty but at the same time poses strong challenge for evolving environmental legislations and policies. The current dispute between EU and others at WTO may help in resolving the extent to which protocol legitimizes recourse to the precautionary principle in making decision on import but for Indian context it is more important that the contours of policy are defined for adequate response through the environment trade and other policies including for other MEAs.

As a part of this project RIS organized an Expert Group Meeting on August 22, 2005 at RIS to formally launch the project. The other subject experts nominated by the Ministry of

Environment and Forest are Prof. Bharat H. Desai, Associate Professor, JNU, Prof. A. Damodaran, IIM, Bangalore, and Dr. Veena Jha, UNCTAD Project, New Delhi. Contact for further details: sachin@ris.org.in

## **India-Pakistan Trade and Economic Relations: Prospects and Challenges**

The study is being conducted on request of the Department of Commerce, Government of India. It would discuss the historical economic linkages; the macroeconomic context; major economic reforms; bilateral aggregate trade and investment linkages; existing institutional mechanisms of economic cooperation; and relevance of the study: a vision for closer economic cooperation. Apart from these, the study would address the following specific issues: trade in goods; trade barriers and trade facilitation; investment policy regimes in India and Pakistan; trade in services; and transport linkages. It would draw upon extensive consultations held periodically with the private sectors in different locations so that the views of stakeholders are incorporated in the study right from the beginning. Contact for further details: upendra@ris.org.in

## **Policy Notes prepared for the Government:**

- Note on India-Japan Economic Cooperation as a building bloc of Broader Regional Economic Integration in Asia, as inputs for India-Japan Joint Study Group to the Department of Economic Affairs on July 13, 2005.
- Note on India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership, sent to Ministry of External Affairs, on July 25, 2005.
- Note to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 'International Trade Issues in Biotechnology: Perceptions and Concerns'.
- Note on Towards A South Asian Economic Union: Role for India-Sri Lanka Partnership was prepared for and sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on August 29, 2005.
- Note on India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: The Way Forward was sent to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 13, 2005.
- Draft Chapter 1 entitled "The Context of Indian Japan Economic Cooperation" and an Annotated Outline of Chapter 4 (Investment) as inputs for the India-Japan Joint Study Group were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on September 29, 2005.

# Workshop on International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand

RIS has undertaken a research study: "International Food Safety Regulation and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand". The project is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The core research team consists of Prof. P. Athukorala, Project co-coordinator, RSPAS, Australian National University; Dr. S. Jayasuriya, Project co-coordinator, University of Melbourne; and Dr. B. Nidhiprabha, leader, Thai research team, Thammasat University, Bangkok.

As a part of this project, RIS organized an International Workshop on International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand in collaboration with Australian National University, University of Melbourne and Thammasat University and funded by Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) in New Delhi on August 13, 2005.

Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge), inaugurated the workshop. Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, Chairman, RIS chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS made welcome and introductory remarks. Prof. Prema-Chandra Athukorala, also addressed the inaugural session. Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow and Leader, Indian research team extended a vote of thanks.

The main presenters were Prof. Prema Chandra Athukorala; Dr. Sisira Jayasuriya; Dr. Rajesh Mehta; Dr. Bhanupong Nidhiprabha, and Ms Shashi Sareen, EIC, India.

A number of participants like Shri K.S. Money, Chairman, APEDA; Shri Prabir Sengupta, Director, IIFT, Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, and Dr S.R. Hashim, Chairman, UPSC chaired different sessions; and Dr. Rajiv Mehta, Member-Secretary, CACP, Ministry of Agriculture, Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Professor, JNU, Shri Vijay Sardana, Executive Director, CITA, Shri S.K. Singh, General Manager, VH Group of Companies Ltd. acted as discussants.

A Panel Discussion was held with panelists: Shri K.S. Money, Chairman, APEDA; Prof. Prema-Chandra Athukorala, Professor of Economics, ANU, Canberra; Dr. Sisira Jayasuriya, University of Melbourne, Australia; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director, MoC; Ms Shashi Sareen, Director, EIC; Shri S.K. Srivastava, Director, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, MoA; Shri Abhiram Seth, Executive Director, PEPSICO India Holding Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Raj Shekharan, Chief



(From left) Dr. Rajesh Mehta; Prof. Prema-Chandra Athukorala; Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries; Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, RIS; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the inaugural session.

(Agriculture), Kerala State Planning Board and Prof. Kanchan Chopra, Prof. of Economics, IEG.

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Indian Team Leader made a presentation on Indian Country Report

entitled "Food Safety Standards and Indian Food Exports".

(Papers/presentations/program of the workshop are available at: [http://www.ris.org.in/workshop\\_foodsafetyregulations2005.htm](http://www.ris.org.in/workshop_foodsafetyregulations2005.htm))

## Training Workshop for Senior Indian Economic Service (IES) Officers

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, RIS organized a Training Workshop for Senior Indian Economic Service (IES) Officers on Regionalism in the World and Asia: Challenges and Options before India in RIS on August 29-September 2, 2005. The Programme began with an Introductory Session by Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, and Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS. The topic covered in the programme were: Regionalism vs. Multilateralism: Analysis of Global Trends and Implications for India; Trade-Investment Linkages in RTAs: Conceptual Issues and Experiences; WTO Rules for RTAs: A Brief Background; Lessons from the Experience of the EU in Regional Economic Integration; Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN; India's Approach to Regional Economic Integration (RTAs and CECA); Prospects for India-ASEAN Economic Cooperation; India-Sri Lanka FTA and Proposed CEPA: A Case Study; Safeguards Mechanisms under RTAs: Analysis of Technical and Policy Issues; Partial Equilibrium and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Methodologies for Assessment of Gains from RTAs; Methodologies for Assessment of Impact of RTAs/FTAs; Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia: Potentials and Constraints; and Emerging Trends in East Asian Regionalism: Strategic Options for India.

The faculty who addressed the participants included: H.E. Mr. See Chak Mun, High Commissioner of Singapore; Prof. Muchkund Dubey, CSD; Prof. I.N. Mukherji, JNU; Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, JNU; Mr. Jean-Joseph Boillot, Financial Counsellor, Embassy of France; Prof. K.J. Joseph, CDS, Trivandrum and RIS; Dr. Rajesh Mehta, RIS; Dr. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Dr. Ram Upendra Das, RIS; Mr. R.S. Ratna, Ministry of Commerce; and Mr. Shashank Priya, Ministry of Commerce. Mr. Yogesh Chandra, Ministry of Finance; and Ms. Mala Dutt, Ministry of Finance addressed the valedictory session. The participants included 25 senior members of the Indian Economic Service from different Ministries working at Director/Joint Secretary level.

## Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Launched UNDP-ESCAP Report on *Voices of the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific* at UN Conference Hall, New Delhi on July 1, 2005.
- Participated in the preparatory meeting of the Indian component of the India-Japan Joint Study Group organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on July 11, 2005.
- Made a presentation at the Seminar on Trade and Growth Horizons for Asia: Long Term Forecasts for Regional Change, organized by Asian Development Bank, New Delhi Office on July 14, 2005.
- Participated in the Meetings of the India-Japan Joint Study Group held in New Delhi on July 18-19, 2005.
- Participated in the Meeting of the Indian component of the India-Japan Joint Study Group, held in the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi on July 26, 2005.
- Panelist at the Panel Discussion on IBSA Forum: Potential and Promise, organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi on July 27, 2005.
- Made a presentation on Relevance of Regional Economic Integration for Asian Reconstruction and Development at the Third Asia Economic Summit, organized by the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 28-29, 2005.
- Participated in the Fifth Board Meeting of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), held in Dhaka on August 2, 2005.
- Made a presentation on SAFTA in the Seminar on Promoting Regional Cooperation in South Asia, organized by SACEPS in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh in Dhaka on August 3, 2005.
- Chaired the session on Regional Economic Cooperation at the Third India-Serbia & Montenegro Policy Dialogue organized by Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi on August 23, 2005.
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on the occasion of release of the book *India: Industrialisation in a Reforming Economy: Essays for Professor K L Krishna* by Dr C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council at Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies and Academic Foundation in New Delhi on August 26, 2005.
- Delivered a lecture on Regional Trade Blocs at the 38<sup>th</sup> Professional Course for

Foreign Diplomats, organized by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India, in New Delhi on September 7, 2005.

- Chaired the Sixth Audit Committee Meeting of the India Habitat Centre, held in New Delhi on September 22, 2005.

- Released and presented to the media UNCTAD's Annual Publication *World Investment Report 2005: Transnational Corporations and the Internationalization of R&D* at United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi on September 29, 2005.

## Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Made a presentation of main findings of the paper "Rationalization of Fertilizer Subsidy in Indian Agriculture: A Case of Urea Manufacture" at IFPRI, on July 27, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on "Perspective on Non-Tariff Barriers in NAMA Negotiations: India's Concerns and Options" at National Consultation on Off the Starting Block to Hong Kong: Concerns and Negotiating Options on Agriculture and NAMA for India, organized by Centre for Trade & Development (Centad), New Delhi on 22 July 2005.
- Attended National Conference on "Non-Tariff Barriers for Indian Exports: Critical Inputs for the WTO Negotiations", organized by CII in consultation with MoC on 4 August, New Delhi.
- Submitted a policy paper entitled "Non-Tariff Barriers Affecting India's Exports", for Policy Research Networking: Consultations on Trade and Industry, as a part of ADB Policy Networking Project of ICRIER, August 17, 2005.
- Presented a paper on "India-Vietnam Trade: Current Prospects" at Workshop on India Vietnam Economic Relations: Potentials & Prospects, organized jointly by Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Confederation of Indian Industries, 31 August 2005.
- Made a presentation on "India's Agriculture-Based Exports and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture", at a Expert-series Seminar on Changing Face of Indian Agriculture, organized by Department of Business Economics, Delhi University, South Campus, September 20, 2005.
- Delivered a lecture and made a presentation on "WTO and Industrial Tariff", at Orientation Programme for Officers of the Indian Administrative Service on WTO and the New Trade Regime, organized by IIFT, 29th September 2005.

## Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Presented a paper "Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and TBT" at the Orientation Programme on WTO and the New Trade Regime organized by IIFT on September 26, 2005
- Presented a paper on "International Trade Issues in Biotechnology" at the Inter-Ministerial Meeting organized by the Ministry of Commerce, on August 3, 2005.
- Presented a paper on "Agriculture Innovation System in India and Future of Agriculture in India" at the National Agricultural Innovation Project Scenario Planning Workshop, organized by the World Bank and ICAR at Panchgaon, Haryana on July 5-7, 2005.

## Dr Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Participated in Eleventh and Twelfth Meetings of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on July 5, and July 13, 2005 New Delhi.
- Delivered a lecture on "ROO Issues, Concerns and Solutions' Relating to FTA's Singed and Proposed", organized by Aditya Birla Group, Conference on Group Meet on Rules of Origin, on July 16, 2005, Mumbai.
- Made a Presentation in Second Meeting of "Trade, Investment and Connectivity, organized by India International Centre, on August 6-7, 2005, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Participated in the Third Meeting of Joint Study Group (JSG) on Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia, organized by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India, on August 22-23, 2005, New Delhi.
- Participated in Thirteenth Meeting of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on August 26, 2005, New Delhi.
- Participated in Fourteenth Meeting of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on September 22-23, 2005, New Delhi.
- Delivered a Lecture on "Regional Trading Agreement" for the Officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Government of India held at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), on September 27, 2005, New Delhi.

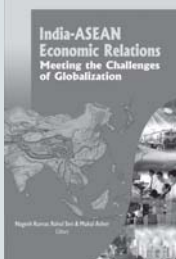
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# Latest Publications

## Book

**India-ASEAN Economic Relations: Meeting the Challenges of Globalization** by Nagesh Kumar, Rahul Sen, and Mukul Asher (eds.). Published by RIS and ISEAS, Singapore, ISBN 81-7122-095-9 (India) ISBN 981-230-231-9 (Singapore)

Leading experts of the region in their contributions to this book examine the ways in which the emerging partnership between India and ASEAN can be taken forward for mutual benefit, so that the two sides can leverage on each other's strengths to better negotiate the forces of globalization. Specifically, the book addresses the issues concerning the trade liberalization in both regional multilateral contexts and goes on to examine the prospects for investment flows and trade in financial services and information and communication technology. It also deals with the potential of sub-regional cooperation and the strategic implications of India-ASEAN cooperation which have hitherto received insufficient attention in the literature.



## Policy Briefs

- #15 *Regional Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in Asia*, July 2005
- #16 *High Risks of Global Imbalances: Role of Infrastructure Investments in Asia*, August 2005
- #17 *Regional Trading Arrangements (RTAs) in the World and Asia: Options for India*, August 2005
- #18 *Biosafety Protocol, Precautionary Approach and Trade: Identifying Plausible Policy Options*, September 2005

## Special Issue of the *Economic and Political Weekly* on "Asian Economic Community"

The *Economic and Political Weekly* (Vol XL No 36, September 3, 2005) carried the following special articles on the Asian Economic Community:

- **A Broader Asian Community and a Possible Roadmap**  
— Nagesh Kumar
- **India-East Asia Integration: A Win-Win for Asia**  
— Mukul G. Asher, Rahul Sen
- **Regional Trade and Investment Architecture in Asia-Pacific: Emerging Trends and Imperatives**  
— Tiziana Bonapace
- **China's Role in the Asian Economic Unification Process**  
— Yao Chao Cheng
- **Asian Energy Outlook up to 2020**  
— Kokichi Ito, Li Zhidong, Ryoichi Komiyama
- **Strategic Relevance of Asian Economic Integration**  
— Eric Teo Chu Cheow

These articles are based on the theme papers presented by the authors at the High Level Conference on "Asian Economic Integration: Vision of a New Asia", organized by RIS in Tokyo on November 18-19, 2004.

## Discussion Papers

- #99 *Biosafety Protocol, International Trade and Agricultural Biotechnology: Policy Inferences for India* by Sachin Chaturvedi  
The growing development in and possibly greater diffusion of biotechnology products have further accentuated the intensity of trade restrictions on the entry of these goods in countries like EU, Japan and South Korea. While India initiates the various measures to implement the Biosafety protocol it is essential that specific trade policy responses are thought of on priority. This would be important for effective implementation of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as well. In this context apart from other measures certain institutional initiatives need to be launched; for instance regional and sub-regional cooperation, focus on development of necessary skills for quarantine and other agencies, precautionary measures without affecting the trade facilitation measures. At the regional level, initiatives like Biosafety Clearing House and risk assessment mechanism should be effectively put in place. In order to facilitate this the policy specific scientific responses for risk assessment and risk management may also be finalised at the earliest possible.

## Journals

- *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 7 No. 3, July 2005  
**Contents:** *Issues in Capacity Building: An Overview* by Guest Editor: S R Rao; *An Overview of Regulation, Perceptions and Priorities for GM Crops in Asian Countries* by Purvi Mehta-Bhatt, Reynaldo V. Eborra, Joel I. Cohen, José Falck Zepeda, Patricia Zambrano; *Biotechnology Product Development Partnerships: Emerging Institutional Capacities in East Africa* by John Komen, John Bananuka, Charles Mugoya, Ivar Virgin; *Agricultural Biotechnology in Developing Countries: Nature and 'Code' in Meeting the Needs of Resource Poor* by P S Janaki Krishna and G Pakki Reddy; *Detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and the Need for Capacity Building* by Christopher D. Viljoen; *Activities of the ICGEB in the Area of GMO Biosafety Capacity Building for Developing Countries* by Mark Tepfer and Decio Ripandelli; *The Public Research and Regulation Initiative* by Piet van der Meer; Bio News; Document; Bio Web; Bio Stats.
- *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 2 No. 3, July 2005.
- *RIS Diary*, Vol. 3 No. 3, July 2005.

## Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

### Research Papers

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2005. "WTO Negotiations and Environmental Goods and Standards: Some Challenges" in Guljit K. Arora and Arunabh Talwar (ed.) *Sustainable Development: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*. New Delhi: Research and Publishing House.
- De, Prabir. 2005. "Effect of Transaction Costs on International Integration in the Asian Economic Community" in *Asian Economic Cooperation and Integration: Progress, Prospects, and Challenges*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.
- De Prabir. 2005. Infrastructure, Income and Regional Economic Development in India, in Nirmala Banerjee and Sugata Marjit (eds.). *Development, Displacement and Disparity: India in the Last Quarter of the Twentieth Century*. New Delhi: Orient Longman.
- De Prabir. 2005. *Diversification of Indian Exports to China: An Assessment*. New Delhi: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- De Prabir. 2005. *Promotion of Trade and Investments between China and India: The Case of Southwest China and East and Northeast India*, CESifo Working Paper No. 1508, Centre for Economic Studies and Ifo Institute for Economic Research, Munich.
- De Prabir. 2005. "Effects of Infrastructure on Regional Income in the Era of Globalization: New Evidence from South Asia". *Asia Pacific Development Journal*, Vol. 12, No. 1.
- De Prabir. 2005. "Structural Change and Strategy of Development: Resource-Industry Linkages in North East India". *Man and Society*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Book review).
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Foreign Direct Investment, Externalities and Economic Growth in Developing Countries: Some Empirical Explorations" in Edward M. Graham (editor). *Multinationals and Foreign Investment in Economic Development*. Palgrave: 42-84 (co-authored).
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Performance Requirement as Tools of Development Policy: Lessons from Developed and Developing Countries" in *Putting Development First* edited by Kevin P Gallagher. London and New York: Zed Books.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Asian Economic Community: Towards Pan-Asian Economic Integration" in *Asian Economic Cooperation and Integration: Progress, Prospects, and Challenges*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

Continued on page 8

## National Consultation on South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship

RIS and CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economic & Environment organized a National Consultation on South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship in New Delhi on September 1, 2005.

Professor S. D. Muni, former Ambassador of India in Lao PDR delivered the inaugural address. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS and Dr Prasad P Ranade, Research Director, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment also addressed the inaugural session.

The first session on Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Trade, Investment, and Finance was chaired by Ambassador A N Ram, former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. It had presentation by Prof K J Joseph, RIS and CDS. Mr S K Verma, Director, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India made remarks.

The second session on Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Infrastructure and Energy was chaired by Mr. K L Thapar, Asian Institute of Transport Development. It had a presentation by Mr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow, RIS. Prof. N. Ranganathan, Advisor, Consulting Engineering Services (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi made the remarks.

The third session on Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Other Areas of Cooperation: Agriculture, S&T and HRD, SMEs, Health & Pharma, Tourism, etc. was chaired by Ambassador Shashank, former Foreign Secretary of India. It had presentation by Mr. Prabir De, Associate Fellow, RIS. Remarks were made by Prof Baladas Ghoshal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Mr. K.P.V. Nair, Director, Asia Centre, Kolkata; Dr. Sailendra Narain, former Chairman, SIDBI, and Chairman, Centre for SME Growth & Development Finance, Mumbai; and Mr. Jayant Bhuyan, Dy. Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



(From left) Dr. Prasad P. Ranade; Prof. S.D. Muni; and Dr. Nagesh Kumar at the inaugural session.

Continued from page 1

### (Conference on the Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial...)

Hoda, Member, Planning Commission. Professor Jayati Ghosh, CESP, JNU; Dr. Vandana Aggarwal, Director (TPD), Department of Commerce; Dr. Poshraj Pandey, President, SAWTEE, Kathmandu, Nepal; and Dr. Saikat Sinha Roy, Fellow, RIS, were the main speakers.

The Technical Session II on Issues in Non-Agriculture Market Access was chaired by Mr. B.L. Das, India's Former Permanent Representative at GATT. The main speakers were: Mr. Agneshwar Sen, OSD (GATT), MoC; Prof. Mustafizur Rehman, Research Director, CPD, Bangladesh; and Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS.

The theme of the third technical session was WTO and Environment: Ensuring Better links. It was co-chaired by Dr Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission; and Dr. Pradipto Ghosh, Secretary, MoEF. The main speakers were: Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, MoC; Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, IUCN, Sri Lanka; and Dr. Fahmida A. Khatun, Senior Research Fellow, CPD, Bangladesh.

The programme also included parallel session on SPS Measures and Developing Country Market Access: Implementation Issues chaired by Professor G.K. Chadha, Member, Economic Advisory Council to PM. Prof.

Prema-chandra Athukorala, ANU, Canberra, Australia; and Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow, RIS were the main speakers. In the session on Trade, Biodiversity and IPRs Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, MoC; Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; and Dr. Malathi Lakshmikumaran, New Delhi were the main speakers.

The session on Regional Focus: Environment, Biodiversity and WTO was chaired by Dr. Veena Jha, Project Coordinator, UNCTAD. The speakers were: Dr. K. P. S. Chauhan, Senior Fellow, ATREE, Bangalore; Mr. Krishna C. Poudel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation, Nepal; and Mr. Amrit Rajapakse, IPS, Sri Lanka.

The session on WTO, SAFTA and Environment: Regional Concerns was chaired by Ambassador Rajiv Dogra, Addl. Secretary, MEA. Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Fellow, RIS; Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS; and Dr. Pavel Chakraborty, Research Associate, Centre for Global Agreement, Legislation and Trade, TERI were the main speakers.

The Plenary session on Taking Stock: Way forward for Hong Kong was chaired by Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi. A large number of participants from government; research institutes; business and industry circles; and media participated in the discussion during the various session.

(Papers/presentations/programme available at RIS website [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)).

Continued from page 1 (RIS Conference on Asian Economic Community in China)

The session on China and India: Co-drivers of Asian Growth and Prosperity was chaired by Prof Yuan Meisheng. The main speakers in the session were: Professor Zhao Guohao, Vice President, Shanxi University of FE; Dr Rajiv Kumar, Chief Economist, Confederation of Indian Industries; Professor Manoranjan Mohanty, Delhi University.

The theme of the next session was Building Blocs of Asian Regional Integration. It was chaired by Professor Lau Sim Yee, Programme Adviser, Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Reitaku University, Japan. It had presentations by: Dr Pradumna B. Rana, Senior Director, Asian Development Bank, Manila; Dr Tiziana Bonapace, Chief, Trade Policy, TTD, UN-ESCAP; Prof. Masanori Kondo, International Christian University, Tokyo; and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS. A delegation of the Conference led by Dr. Nagesh Kumar called on the Vice-Governor of Shanxi Province.

The second day of the conference began with the session on Monetary and Financial Integration in Asia: An Asian Currency Unit. It was chaired by Dr Pradumna Rana. It had keynote presentation by Professor Takehiko Kondo, Hamamatsu Gakuin University. Other presentations in this session were made by: Prof. Ramkishan Rajan, National University of Singapore; Prof. Ms Xiao Bing Feng, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences; and Prof. Zhang Runlin, SXUFE.

The session on Strategic Relevance of Asian Economic Integration was chaired by Dr Zhao Guohao. It had presentations by: Professor Aftab Seth; Dr Eric Teo, Council Secretary, Singapore Institute of International Affairs; Professor Chiao-min Hsieh, University of Pittsburgh, USA; Prof. Yao Chao Cheng, Shanxi University of FE; and Mr. Yoshimitsu Matsuki, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo.

The session on Round Table Discussion was co-chaired by Prof. Yao Chao Cheng, Shanxi University of FE and Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Delhi University.

The concluding session was co-chaired by Dr Guo Ze Guang, Vice President of Shanxi University of FE and Professor Aftab Seth. Prof Yuan Meisheng, President, SXUFE delivered the valedictory address. Dr Nagesh Kumar made the concluding remarks and thanked the participants who made the conference a grand success.

(Papers/presentations/programme of the conference are available at RIS website [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)).

## Yuan uptick to give Indian exporters edge

Amiti Sen & Mahua Venkatesh  
New Delhi, July 21

China's decision to marginally appreciate the yuan and float it against a basket of currencies is good news for Indian exporters who had to suffer an erosion of competitiveness against China's exports as the rupee appreciated in the last 18 months.

Although, the yuan appreciation is too small to make a difference in the world market right now, policy watchers believe it is bound to appreciate further in the next few months. It would lead to Research in prices of China's exports.



Opinion > World to Research in prices of China's exports.

### Asian economies work well together

Eric Teo Chu Chew: The Daily Updated: 2005-09-22 06:30

The third High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Integration was jointly organized last week in Taiyuan, Shanxi, by Shanxi University for Economics and Finance and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) of New Delhi, India. This initiative was supported by the Sasakawa Foundation in Tokyo, which was also an active partner in the first two conferences.

This series of high-level conferences is thus an initiative of the three big Asian powers, who are rightly leading Asian economic integration. What stood out was a clear feeling of optimism that Asia is poised to accelerate its economic integration, especially in the lead-up to the East Asia Summit (EAS), which will take place in Kuala Lumpur in December.

At least five major themes emerged in Taiyuan, giving rise to this optimism.

First, it was stressed in the official opening remarks that time was right for the launch of Asian economic integration as economies in the region take off. The mood in Asia is optimistic, as economic growth has proven to be so buoyant, despite the rise of oil prices and economic slowdowns in the United States and Europe. China and eventually Japan, will be the much-needed engine for growth, especially in trade.

Indeed, Asia's economic integration will be more an era of trade, investment and consumption-led, as these three will no doubt constitute the key elements of Asian growth integration.

It was also pointed out in the opening paper that all entities have perhaps reached their limits, as they are unable to exploit the full potential of growth through the synergy of these economies alone.



Zhao Xiaochuan  
Governor, People's Bank of China



Nagesh Kumar who was a member of the India-China joint study group (JSG), there is a lot of scope for China's currency to go up further as its foreign exchange reserves are much higher than India's. "Since the Rupee appreciated by 10% in the last few months, one can expect the natural exchange rate of the yuan to be much higher than the rupee."

currency float is managed and there is a restriction on violent movements in the exchange rate. gradually

### ASIA TIMES Online South Asia Jul 23, 2005

#### India pops the champagne

By Indrajit Basu

KOLKATA - Though the immediate impact of the small yuan revaluation will be minimal on India, it throws up several interesting possibilities for the country's economy. For one, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to allow the rupee to appreciate, and two, since the revaluation is expected to cool overheated oil prices, the RBI is hoping that the new yuan level will help in keeping India's interest rates and inflation down.

Expectations of interest rate hikes were driven primarily by the fear of a rising inflation rate, caused mostly by rising oil prices. Even as the rupee soared to a six-year high to close at 43.25 to the dollar within an hour of the announcement of the yuan revaluation on Thursday, Indian exporters are popping their bubbly as the move will mean higher prices for Chinese exports, and thus more volumes for Indian ones. Over the past few years, while Indian exporters have been fighting hard to break into global markets for low-cost and labor-intensive manufactured products, they kept losing out to China, due to the major disadvantage of a rising rupee against the dollar as the weak. This meant that to stay competitive they had to steadily squeeze their margins.

According to Research and Information Systems (RIS), an India-based think tank, most of the Asian currencies have appreciated much higher than the rupee (by over 10%), it could be "natural" exchange rate of the yuan present valuation. RIS believes that managed and violent movements at central bank has restricted the daily

## G-20 recipe gains acceptance at WTO

Economy Bureau  
New Delhi, Aug 11

The formula for tariff reduction in agriculture proposed by the G-20 group of developing countries is gaining acceptance amongst other members of WTO, commerce secretary SN Menon has said.

Speaking at the regional conference on 'agenda for WTO ministerial challenges for South Asia' organised by Fici and RIS, Mr Menon said the G-20 has changed the face of

## Lamy has a difficult task ahead

Experts feel bringing Doha talks back on track will not be so easy

Amiti Sen  
New Delhi, Aug 31

The new director general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Pascal Lamy, who takes over from Supachai Panitchpakdi on Thursday, inherits from his predecessor the unenviable task of



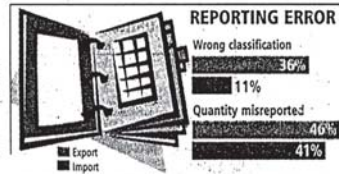
there is need for a dynamic leadership which Mr Lamy is capable of providing," he said. WTO members have not been able to reach an agreement on the issues of agriculture, non-agriculture market access and services which are key to the success of the ongoing Doha round.

Lamy to stay neutral. RIS director general Nagesh Kumar said that there were some people who believed that his past track record, Mr Lamy may push the agenda of developed countries. "I do think that this is likely to happen as it would ruin the negotiations. On the contrary, I would like to believe that

## Gaping holes in trade data

MONICA GUPTA  
New Delhi, 24 August

The government has detected serious irregularities in the manner in which India's foreign trade data are compiled. An internal investigation conducted by the commerce



are recorded as kilograms. Problems have also been found in imports. While wrong product classifications have been found in 11 per cent of the cases, wrong chapters have been detected in three per cent of the cases. In 46 per cent of the cases, the quantity has been reported properly. Trade experts said erroneous data could have serious implications on policy-making. "You could very well have a situation where the focus is put

on a wrong sector based on data. Data compilation is the bottom line. It must be accurate. Exporters and the government need to correct this," said Nagesh Kumar, director-general of Research & Information Systems for Non-aligned and Developing Countries.

Biswajit Dhar of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade said the reliability of the Directorate-General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics data had been questioned for a long

time. "The government should not resort to any quick-fix solution as inaccurate data will not only affect policy-making, but will also adversely impact finalising India's negotiating position at the WTO," he said.

"These errors cannot be explained away as data-entry errors as it has become evident that even in the case of electronic data interchange (EDI) ports, the percentage of error in the ITC HS classification is as high as 30 per cent while errors in quantity is 41 per cent as far as exports are concerned," the director-general of foreign trade said in a communication to all export promotion councils and commodity boards, issued after a review by Commerce Secretary SN Menon.

The DGFT pointed out that such errors were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Exports generate 1.5 million jobs in '04-05: Ministry

Our Delhi Bureau  
29 SEPTEMBER

STRONG growth in merchandise exports generated 14.85 lakh jobs during 2004-05, commerce & industry ministry said today. Total direct employment generation from exports now stood at 90.06 lakh, the ministry said here. As per preliminary estimates, merchandise exports during 2004-05 was in the region of \$79.6 billion. Export activity supported 69.99 lakh jobs indirectly, the statement said. In all, merchandise export activity sustains nearly 160 lakh jobs in India, the ministry said citing a study done by the Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The RIS study says that there are a number of opportunities for expanding exports as well as employment that remain unexploited. "If we can focus on exploiting these opportunities, it will not only be possible to surpass the \$150 billion target for exports set by the government for 2009-



The elements of an employment-oriented export strategy, according to the report, would include a boost to small scale units and industrial clusters; linking export incentives to incremental exports rather than total exports; attracting export-oriented FDI; strengthening enterprise-level innovative activity; social safety nets and labour reforms; fixing infrastructure constraints; restricting raw material exports; moving up the value chain; conforming to international standards; addressing trade barriers in major export markets in labour-intensive goods and strategic access to markets.

India faces a major challenge of employment generation. The employment in the organised sector had shrunk despite acceleration in GDP growth. Although India has emerged as a leading global hub for the knowledge-based service industry over the past decade, the services revolution could not absorb these unskilled and the semi-skilled millions. India needed an industrial revolution to complement the booming services to meet the chal-

Continued from page 4 (Faculty News)

### Shri Prabir De, Associate Fellow

- Participated in the third meeting of the India-Korea Joint Study Group on August 10-11, 2005 at the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, New Delhi.
- Participated in the international conference on "Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction", organized by the Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC), Phnom Penh, on August 22, 2005.

- Made a presentation on "Strengthening Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Economy, Trade and Infrastructure" at the International Conference on Trade and Investment between Cambodia and India, organized by the Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC), Phnom Penh, on August 23, 2005.
- Made a presentation on "Deepening Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Role of Transport Infrastructure" at the International Conference on Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship: India and Lao PDR, organized

by the National University of Laos, Vientiane, Lao PDR, on August 25, 2005.

- Made a presentation on "Strengthening Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: An Indian Perspective", at the International Conference on Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Exploring India-Vietnam Relationship, organized by the Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP) and Vietnam Academy for Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi, Vietnam, on August 29, 2005.

# Important Visitors/Delegations Received

- Ms. Marie Angella, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil on July 7, 2005.
- Ambassador Dev Mukherjee on July 13, 2005.
- Mr Rajiv Dogra, Addl Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs on July 15, 2005.
- Dr. Willem Janssen, Senior Agricultural Specialist, South Asia Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, The World Bank, Washington DC 20433, USA on July 13, 2005
- Mr Sanjay Kumar, Director, TP Division, Department of Commerce on July 15, 2005.
- Dr. Deok Soon Yim, STEPI, South Korea on July 18, 2005.
- Mr S. Sridhar, Executive Director, Exim Bank of India, Mumbai on July 19, 2005.
- Ms. Ruchi S. Saklani, Deputy Manager, Price Water House Coopers, July 23, 2005.
- Prof. Satya Paul, Professor, University of Western Sydney of Economics July 25.
- Ms Surupa Gupta, Whittier College, California July 27.
- Mr Ton Sinh Thanh, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, July 28.
- Dr Jeffrey M. Drope, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Business Administration, University of Miami, USA on August 5, 2005.
- Dr Soon Cheul Lee, Research Fellow, Centre for Regional Economic Studies, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy on August 9, 2005.
- Dr P. Rajasekharan, Chief (Agriculture), Kerala State Planning Board, Kerala, August 9, 2005.
- Dr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop, Lead Rural Development Specialist, World Bank on August 18, 2005
- Dr Kamal Malhotra, UNDP on August 23, 2005.
- Dr Pradeep Kumar, Addl Secretary (FA), Ministry of External Affairs on August 19, 2005.
- Dr Pradeep Mehta, Secretary-General, CUTS, Jaipur on August 25, 2005
- Dr V S Vyas, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Development Studies, Jaipur on August 30, 2005.
- Mr Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi on September 5, 2005.
- Dr Alak Sharma, Director, Institute of Human Development, New Delhi on September 6, 2005.
- Shri Rajat Nandi, Consultant Advisor, Tata Motors Ltd, New Delhi on September 8, 2005.
- Dr. Guido Ruivenkamp, Associate Professor, Wageningen University on September 9, 2005.
- Ms Heather Ward, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi, September 12, 2005.
- Mr. Mahesh Narayan, Deputy Manager, Aditya Birla Group, September 13, 2005.
- Mr Kent R. Ford, Managing Director, Global Development Solutions, LLC, Virginia on September 21, 2005.
- Mr. Lalit Kaul, Vice President, Reliance Industries Ltd., September 21, 2005.
- Prof K V Kesavan, Prof of Japanese Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU on September 22, 2005.
- Dr Mukul Asher, Professor, LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore on September 26, 2005.

## Continued from page 5 (Latest Publications)

- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Liberalisation, Outward Orientation and In-House R&D Activity of Multinational and Local Firms: A Quantitative Exploration for Indian Manufacturing" in *India: Industrialisation in a Reforming Economy – Essays for K L Krishna* by Suresh D Tendulkar, Arup Mitra, K Narayanan and Deb Kusum Das (eds). New Delhi: Academic Foundation (co-authored).
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Indian Software Industry Development: National and International Perspectives" in *ICTs and Indian Economic Development – Economy, Work, Regulation* by Ashwani Saith and M. Vijayabaskar (eds). New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Making the Most of Globalisation" in *Economic Developments in India* (Vol. 91) by Raj Kapila and Uma Kapila (eds). New Delhi: Academic Foundation.
- Kumar Nagesh. 2005. "A Broader Asian Community and a Possible Roadmap." *Economic and Political Weekly*. September 3.
- Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2005. "Impact of trade liberalization on import demands in India: a panel data analysis for commodity groups". *Applied Economics*, 37.
- Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2005. "WTO and Poultry Industry in India." *South Asian Journal*, Vol 9, July-September 2005, pp.69-87, Pakistan.

## Popular Columns

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2005. "Standards, a major hurdle for market access", *The Financial Express*, September 21.
- Das, Ram Upendra. 2005. "Peace via trade". *The Financial Express*. September 21.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Making the most of globalization". *The Financial Express*. July 5.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Implications of the changes in the Chinese Exchange Rate Regime". *Economic Times*. July.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Onward to stronger regional trade". *The Financial Express*. July 23.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "The road to Hong Kong is bumpy". *The Financial Express*, August 16.
- Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Technology transfer in the Doha Round". *The Financial Express*, September 13.
- Mehta, Rajesh. 2005. "Sort out Vital Technical Issues before the Launch" in *Financial Express*, 30 July.

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