

वर्षिक रिपोर्ट
RIS Annual Report
2023-24

Celebrating 40[★] YEARS

Shaping the Development Agenda of Global South



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
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Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

From Director General's Desk

The year 2023-24 brought with it a proud moment for the RIS family, as we are celebrating four decades of our journey as an eminent think-tank for the Global South. This period allowed us to reflect on the remarkable progress of RIS and also to look ahead to new horizons. The institution that has championed the voice of the Global South over the past four decades, added the latest initiative - 'DAKSHIN,' the Global South Centre of Excellence, to its work programme. As envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, 'DAKSHIN, housed at RIS, would serve as a collaborative hub, fostering the exchange of ideas and incubating innovative strategies to address the diverse challenges faced by developing nations.

Looking back, it is fascinating to recall the series of events that led to the establishment of RIS. The genesis of RIS can be traced back to a time when the global economy was undergoing a seismic shift following the oil crisis and the need for better coordination among the Southern economies was realised. A number of illustrious personalities of those times, including Shri G. Parthasarathi and Professor Sukhamoy Chakravarty, led the establishment process. Professor V. R. Panchamukhi was the founder Director General of RIS. This team played a pivotal role in shaping the development narrative of the South through various research and dissemination efforts of RIS in line with the above-mentioned stated objectives.

The first Governing Board, led by G. Parthasarathi as Chairman RIS and Professor Sukhamoy Chakravarty as Vice Chairman, had the following members: Shri M. Rasgotra, Shri Romesh Bhandari, Dr Arjun Sengupta, Shri M. Narasimham and Dr S. Vardarajan.

As in the past, during 2023-24, RIS continued to delve into critical areas of global economic governance and cooperation. Our research agenda encompassed a diverse range of themes, including various aspects of the work related to India's G20 presidency. At the G20 University Connect Finale, organised by RIS on 26 September 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed over 7,000 university students along with their Vice-Chancellors and faculties. The other major

themes related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, green finance, digital solutions, agriculture, health, and women-led development. We also focused on innovative development models such as the LiFE initiative, aimed at going beyond traditional GDP metrics to capture a more holistic picture of well-being. We further explored areas such as triangular cooperation and trade policies, examining how partnerships between developing countries can enhance their collective influence on the global stage.

In the realm of trade and investment, our research navigated emerging paradigms and complex challenges. From reimagining Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to addressing sustainability concerns, the RIS team delved into a range of topics, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), India's economic linkages with the Middle East and Europe through the IMEC, and the potential of agriculture trade and value chains in the BIMSTEC region. We explored trade opportunities with key partners such as Oman and MERCOSUR, while also examining the digitisation of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly in fintech. The discourse around trade and investment continues to evolve, and RIS remains committed to developing pragmatic and forward-looking strategies for India's integration into the global economy.

In the areas of promoting regional cooperation, regional connectivity and infrastructure, trade facilitation, we focussed on the economic landscape of the Indo-Pacific region: challenges, Asian economic integration, prospects of growth dynamism in South Asia, resurgence of South Asia and GVCs, transforming cross border electricity trade and regional electricity market for an energy secure South Asia, issues related to BIMSTEC regional trade integration, securing supply of mineral security, various dimensions in the India-ASEAN Relations under the research vertical, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS. Studies on India's maritime connectivity, including ports like Chabahar and Galathea Bay, have provided insights into securing maritime supply chains and enhancing regional trade links.

As part of the research programme related to science technology and innovation, the major themes, are emerging technologies, AI ethics, impact on jobs, country comparisons, AI governance and regulatory challenges at global and national levels, sectoral applications of AI health care and ethics, AI for SDGs and inclusive development, access, equity, inclusion, modern biotechnologies and biodiversity, India's engagements in Arctic, expanding India's space sector footprint, scope for locally agile technology ecosystems, science, technology and innovation (STI) for SDGs. As part of the Forum for Traditional Medicine at RIS, the focus has been on traditional medicine systems in Africa and prospects for cooperation, the Ayush service sector in India, Indigenous people: identity and development, Ayush MSMEs, medicinal plants etc.

As part of the aforesaid research agenda, RIS organised a number of policy dialogues with the participation of respective stakeholders. A number of publications, including reports, discussion papers, journals, etc. were also brought out for the dissemination of RIS research. The details of these initiatives are meticulously documented in the respective chapters of the report. The details of the RIS faculty's contributions to outside policy dialogues and publications are also duly reported.

The 40th-anniversary celebration of RIS was marked by the release of two special volumes that encapsulate the institution's rich legacy and intellectual contributions. The first volume, Four Decades of RIS: Vision and Evolution, covers the voices of those individuals who have

been the guiding lights for RIS from time to time. The second volume, *Four Decades of RIS: Conceptual and Methodological Contributions* delves into the intellectual backbone of RIS -the conceptual framework that has guided its research endeavours over the years. RIS has consistently adapted the existing research methodologies and techniques to address the ever-evolving challenges of policy research in the realm of development. This volume offers a comprehensive exploration of these aspects, providing readers with an in-depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings that have fuelled RIS impactful contributions. The contributions addressed in this volume encompass crucial themes such as effective rate of protection (ERP); the wellness index; the GAP Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) performance, socio-economic assessments; access, equity, and inclusion; the cost of non-cooperation; and the analysis of environmentally sensitive goods, among others.

As in the last year, this year's RIS annual report also adopts a different approach for its presentation. Instead of giving a detailed overview of the research activities and various programmes organised by the institute during the year, the young team of RIS faculty members have prepared scholarly contributions for this Annual Report. Every chapter has a perceptive essay from the young faculty members in the context of our various research and related activities. We thank them for their valuable contributions to the RIS annual report by putting across multifarious RIS work programmes in the context of national, bilateral, regional, sub-regional and multilateral framework of economic affairs.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all members of the RIS Governing Body and Governing Council, Research Advisory Council for their valuable guidance and support. In a unique way of governance of RIS, the institutional financial management system is elevated to the level of GB/GC financial committee. We also remain grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Finance, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Aayush, NITI Aayog, other departments of the Government of India, UN agencies, and the partner institutes at the national and international level for their continuous association with the work programme of RIS. Thanks are also due to the faculty members and all colleagues from the RIS administration, IT, publication and library sections for their continuous support in the implementation of RIS research and other related activities.

We are sure that academicians, experts, practitioners, policymakers, business and industry circles, and the mass media fraternity would find the RIS Annual Report stimulating for capturing the bandwidth of our research programmes. We are grateful to them for their active engagement with the different activities of RIS.



Sachin Chaturvedi



Sustainability

Sustainability has emerged as a cross-cutting theme across RIS verticals on trade, finance, and technology. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, a robust work programme focusing on the implementation at the global level and localisation at the national level has been developed. With SDG 17 as the cornerstone for achieving the SDGs universally in an indivisible and interdependent manner, the concept of sustainability has expanded to encompass various facets, from ecological sustainability and sustainable lifestyles (SDG 12) to sustainable food systems and agriculture (SDG 2), Blue Economy (SDG 14) along with strengthening the modalities of technology and finance based on principles of access, equity, and inclusion (AEI).

RIS has contributed to key international negotiations, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which address the critical issues of financing and technology transfer for sustainable development. On financing,

focus was placed on the gaps and bottlenecks to SDG Financing which has been a significant concern for countries in the Global South, where certain regions have been perennially deprived of the necessary funding required for sustainable development. RIS was part of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals (STI for SDGs) to operationalise TFM and the need to address indigenous technology capacity gaps. These longstanding issues have been addressed in silos but of late, an integrated pattern has emerged in various global groupings. The Indian G20 presidency was strongly anchored in major global concerns around finance for development, climate finance, SDGs, development transformations and access to technology.

From LiFE to LiFE Economy

The concept of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) emerged as a crucial component of India's G20 agenda, emphasising sustainable lifestyles and



The G20 University Connect Finale, organised by RIS, commenced was held on 26 September 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed over 7,000 university students along with their Vice-Chancellors and faculties.

the importance of addressing unsustainable consumption and production patterns. The idea of LiFE originated during the COP 21 in Paris in 2015 when the Prime Minister of India authored an article in the Financial Times, titled "Do not let lifestyles of the rich world deny the dreams of the rest" highlighting how the consumption-induced carbon emissions of wealthy nations jeopardise the developmental needs of developing countries. According to the UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2023), 48 per cent of global emissions are attributed to the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population, primarily residing in developed nations, while the lowest 50 per cent of the global population accounts for just 12 per cent of total emissions. Subsequently, at COP 26 in the 2021 Glasgow Summit, the Prime Minister launched

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) as a global mass movement advocating for "mindful and deliberate utilisation instead of mindless and destructive consumption." In Varanasi, India, G20 Development Ministers agreed upon nine High-Level Principles (HLPs) on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development. The G20 Leaders further endorsed the implementation of these HLPs through international cooperation, financial support, and the development, deployment, and dissemination of technology.

Over the past year, RIS' publications have significantly contributed to the global discourse on sustainability and development which has played a pivotal role in internationalising the concept of LiFE. Notable among these is the

volume on *Wellbeing, Value and Lifestyles: Towards a New Development Paradigm* (2023), published in 2023 with an open access version to be published by Springer in 2024, which comprises 23 chapters by renowned academicians and public policy practitioners. Through continuous efforts and engagement with various stakeholders, particularly the Development Working Group (DWG) and Think 20 (T20) Task Force 3 led by RIS, the concept of LiFE has evolved into a coherent framework of LiFE Economy. This multifaceted paradigm comprises five key facets:

- Promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns. LiFE places sustainable consumption at its core while addressing existing inequalities.
- Measuring well-being beyond GDP, incorporating factors such as natural capital, basic needs, inequalities, and negative environmental externalities.
- Embracing social enterprises and community participation for sustainable and equitable development, while promoting the localisation of efforts.
- Reorienting development finance towards non-discriminatory and ethical considerations, with a focus on resilient infrastructure financing, particularly for the Global South.
- Mainstreaming ethical and value-based economic systems, fostering technology development, and strengthening global governance.
- Sustainable Food Systems and its Interlinkages.

RIS strongly focuses on issues related to sustainable agriculture and food systems and its interconnectedness with nutrition security. Efforts in advancing food and nutritional security, particularly during the Indian G20 presidency, have emphasised sustainable agriculture as a critical global issue. The G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) have become pivotal in facilitating these discussions, exploring innovative approaches to building resilience in

food systems with food security goals, aligning with the broader global agenda on sustainability. RIS organised 101 G20 University Connect lectures across India. This culminated into the G20 University Connect Finale, addressed by Hon'ble Prime Minister. RIS, as a knowledge partner of AWG, has provided advice on various international dimensions of sustainable agriculture and food security, offering insights that shaped India's global contributions in this area. RIS is engaged in the study of early childhood nutrition and its role in promoting long-term social equity, as well as the need for financing and policy mechanisms to support climate-resilient agricultural practices. These broader discussions emphasised the importance of ensuring that food systems are not only secure but also environmentally sustainable, a principle aligned with the SDGs.

Blue Economy

Sustainability across oceans and marine resources presents a formidable challenge. The Blue Economy presents a unique avenue for coastal nations, including LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as they seek to balance economic growth with sustainable development. While it encompasses traditional sectors like fishing and maritime trade, the complexity of integrating broader activities, such as agriculture, energy, and manufacturing, makes the task of managing marine resources difficult. RIS' work programme on blue economy highlighted the need to address inefficiencies, foster innovation, and develop policies that align with SDG goals to achieve a resilient Blue Economy. Remarkably, in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, G20 leaders adopted Chennai High-Level Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue/Ocean-based Economy. The HLPs addresses the interconnected issues of sustainable economic growth, protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the marine environment, social equity, gender equality, and human development.



A joint meeting of Co-chairs of Task Force 3- LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Well-being and Task Force 6- Accelerating SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda, on 1 August 2023.

Finance and Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Development

To support the efforts in achieving sustainability in various domains, finance and technology is an essential modality. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) highlights this by focusing on the need for comprehensive financing mechanisms and technology transfer to support sustainable development. However, the financing gap remains a pressing challenge. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has pointed the SDG financing gap, which is expected to increase from USD 3.9 trillion in 2020 to USD 4.3 trillion annually from 2020 to 2025. Under India's G20 presidency, climate finance took centre stage, with the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration advocating for increased financial flows to developing nations. These nations face significant challenges in accessing funds for climate-related projects, as they often encounter high initial costs, perceived investment risks, and difficulties aligning financial resources with sustainable infrastructure needs.

Finance pillar has critically examined the mechanisms needed to mobilise financing for the SDGs, with a particular focus on the developing world. It explores the need for restructuring global financial systems to ensure that Least

Developed Countries (LDCs) receive necessary debt relief and financing to achieve the SDGs.

Similarly, RIS has made an impactful contribution substantiating the role of STI in addressing socio-economic and development challenges. In this regard, RIS completed a global pilot project launched by the UN on STI for SDG Roadmaps. India was selected as a pilot country along with three other African nations namely; Ethiopia, Ghana, and Kenya, Serbia was also part of the pilot project from central Asia. The report titled STI for SDG Roadmaps for India sheds light on India's experiences with respect to how an STI ecosystem itself can be geared towards achieving SDGs. The study details India's efforts to leverage technology for achieving four focused SDGs 2,3, 6 and 7. The report was presented during the UN STI Forum (2023) meeting held in New York, USA and a summary report is also published by UNDESA. RIS has also been invited by the UNDESA to contribute chapters to forthcoming and second version of Guidebook on STI for SDG Roadmaps.

Policy and Advocacy

For wider dissemination of knowledge and bringing in convergence in the thought process of various stakeholders, multiple conferences and official side events were organised. These efforts brought together prominent stakeholders,



Panel Discussion on the report on “Bottlenecks to Access SDG Finance for Developing Countries” held at RIS on 23 June 2023.

including multilateral organisations such as OECD, UNDP, UNDESA, AU-NEPAD, ADB, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Global Solutions Initiatives, as well as national think tanks and universities. This has facilitated key discussions on financing mechanisms, technology transfer, and global governance for SDGs.

Focus Areas of Future

As the world moves towards meeting SDGs, the role of collaborative efforts between institutions,

governments, and multilateral organisations will remain essential in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future. Interlinkages and interdependence among the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, 3, 9, and 12 will be further explored and RIS would also be contributing to the upcoming VNR of India. Similarly, a strong focus will be provided on leveraging the means of implementation (SDG 17), finance and technology, for analysing the framework for localising technological solutions and providing accessible finance to countries in the global south.

Major Programmes

- **Organisation of 101 G20 University Connect lectures in different Indian universities. The G20 University Connect Finale, organised by RIS, commenced was held on 26 September 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed over 7,000 university students along with their Vice-Chancellors and faculties.**
- On 6 April 2023, RIS, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), UN India, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), organised a Development Working Group (DWG) programme on “Towards a Green Transition: Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and Just Green Transitions” at Kumarakom, Kerala.
- On 14 April 2023, RIS held the third seminar of the T20 Task Force 3 series on the theme of “Infusing Ethics and Values in International Relations.”
- The fourth seminar of the T20 Task Force 3 series, focusing on “Mainstreaming Community Partnership and Traditional Approaches for LiFE,” was organised by RIS on 21 April 2023.
- RIS hosted the fifth seminar of the T20 Task Force 3 series on “Urban-Rural Linkages for a New Development Model” on 28 April 2023.

- On 15 May 2023, RIS, in partnership with Task Force 2 of T7, Global Solutions Initiative, and GIZ, organised a side event at the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin on “Economic and Systemic Transformations for LiFE and Wellbeing.”
- RIS, along with the OECD and the Fourth Sector Group, jointly organised a side event on 22 June 2023 in Paris.
- On 28 June 2023, RIS released a policy brief titled “India’s G20 Presidency and Sustainable Development in the Himalaya: Opportunities and Strategies” as part of its ongoing commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- On 30 July 2023, RIS and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) jointly organised a meeting of T7 and T20 leadership on the sidelines of the Think 20 Summit in Mysuru to deliberate on the G7/G20 Joint Call to Action – Addressing the Poly-Crisis and Reigniting the 2030 Agenda.
- On 1 August 2023, RIS organised a joint meeting of Co-chairs of Task Force 3 (LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Wellbeing) and Task Force 6 (Accelerating SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda) on the sidelines of the T20 Summit in Mysuru.
- RIS held a hybrid roundtable discussion on 9 September 2023 in collaboration with the Fourth Sector Group, focusing on the forthcoming LiFE Economy Strategy.
- On 15 September 2023, RIS hosted a webinar on the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, titled “Way Forward for LiFE and Infrastructure for Resilience.”
- The G20 University Connect Finale, organised by RIS, was held on 26 September 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event culminated the G20 University Connect Lecture Series, and the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed over 7,000 university students along with their Vice-Chancellors and faculties.
- From 26 to 28 November 2023, RIS, in collaboration with the G20 Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and the Republic of Indonesia, was organised the ‘Global Summit on LiFE Economy: From Principles to Action’ at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- On 15 November 2023, RIS, in partnership with Anna University, Chennai, was organised a one-day seminar titled “The G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration and the Emerging World Order” at Anna University, Chennai.
- A special lecture titled “LiFE and the Global Agenda: G20 and COP28 Sustainability Link” was organised by RIS at Amity University, Dubai, UAE, on 6 December 2023.

Major Publications

Books/Reports

- Wellbeing, Value and Lifestyles, Towards a New Development Paradigm, RIS, New Delhi, 2023
- The Grand Success of G20 Bharat Presidency, RIS, New Delhi, 2023
- G20 University Connect Engaging Young Minds, RIS, New Delhi, 2023

Discussion Paper

- #287: SDG Targets 2.2 and 4.2 Early Childhood Nutrition and Education: Bedrock of Life-long Equity by Pramod Kumar Anand & Krishna Kumar



Global South

Global South is now much more confident, more proactive, and its actions are capability driven which has resulted in it being less defensive, less reticent, and is willing to make more choices and take stand on various global issues. India being a responsible global player has played its due part in strengthening and empowering the capacities and capabilities of the Global South in a demand driven manner through various initiatives under the rubric of South-South Cooperation (SSC). The different modalities adopted by India for this purpose is referred to as the 'development compact'. The modalities of trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, technology sharing, and project specific concessional loans, and grants are employed in an intersubstitutable manner to carry out SSC activities. RIS' work programme in the calendar year is testament to India's vigour of SSC which is geared towards

working with our partners in the Global South. The details of the activities are elaborated in the section below.

Introduction

Global South has come a long way in their developmental journey and is now considered as an important solutions provider to the global problems. Its economic expansion coupled with South-South trade numbers surpassing the North-South trade is a testament to its rise. Also, Global South's increasing and meaningful political presence in the multilateral space is worth noting. Global South along with its associated developmental challenges is an important dimension of the RIS work programme where the issues of Economic Governance, Trade Investment and Economic Cooperation, Trade Facilitation Connectivity and



Prime Minister virtually inaugurated DAKSHIN Global South Centre of Excellence, 17 November 2023

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Regional Cooperation, and New Technologies and Development Issues are analysed through the lens of the Global South. India was successful in bringing the developmental challenges of the Global South to the fore during its Presidency of the G20 in 2023. After almost a decade, 'development' returned to the central stage, which South Korea sincerely tried in 2011 when the Sherpa track got added to the finance track.

The rise of the Global South, their aspirations, and their associated challenges have been well captured by RIS' publications, seminars, consultations, workshops, and engagements in a solution-driven and forward-looking manner. India's four-pronged strategy geared towards the meaningful presence of the Global South in G20 was exhibited as inclusive of the concerns and challenges of the developing world. Secondly, India adopted a negotiation strategy that was a mix of flexibility and assertiveness which protected India from geopolitical fault lines. Thirdly, a robust outreach, communication and dissemination strategy was adopted which included all of the Global South. And lastly, India

ensured peoples' participation in *Jan Bhagidari* within the country and engaged the Global South at the global level.

India backed its words with action by securing the African Union's inclusion as the G20's 21st member and hosting two Voice of Global South Summits (VoGSS), engaging most developing countries to share their perspectives. The two VoGSS were timed perfectly with one being towards the start of the Indian Presidency and it resulted in collation and collection of the concerns and challenges faced by the Global South. Once these concerns and challenges were platformed at the G20 level, India proactively tried to come up with solutions in a deliberative way throughout its Presidency and towards the end of it, India organised the 2nd VoGSS which provided a solution driven way forward for the Global South. It was during the 2nd VoGSS that the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched DAKSHIN - The Global South Centre of Excellence (GSCE) with an endeavour to assist relevant stakeholders and partners in the identification and implementation of scalable

and sustainable solutions that can transform the economies and societies of the Global South.

On account of the developmental legacy of the Global South that RIS has carried forward since its inception in 1983 and its continued engagement with the issues of developing countries, the Government of India incubated DAKSHIN at RIS. One of the objectives of DAKSHIN was to carry out workshops in the fields of health, agriculture, and digital solutions.

GSCE organised three online workshops which were attended by relevant stakeholders

from India and the Global South coming from the fields of academia, think tank, civil society, and policy making. These workshops served as a platform for brainstorming the issues and challenges of the health, agriculture, and digital sectors in the Global South and provided a platform for DAKSHIN in compiling a compendium of possible solutions to the challenges in these three sectors. The virtual workshops were aimed at discussing innovative solutions, best practices, successful flagship schemes of India and other countries of the Global South in the three sectors.



South-South Cooperation and Development Compact

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has played a pivotal role in the development of the Global South. India, since prior to its independence has played its part in SSC and over the years, India's SSC activities and projects have expanded in quantum and in its geographical expanse. As per RIS study, India currently extends around USD 7.5 billion annually to various partner countries in the Global South. Apart from SSC, the modality of Triangular Cooperation has emerged as a major operational tool towards the achievement of SDGs in the Global South where a country of the South plays an important role.

Along the same breath RIS organised a capacity development programme cum workshop on Triangular Cooperation. It was an integral component of the ongoing broader RIS-GIZ study recognizing the emerging significance of this modality within the framework of international cooperation. The programme was designed to orient the participants towards an integrated and multidimensional understanding of triangular cooperation and associated modalities. Similarly, RIS organised a first of its kind conference on Asian cooperation on triangular cooperation. The Conference explored technical feasibility and technical expertise from all sides and the way in which they contribute to the achievement of SDGs – and beyond.

To demonstrate its continued commitment to the Global South, India held the 3rd VoGSS on August 17, 2024. This summit provided a platform for leaders to share challenges and future visions, with PM Modi announcing a global 'development compact' for the Global South.

The modalities are: **Trade for Development:** Trade has always been considered an engine of growth and development. This modality in the ambit of 'development compact' for the Global

South goes beyond the usual trading of goods and services to assisting the Global South countries in providing them trade facilitation and trade promotion initiatives, along with providing them trade finance, and by providing them Tariff lines under Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) Scheme. **Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth:** Traditionally, the Global South has faced challenges in the realm of enhancing the capacities of its human resources. The capacity building and training programmes for sustainable growth have evidently evolved from simple training modules aimed at handholding and sharing of technical expertise; to more sophisticated domains of scientific and technical knowledge, extending to professional fields like management, administration, policy and global governance. **Technology Sharing:** Other lacunae in the development of Global South has been the lack of access to affordable, effective, and adaptable technologies. This modality in the sphere of 'development compact' for the Global South through joint R&D projects, co-creation of knowledge, establishment of technical institutes, and development of shared indigenous technology will assist the Global South in achieving their desired goals. **Project specific Concessional Finance and Grants:** Availability of finance at sustainable interest rates and access to grants for development has been in short supply to the countries of the Global South. This modality of 'development compact' aims to fill the gap in this regard by providing lines of credit, grants, writing off debts, and providing humanitarian assistance to the countries in times of distress.

RIS, in keeping with the focus on the Global South and the 'development compact', organised various engagements which incorporated the essence of South-South Cooperation carried out through the various modalities and sector specificities.

Neighbourhood and Regional Engagements

As per the broad contours of Indian Foreign Policy, India's neighbourhood has always been of prime focus, and RIS, since its inception in 1983, has also pivoted towards the developmental paradigm of the region, along with focusing on the wider Global South. In these four decades, RIS has evolved into a powerhouse of intellectual contributions, playing a focused role in shaping regional cooperation, Global South leadership, and sustainable development. In continuance of this pedigree, RIS organised a mega-conference on issues of South Asian Integration. The conference reflected on the organisation's impactful endeavours, collaborative partnerships and commitment to fostering meaningful connections for the greater good of South Asia and beyond. The sessions covered various sectoral issues such as macro-economy and economic resilience in South Asia, trends in trade and investment integration in the region, and evolution and experiences of regional cooperation in South Asia. The parallel sessions consisted of SDGs, Agriculture, and Women-led development. Discussions on connectivity and trade facilitation, along with financial sector cooperation for South Asia was deliberated upon. Also, RIS, in collaboration with the Institute for

Human Development (IHD) and NITI Aayog, organised a major international conference geared towards advancing human development in the Global South.

Focus Areas of Future

RIS will continue to strive towards the betterment and development of the Global South in a demand-driven and collaborative manner. DAKSHIN has embarked on a journey of associating with think tanks of the Global South ranging from Suva in the East to Santiago de Chile in the West and all the countries of the Global South in between. Joint research, publication, and hosting joint side events at the international fora will be carried out with these think tanks on topics and issues of mutual interest. DAKSHIN – GSCE will expand its work programme from the current health, agriculture, and digital solutions portfolio to include research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of Education, Banking and Finance, Connectivity Infrastructure, and Climate Finance and Technology. RIS' flagship journal *Development Cooperation Review* is now in its seventh year of publication and is planning to come out with a special Spanish language issue which will be inaugurated across the Latin American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Paraguay in coming months.

Major Programmes

- RIS celebrated its 40th anniversary, marking this milestone with several high-level conferences and events, including a mega conference on “South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward” held on December 9-10, 2023, in New Delhi.
- In partnership with RIS and GPI, GIZ organized the 1st Asian Conference on Triangular Cooperation (ACTrC) on November 2-3, 2023, in New Delhi, aiming to foster dialogue and develop a roadmap for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- An international conference titled “Global Conclave 2024: Advancing Human Development in Global South” was co-organized by RIS, the Institute for Human Development (IHD), and NITI Aayog from January 11-13, 2024, in New Delhi.
- A virtual workshop focusing on agricultural issues was organized by DAKSHIN on January 17, 2024, in preparation for the upcoming 1st Dakshin Conference.
- The 1st Dakshin Conference, was held in February 2024, with a focus on “Global South for Global Prosperity: Leveraging Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth”.
- An online workshop on the health sector was conducted on February 2, 2024, with participation from several countries in the Global South.
- DAKSHIN organized its third online workshop on digital solutions on February 28, 2024.
- A capacity development programme on Triangular Cooperation was held in February 12-14, 2024, as part of the broader RIS-GIZ study on the significance of this modality in International Cooperation.

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Major Publications

Journals

- G20 Digest
- Development Cooperation Review Vol 6 No 2 April-June 2023
- Development Cooperation Review Vol 6 No 3 July-September 2023
- Development Cooperation Review Vol 6 No 4 October- December 2023
- Development Cooperation Review Vol 7 No 1 January- March 2023

Discussion Paper

#291: India’s G20 Presidency as a Voice of Global South by Sushil Kumar



Trade and Development

In today's global economic landscape, characterised by supply chain disruptions, climate change, and growing economic inequality, the role of trade and investment, grounded in the principles of sustainability, has never been more vital. As economies strive to recover and rebuild, there is an urgent need for systems that foster inclusive growth while addressing environmental and social imperatives. Trade practices, in particular, must recalibrate to enhance resilience and equity, especially in the Global South. In this context, RIS has emerged as a crucial platform for deliberations on key trade policy issues such as free trade agreements, investment facilitation, and regional economic integration. Over the past one year, it has led efforts to empower developing countries to shape their trade and investment policies through strategic partnerships with international institutions, cutting-edge policy research, capacity-building initiatives, and robust engagement with grassroots stakeholders.

Value Chains

The contemporary trade architecture finds itself at the cusp of interesting paradigmatic shifts globally. Majorly, these shifts have been spearheaded by the changing contours of technology and the subsequent reduction in transaction costs across regions and sub-regions. In this context, the emergence of global value chains (GVCs) is an important case in point. Production-sharing - driven by the rationale of cost-cutting and specialisation- has infiltrated the logic of trade, especially in goods such as mobile phones, semiconductors, chocolates, ready-made garments, etc. In fact, as per some estimates, around 70 percent of international trade passes through highly serpentine value chains that meander across diverse geographical locations, encompassing transactions in services, raw materials, parts and components, etc. The surge in GVC-based commodities presents an important opportunity for developing countries like India



Panel Discussion on the Book 'Free Trade Agreements: India and the World' by Amb. V. S. Seshadri in Progress. Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA was also present.

that are emerging as key nodes of value-addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sector. In the latter, widespread potentialities have been observed in BIMSTEC at the regional level. The region has witnessed considerable agricultural development, contributing significantly to the rising prosperity and improved quality of life in the region. Intra-regional trade, particularly in agriculture, has observed substantial growth, especially in high-value and technology-intensive sectors. The region- driven by the ongoing nutrition transition- has embraced widespread agricultural value chain practices, with countries specialising in specific segments and exporting semi-processed products for further processing. Consequentially, development of Regional Value Chains is evident in a plethora of sectors such as fish, meat, and tea. Evidently, the region's substantial production base, processing capabilities, and vast market size position it to become a major hub in the global agricultural GVC. Additionally, the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) within the BIMSTEC region is expected to further bolster this growth, supporting the surge of agricultural GVCs in

Asia. In the near future, FTA negotiations are expected to leverage sectoral value chains in a significant way. With this ongoing churn, several discussions at RIS have highlighted the need to examine the potentialities and scope of value chains in the wider trading framework, with FTAs spearheading this shift in a major way.

Districts as Export Hubs

Closer home, India's latest trade policy has embraced the concept of decentralisation, focusing on the development of districts as export hubs. The "Districts as Export Hubs" (DEH) initiative is designed to promote exports from specific regions, diversifying the country's export base and creating opportunities for economic growth in rural and semi-urban areas. By decentralising export promotion efforts, India aims to foster self-reliance and ensure that economic benefits are distributed more evenly across the country. The DEH initiative also extends beyond established hubs, targeting lesser-known areas with untapped export capabilities. A recent RIS discussion paper on this issue observed that nearly 80 per cent of

India's exports in 2021 were concentrated in 70 districts in 19 states. In fact, the top 10 districts accounted for 38 per cent of India's exports. Encouraged by these developments, districts are being encouraged to develop their own distinct export-oriented industries, which will be marketed globally as part of a broader strategy to showcase India's diverse range of products.

A decentralised approach toward the Indian trade policy is part of a broader effort to make India's export strategy more inclusive and responsive to the unique needs of its diverse regions. By focusing on products with a global competitive edge and encouraging districts to develop export-oriented industries, India will be better positioned to tap into global markets while fostering regional economic growth. Drawing inspiration from successful models in other countries, the initiative represents a strategic move toward making India's exports more competitive.

Trade and Sustainability

As sustainability becomes a central concern in global trade, developing countries face the added challenge of meeting stringent environmental criteria imposed by developed economies. For instance, mechanisms like the European Union's cross-border carbon tax require countries to adopt more sustainable production practices or risk losing access to key markets. These new requirements highlight the need for countries

to align their trade operations with global sustainability standards while also pursuing their own development goals. In this context, a day-long consultation organised by RIS, cautioned on the potential impact of sustainability standards on exports arising from sectors such as automobiles, which may plummet by 15-16 per cent.

Historically, developing countries, including India, resisted incorporating stringent environmental standards into trade agreements, arguing that these provisions could hinder their industrialisation and economic growth. However, as environmental concerns become more pressing on the global stage, countries are gradually shifting their stance to remain competitive in international markets. Driven by the need to engage more effectively with developed nations, a discussion paper on this issue highlighted a perceptible shift in India's initial resistance to merge trade and environmental policies. With developed countries increasingly incorporating strict environmental standards into their trade agreements, India has recognised the importance of aligning with to these standards to maintain its position in global markets. Yet, India's commitments continue to lag behind the expectations of developed countries, particularly in the ongoing negotiations with the EU, the UK, and Canada. This underscores the importance of the delicate balance that India must strike between adopting international environmental standards and protecting its domestic economic imperatives.



RIS organized Consultation on "How to make Trade Procedures more efficient for Analysing FTAs", on 26 December 2023.

Trade Cooperation

At the regional level, contemporary policy discourse has been animated with proposals on how trade and investment can emerge as springboards of growth in Asia and its sub-regions. In the South Asian region, recent publications at RIS have assessed the key prospects that hold the potential to encourage a buoyant growth cycle in the region of South Asia. One study noted the universal upsurge of complex global value chains (GVCs) and the concomitant rise in trade of technology-intensive goods globally. These developments in the global trading framework have enabled a sectoral shift in the conventional patterns of trade, thereby offering a wide range of opportunities for production and trade integration in South Asia. In the past, East and Southeast Asian countries, namely, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, etc., leveraged their open trade and investment policy to integrate into the global production networks. India, while moving in the same direction, is yet to embed its production systems in value chains. Thus, for India to emerge as a GVC-oriented economy, regional integration roadmaps will have to be supplemented by commensurate trade facilitation measures that foster a predictable policy environment. Another commentary on the issue observed the importance of trans-regional integration initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in leveraging multimodal connectivity via railways, ports and surface transport systems. In Asia, such initiatives have overseen the rise of 'growth triangles' which were able to prosper by taking advantage of infrastructural facilities, further translating into cost competitive exports and stronger value chain linkages. Echoing the significance of policy-led trade facilitation, several other papers published by RIS have delineated the importance of trade facilitation and other concomitant policy drivers such as open FDI regime and good governance as

indispensable to India's trade integration at the regional and global level. These efforts will have to be supplemented with an examination of the 'positioning' of MSMEs in the global trading framework to critically assess the variegated implications of trade on these small but significant players across the globe.



Investment Facilitation and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) is another critical component of India's economic growth strategy. Investment facilitation has become a central focus, particularly in the context of ongoing WTO discussions around the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) agreement. This agreement seeks to create a more supportive environment for FDI in developing countries, offering potential benefits such as increased capital inflows and technology transfers. However, developing countries must carefully navigate the challenges associated with binding commitments under such agreements. In this context, a virtual panel discussion organised by RIS noted that while investment facilitation can spur growth, it is essential to ensure that these agreements do not compromise national

policy space or lead to a loss of control over critical economic sectors. Therefore, by engaging cautiously in these discussions, India will aim to strike a balance between attracting investment and maintaining its developmental autonomy.

Focus Areas of Future

Looking ahead, RIS is well-positioned to tackle emerging challenges and seize new opportunities in the evolving global economic landscape. As

global trade dynamics shift, the institute's trade vertical is expected to broaden its scope to include agricultural value chains, blue trade, and the space economy. Moreover, RIS will engage with critical 21st-century trade issues such as data protection, labour and environmental standards, and the integration of MSMEs into the modern global trading system. These efforts place RIS at the forefront of global trade discourse, contributing valuable insights to policy development and international collaboration.

Major Programmes

- RIS hosted a panel discussion on the book 'Free Trade Agreements: India and the World' by Amb. V. S. Seshadri on 29 May 2023.
- On 26 June 2023, RIS held a virtual panel discussion on "Investment Facilitation for Development," chaired by Amb Jayant Dasgupta.
- A panel discussion on multilateralism, focused on the WTO, was held by RIS on 8 November 2023, chaired by Prof Abhijit Das, Prof Amrita Narlikar and Mr Sumanta Chaudhuri as panelists.
- RIS organised a consultation on improving trade procedures for analysing FTAs on 26 December 2023.

Major Publications

Discussion Papers

#285: Promoting Districts as Export Hubs in the Export Policy India's Experiment with The One District One Product Programme by Pankhuri Gaur

##292: Trade and Environment: Tracking Environmental Provisions in Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) to Make Appropriate Indian Stance by Anshuman Gupta

Finance and Technology

The convergence of finance, technology and innovation amplified by advanced digital technologies is reshaping the global financial landscape, prominently in emerging markets and developing countries. Those financial innovations offer tremendous opportunities for economic growth, sustainability and inclusion. Realising those benefits requires introduction of necessary policy measures by the governments including enhancing financial literacy; ensuring regulatory preparedness especially new products & platforms like fintech, crypto assets, digital finance; mobilising sustainable finance for development, among others. By fostering financial inclusion, investing in resilient infrastructure, and expanding credit to youth and women for the promotion of entrepreneurship, the new wave of financial technology & innovation could drive inclusive

development in the Global South. A collaborative approach that integrates public and private efforts, embraces digital transformation, and aligns with environmental sustainability is critical for building a resilient and inclusive financial ecosystem.

Blockchain and Virtual Digital Assets

Applications of digital technologies like AI, blockchain, DLT, 3D printing, etc have become widespread across various segments of the financial sector. It has helped banks and financial institutions devise innovative and customised lending products catering to diverse financial needs such as small-ticket personal loans, consumer finance products, informal sector borrowers, micro and small firms. In addition,

virtual digital assets (VDAs) industry has grown significantly over the years. Virtual assets typically include crypto currencies, non-fungible tokens, and decentralised finance, among others. Web3, the next iteration of the internet, and blockchain will boost the VDA sector in the coming years. As per NASSCOM, India has approximately 75,000 people engaged in the blockchain industry, with the talent pool expected to grow by over 120 per cent in the next one to two years indicating significant potential to contribute to the Indian economy. In light of the growing importance of VDAs, RIS organised a Roundtable Discussion in New Delhi in collaboration with Bharat Web3 Association (BWA) on 11 July 2023. The Roundtable generated useful ideas and insights that will help develop a global narrative. Academic experts, government officials and industry practitioners examined the emerging trends in the VDA industry, associated macroeconomic risks & regulatory challenges, and the potential impact on other sectors of the economy. The discussion underscored the need for a balanced approach that combines clear regulations, self-regulation, and global coordination to support the growth and stability of the VDA sector.

Fintech Corridor

Fintech sector has registered phenomenal growth in India and other emerging markets & developing countries across the world. With ten-fold rise in UPI transactions in volume over the last four years from 12.5 billion transactions in 2019-2020 to 131 billion transactions in 2023-2024, India is now considered as a global leader in digital payments. Rapid adoption of fintech is enabling achieving financial inclusion in a seamless way and empowering people through faster and easier provision of credit and value-added banking & financial services.

Besides the benefits of fintech solutions for the ordinary people, there are regulatory, security and compliance risks associated

with rise in fintech transactions. RBI has implemented regulatory sandboxes to test, mature and commercialise various fintech solutions before those are launched for wider use. In a RIS Discussion Paper in 2022-2023, a team of RIS faculty highlighted the evolution of fintech sector in India and the pace of growth of fintech adoption across different verticals. It also discussed how fintech disrupts traditional financial services and introduces advanced technologies like blockchain and AI. However, it also highlights challenges such as regulatory compliance, cybersecurity risks, and data privacy concerns.

Furthermore, the rapid adoption of fintech has opened up several avenues for trade in fintech and fintech enabled services. Besides facilitating faster and convenient domestic retail payments, fintech could be instrumental for cross-border payment settlements. UPI is now enabled for cross-border payments with Singapore, France, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UAE, Bhutan and Nepal. It indicates the potential for fintech corridors with different countries which would open possibilities for greater cooperation in financial sector and enable higher trade & investment between India and those countries.

RIS published a paper during 2022-2023 on the idea of India-Singapore Fintech Corridor. It demonstrated how this corridor can serve as a gateway for deeper India-ASEAN financial relations given the immense size of market for financial services trade in ASEAN and the evolving fintech industry in ASEAN.

As part of the ongoing study on India-UK fintech trade, the University of Essex organised the International Conference on 'Global Fintech Ecosystem and Fintech-Enabled Trade in Services' in Colchester, UK on 22-23 July 2024. RIS and Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) participated as partner institutions from the India team. RIS made a presentation on the topic "Fintech Adoption



of digital adoption by the MSMEs. On the positive side, MSMEs have made considerable progress in adopting basic digital tools and digital payment systems. The integration of those basic technologies has enabled many MSMEs to streamline their operations and improve their financial transactions. On the other hand, the use of intermediate digital tools, such as social media for marketing and e-commerce platforms for sales, as well as advanced technologies like ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), SCM (Supply Chain Management), big data, and AI, is limited but indicating symptoms of growth. Lack of information, skill shortage, financial constraints, and cybersecurity concerns have been identified as the major barriers to digitalisation of MSMEs in India.

Besides MSMEs, the impact of digitalisation has been strong and transformative in the financial services sector. Compared to loans by the banks, fintech offers advantages such as new-age technology and low-operating-overhead business models. Over the past decade, 1.2 billion previously unbanked adults have gained access to financial services, reducing the unbanked population by 35 per cent, primarily due to the

rise in mobile money accounts. Globally, fintech customer bases include 39 per cent female, 40 per cent low-income, and 27 per cent rural or remotely located individuals. Overall, fintech serves a higher proportion of low-income populations in EMDEs, approximately 43 per cent, compared to 36 per cent in the advanced economies. A panel discussion organised by RIS on digital technologies highlighted the need for global digital infrastructure, increased funding for sustainable development and the role of digitisation in enhancing governance, healthcare, and business practices.

Financial Literacy and Data-Driven Economic Resilience

Financial literacy has been viewed as a critical enabler of financial inclusion and financial sector growth & diversification. Steady improvement in financial literacy enables people to develop familiarity with basic financial tools and help take appropriate decisions with respect to various financial needs. Moreover, higher level of financial literacy empowers individuals to effectively navigate fintech innovations such

as mobile banking apps, digital wallets, and investment platforms. It allows individuals to make informed decisions about digital financial products and services, assess options critically, and select those that best meet their needs. Financial literacy also aids in understanding and mitigating risks associated with technology, such as cybersecurity threats and fraud, thereby protecting financial information and assets. As part of the regular work programme of the finance & development vertical, RIS faculty brought out an interesting study on financial literacy which examined the extent and spread of financial literacy levels across the states & union territories, and by sectors, education, and income groups in India using data from the NSS 77th round of the 'All India Debt & Investment Survey (2019)'. While financial literacy is improving across the country, there is still scope for increasing awareness about financial tools such as bank accounts, credit/debit cards, and e-wallets.

A comprehensive and varied dataset offers a more detailed understanding of economic conditions, consumer behaviours, and market trends, which enables policymakers, businesses, and financial institutions to make informed decisions and develop strategies that effectively address diverse needs. By incorporating a broad range of economic indicators and demographic factors, planners can enhance their ability to forecast trends, anticipate risks, and design interventions that promote sustainable growth. Moreover, diverse data is essential for identifying underserved populations and regions, facilitating the creation of targeted financial products and services that drive financial inclusion and reduce disparities.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy in Finance

The impact of insolvency and bankruptcy is large and devastating in terms of its real sector outcomes. Growing cases of insolvency not only signal weakness in the policy and regulatory environment in the financial sector of a country but also affect trade and investment in the Global South. India introduced Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in 2016 to ensure transparency, predictability and effective resolution of bankruptcy cases. Likewise, many developing countries are coming up with various policies and regulations with respect to insolvency. In order to capture those dimensions and explore areas of cooperation among the Global South countries, RIS has launched a specific research programme on insolvency. Two RIS Discussion Papers have been prepared in 2023-2024 covering some of the above-mentioned aspects of insolvency.

T20 Brazil Task Force on International Finance

RIS has been contributing to the T20 task forces on infrastructure investment and international financial architecture in the capacity of Co-Chairs and authors of policy briefs during the past three G20 presidencies. For T20 Brazil task force on international financial architecture, an Engagement Group of the current G20 presidency, a policy brief titled "An Inclusive G20 Strategy to Scale 'Debt-for-Nature/Climate Swaps' for Effective Climate and Biodiversity Action in Developing Countries" has been published by RIS faculty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash along with collaborators from India and other countries.

Major Programmes

- RIS, in collaboration with the OECD, published a report “Bottlenecks to Access SDG Finance for Developing Countries”, supporting India’s G20 presidency at the G20 Development Ministers’ meeting in Varanasi on 12 June 2023 by Mr Andreas Schaal, OECD G20 Sherpa. RIS further organised a panel discussion on the report for broader dissemination on 13 June 2023.
- The final seminar of the T20 Task Force 3 series, “Financing Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Infrastructure”, was held on 5 May 2023, with Dr Sabyasachi Saha emphasizing infrastructure financing for the Global South.
- On 30 November 2023, RIS and Dyal Singh College, Delhi University, co-hosted a national conference on “G20 Development Agenda: FinTech, Digital Transformation and Business Prospects” in New Delhi.
- RIS, in collaboration with Bharat Web3 Association (BWA), organised a roundtable on “Virtual Digital Assets Industry: Evolving Policy and Regulatory Landscape” on 11 July 2023 in New Delhi, featuring two technical sessions.
- A panel discussion on Digital Technology, Finance, Inclusion, and G20 Declaration was organised by RIS on 23 September 2023.

Major Publications

Discussion Papers

#286: Financial Literacy across Different States of India: An Empirical Analysis by Priyadarshi Dash & Rahul Ranjan

#289: SDG Gaps and Technology Needs in Developing Countries: Scope for Locally Agile Technology Ecosystems by Sabyasachi Saha



Regional Cooperation

In an increasingly interconnected world, regional cooperation has become essential for fostering peace, stability, and shared prosperity among nations. Since gaining independence in 1947, India has made regional cooperation a cornerstone of its foreign policy, initially concentrating on South Asia. However, as India's global stature has risen, so too has its vision of cooperation. India's cooperation efforts are no longer confined to regional platforms but have evolved to engage with countries and groups across multiple continents. Today, India is an active participant in pivotal regional and global initiatives such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, BRICS, IBSA, and the IORA. Through these platforms, India seeks to address shared global challenges, foster collaboration across regions, and contribute to shaping an inclusive global order.

RIS has been a key supporter of India's growing intercontinental cooperation agenda. By advancing research on diverse global partnerships, RIS has been instrumental in strengthening India's engagement with key regional platforms. This year, RIS has significantly expanded its impact through new research collaboration and partnerships with prestigious institutions worldwide. Collaborations with organisations such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, and the BIMSTEC Secretariat have contributed to research and high-profile events that address vital issues spanning multiple regions, from Asia to other continents.

Promoting South Asian Integration

India's commitment to deepening cooperation with its South Asian neighbors has been a priority since 1947. Early efforts focused on bilateral initiatives, resulting in numerous agreements with countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. The formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the mid-1980s marked a shift towards a more regional approach, aimed at fostering collective progress across South Asia. SAARC was envisioned as a platform to promote regional integration and economic cooperation, but despite its promising start, the organisation has struggled to achieve its objectives. This has left South Asia as one of the least integrated regions globally.

RIS has undertaken critical research on India's trade and connectivity with its South Asian neighbors. Two major studies were completed this year focusing on South Asian integration. The first study examined the economic relationship between India and Nepal, specifically addressing concerns about Nepal's trade deficit with India. This study proposed a framework for mitigating the trade imbalance and enhancing bilateral relations. The second study, titled "Strengthening Regional Integration in South Asia," emphasised the need to modernise regional transport infrastructure and update the SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Strategy (SRMTS) to revitalise South Asian integration. It also recommended resuming SAARC agreements to improve trade facilitation and customs procedures.

In addition to research, RIS organised a major conference titled "South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward," which brought together policymakers and scholars from all South Asian countries. The conference aimed to discuss strategies for overcoming regional integration challenges and explore opportunities for deeper collaboration. RIS also continued its

knowledge dissemination efforts on South Asia through the 'South Asia Economic Journal,' publishing two issues, in a year, featuring research on key trends in the region.

RIS Regional Cooperation Work Programme -Thematic Focus

- Trade and Value Chain Integration
- Digital Connectivity and Fintech
- Sustainable Development and Climate Cooperation
- Capacity building and people to people connectivity
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Blue Economy Development

ASEAN-India Relations: Navigating Opportunities and Challenges

Since the introduction of the "Act East" policy in the early 1990s, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has become a prominent partner for India. Over the past three decades, the relationship between India and ASEAN has flourished, with trade volumes now exceeding US\$130 billion. Cooperation has expanded into various sectors, including infrastructure, the digital economy, and maritime security. Despite these achievements, challenges remain that need to be addressed to strengthen India-ASEAN ties and enhance regional integration.

One of the primary challenges in the India-ASEAN economic relationship is the persistent trade imbalance. Despite the existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which was intended to enhance economic integration, disparities in trade flows remain a significant concern. RIS's research programme this year has thoroughly examined



Brainstorming session on “Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership” at RIS on 17 January 2024.

ASEAN-India trade issues, highlighting the need for a comprehensive reassessment of the FTA. Key recommendations include revising the agreement to better align with evolving interests, reducing trade barriers, and simplifying non-tariff measures (NTMs) that create regulatory obstacles. Strengthening Rules of Origin (RoO) is also essential to clarify which products qualify for FTA concessions, thereby reducing ambiguity and promoting trade consistency.

Climate change has emerged as another critical area of focus. As both India and ASEAN aim to transition towards greener, more sustainable economies, RIS publications have explored collaborative opportunities in sectors such as energy, transport, and infrastructure. Recommendations have included joint efforts to decarbonise key industries, particularly the transport sector, which is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Such collaboration is essential for meeting global climate targets and ensuring a just and equitable transition. Additionally, geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region have brought maritime security cooperation to the forefront. RIS has published papers outlining the potential for deepened maritime cooperation, including surveillance, joint patrols, and information sharing. These articles emphasise the need for enhanced collaboration to safeguard vital sea lanes and

promote freedom of navigation, which is crucial for regional stability and global trade.

Throughout the year, RIS organised several events to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between India and ASEAN on these critical issues. Events such as “Decarbonisation and Global Value Chains” and “20th ASEAN-India Summit: From Outcomes to Implementation” focused on translating high-level commitments into actionable plans. Conferences like “Advancing India’s Act East Policy”, “Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership” and “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework: Issues and Way Forward” explored the importance of deepening ties amid shifting global geopolitics, emphasising collaborative efforts in maritime security, food security, trade, and the digital economy.

BIMSTEC: Connecting South and Southeast Asia

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is another regional grouping of significant importance to India. It is emerging as a crucial platform for enhancing collaboration among South and Southeast Asian nations around the Bay of Bengal. BIMSTEC is instrumental in advancing economic integration, improving connectivity, and strengthening security cooperation. For



“20th ASEAN-India Summit: From Outcomes to Implementation” was held on 8 February 2024 at RIS.

India, BIMSTEC not only deepens relationships with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka but also bolsters strategic ties with Southeast Asia.

Despite its growing significance, BIMSTEC has yet to finalise a regional trade agreement. RIS has highlighted the potential for deeper economic integration within the BIMSTEC region through its report on emerging agricultural value chains. This report emphasised the importance of enhancing regional cooperation in agriculture to stabilise prices, boost production, and create resilient value chains. It also recommended the harmonisation of standards to facilitate value chain integration.

In addition, RIS organised a capacity-building programme titled “RIS-IFPRI Capacity Building on BIMSTEC Regional Agriculture Trade Analysis,” aimed at equipping participants with the skills needed to enhance agricultural trade across the BIMSTEC region. Another notable event this year was the two-day international conference on “Bay of Bengal and India-Japan Economic Relations.” This conference brought together over 50 leading scholars and policy planners from India, Japan, and Bangladesh to discuss the potential for a trilateral partnership between India, Japan, and Bangladesh to boost development in the Bay of Bengal region.

BRICS and IBSA: Shaping Global Governance

BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and IBSA, which includes India, Brazil, and South Africa, have made notable strides in reshaping global governance through their emphasis on multilateralism and inclusive policies, highlighting the importance of such groupings. RIS has an active work programme on BRICS and IBSA Cooperation, producing reports, and policy inputs. Over the past year, RIS has provided significant support to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for Indian delegations at BRICS meetings, particularly on issues related to BRICS expansion. As the nodal institution for the BRICS Think Tank Council and BRICS Civil Forum, RIS has worked closely with stakeholders to strengthen people-to-people ties and advance India’s interests within these frameworks.

For IBSA, RIS focuses on enhancing partnerships between India, Brazil, and South Africa. Last year, RIS successfully completed the third cycle of the IBSA Fellowship Programme, hosting fellows from member countries to facilitate academic and policy exchanges. RIS also provides inputs for official IBSA meetings. These efforts support IBSA’s role in shaping global governance and promoting inclusive development.

IORA

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) continues to remain as a significant regional grouping in Afro-Asia, with RIS playing a central role as India's academic focal point since its inception. IORA aims to promote regional cooperation and integration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean. RIS has undertaken various studies on IORA's potential, focusing on trade, the Blue Economy, and infrastructure development. This year, RIS submitted a report recommending institutional reforms within IORA to secure financial stability and enhance the Secretariat's capacity to execute its work programme effectively.

Focus Areas of Future

Looking ahead, RIS will continue to explore new regional dynamics and their implications for India's trade and economic development. Our future research agenda will focus on several key areas including promoting blue economy, advancing digital connectivity across regions and deepening analysis of the impact of geopolitical shifts on regional economic architecture. A renewed emphasis will be placed on the revival of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and exploring mechanisms for a common currency to enhance trade and financial stability. Additionally, RIS aims to strengthen its focus on sustainable development, examining how regional initiatives can better contribute to global climate goals and promote equitable growth in the era of digital transformation.

Major Programmes

- In the context of the G20 agenda, a panel discussion was held on 13 December 2023, to discuss the Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report 2024 and its implications for accelerating SDGs.
- RIS partnered with the Centre for Myanmar Studies, University of Manipur, to conduct a seminar on Advancing India's Act East Policy on 23 December 2023.
- RIS organized a hybrid panel discussion on 17 January 2024, focused on India-Indonesia partnerships and exploring new opportunities.
- A brainstorming session on "Strengthening ASEAN-India Partnership" was conducted by the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS on 17 January 2024.
- The International Seminar on "20th ASEAN-India Summit: From Outcomes to Implementation" was held at RIS on 8 February 2024.
- RIS collaborated with BASE University and other organizations to conduct a capacity-building program on agricultural trade for young researchers on 19-20 February 2024.
- A delegation from the Russian Federation, led by Dr. Victoria Panova, visited RIS on February 21, 2024, to discuss the BRICS Civil Forum.
- An International Conference on "Bay of Bengal and India-Japan Economic Relations" took place in Kolkata on 11-12 March 2024, organized in collaboration with several esteemed institutions.
- Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of BIMSTEC, visited RIS on 6 March 2024, for a collaborative session on enhancing BIMSTEC's working structure.

Major Publications

Policy Brief

- Mekok Ganga Policy Brief- No 12 January 2023

AIC Commentaries

- No. 45: Indo-ASEAN Cooperation for Facilitating Just Green Transition by Anshuman Gupta, November 2023
- No. 44: 43rd ASEAN Summit: Key Takeaways by Sampa Kundu, October 2023
- No. 43: Decarbonizing Transport Sector: Prospects of ASEANIndia Collaboration by Pradeep Karuturi, Rohan Malhotra and Perminder Jit Kaur, September 2023
- No. 42: Potential of ASEAN-India Partnership in Managing Drug Trafficking, August 2023
- No.41: 42nd ASEAN Summit: Outcomes and Future Outlook, July 2023
- No. 39: The Bay of Bengal as Zone of Peace and Prosperity by Sanjay Pulipaka, May 2023
- No. 40: Cultural Diplomacy: Tapping Potential of Traditional Sports, by U Thuta Aung, June 2023
- No. 48: India-ASEAN Relations: Need for Deeper Engagement by Chintamani Mahapatra
- No. 47: Addressing Non Traditional Maritime Threats - Options for India and ASEAN by Captain Sarabjeet S Parmar
- No. 46: Fostering Future ASEANIndia Collaboration: A Strategic Five-Pronged Agenda by Piyanat Soikham

Books/Reports

- Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region, RIS-IFPRI, New Delhi, 2024
- Discussion Papers
- Analyzing IndiaNepal Economic Integration: Status, Challenges and Way Forward by Pankaj Vashisht
- #288: Strengthening Regional Integration in South Asia: A Strategy Paper on Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation by Prabir De



Connectivity and Infrastructure

India has been deeply cognizant of the importance of maritime connectivity and infrastructure in the neighbourhood and beyond. Maritime connectivity in its true sense encompasses both soft elements (digital, energy, and ‘on the airwaves’), and hard assets (infrastructure in water and on land.) Additionally, connectivity - at regional as well larger scales - is coupled in fact with energy and growth. Furthermore, strategic advantages can accrue from particular projects (bilateral as well as multilateral), and such projects and their commerce must be structurally facilitated with special attention. As facilitators of such holistic maritime connectivity and infrastructure in India’s neighbourhood and beyond, CMEC at RIS (launched in January 2022 to act as a policy advisory arm to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways or MoPSW) continued in 2023-24 to play the role of enablers and force multipliers.

Facilitating Strategic Investments

Connectivity and infrastructure demand investment, and an investment-friendly environment. Strategic investments in particular, like the International North-South Transport Corridor or INSTC and Chabahar Port, deserve special attention in this regard, and are a key focus area under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. An edited volume titled ‘Propelling India’s Maritime Vision: Impact of Government Policies’ examines a range of regulatory reforms in India (including in the financial architecture of Indian ports) and demonstrates their importance as an important platform for investors. The India Middle-East Europe Corridor (IMEC) can be transformative for continental as well as maritime integration and connectivity, and its significance was adequately demonstrated to the reader. Industry will continue to play a key



RIS co-organised at the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 in Mumbai on 17-19 October 2023.

role in maritime connectivity and infrastructure, and the operations and contributions of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) as an enabler of maritime connectivity were accordingly examined. Potential areas for investments in maritime sector were explored, alongside an examination of how the shipping sector can be further incentivised. A separate section in the book was devoted rightly to the critical subject of technology, and reminded the reader that it is the innovation race - especially in new technologies like blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc., which will determine the winners of the global maritime sector.

Promoting Regional Connectivity

Regional connectivity rests on the quality of a region's ports, and India rightly seeks to move towards port-led development in the future. Thus, two policy briefs explored specific port-related connectivity issues in India's neighbourhood. The first 'Operationalisation of Sittwe Port and What It Means for Regional Connectivity in the

Bay of Bengal' examined Sittwe port in Southeast Myanmar, which became operational with a new terminal. This brief explored the significance of its operationalisation for regional connectivity, including as a node in an alternate sea route to India's Northeast region. It thus presented to the reader the big maritime picture through this case study, and situated Sittwe port as part of the larger Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) between India and Myanmar. The KMTTP's waterways and road components were demonstrated with helpful maps and figures, and Sittwe port's potential to unlock Northeast India's economic potential was shown. It ended by recommending inter alia that similar development be undertaken for multi-modal connectivity among other ports in the larger Bay of Bengal region.

The second policy brief 'Riding the Waves: Some Ideas on Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal' undertook a holistic analysis of maritime connectivity in the Bay of Bengal region, and highlighted the need to establish new ports (and expand existing ports) therein. The need to create an inventory of all ports in the region, alongside data regarding their current role(s), constraints,

and possibilities for expansion, was correctly highlighted. Maritime connectivity requires enablers in the form of finance, green technology, and common, standardised operating regulations and procedures - and their need was correctly noted. It also highlighted the recently signed draft BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Cooperation, and the potential therein for setting up standard operating procedure(s) for BIMSTEC nations. On the critical issue of finance in particular, it noted that The International Financial Centre in GIFT city (Gujarat) can serve as a platform for the development of investments in connectivity and infrastructural projects.

Promoting Regional Growth

Seeking to integrate stakeholders and simultaneously boost investments in connectivity and infrastructure, CMEC at RIS co-organised the Global Maritime India Summit in Mumbai. Alongside a global online and physical audience totaling thousands of persons (including CEOs) and hundreds of companies, Ministers from



ten countries also attended the Summit. The Honorable Prime Minister of India launched 'Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', a future roadmap document, and the Summit highlighted key investment and employment opportunities arising out of the specifics of this roadmap



Distinguished Dignitaries at GMIS.



Roundtable on CMEC in progress.

document. Simultaneously, maritime connectivity was provided with a cross-sectoral boost through some Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth lakhs of crores, which covered a wide range of areas from green initiatives to knowledge sharing. The Honorable Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for 11 transformative projects with a total value of thousands of crores.

CMEC consistently released its interdisciplinary newsletter, 'Maritime Briefing,' with a total of 12 editions published in 2023-24. Its extensive Outreach Programme continues to integrate and knit maritime stakeholders towards mutual growth and benefit, and seeks to inter alia build knowledge-sharing network(s) amongst persons and organisations in and out of government(s).

India's bilateral maritime engagements, particularly those in India's neighbourhood, form a critical part of larger connectivity and infrastructure initiatives. An advisory (titled 'Potential Areas of Maritime Cooperation between India and Australia') provided texture and specificity to Pillar 7 (Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport) of the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI), an initiative which seeks to provide first order specificity to India's maritime vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The practicalities of maritime connectivity and infrastructure demand in-depth examination, and comparative assessments in particular provide useful insights to policymakers and planners. Accordingly, CMEC undertook a study titled 'A Comparative Study of the Maritime Transport Agreements of BIMSTEC Nations and the Way Forward' and submitted it to the National Shipping Board (India). Additionally, a report titled 'Expanding Contours of India's Maritime Sector,' focused on boosting India-Bangladesh connectivity and emanating out of extensive consultations at a roundtable held in Kolkata, outlined the key trends, challenges and opportunities in India's ever evolving maritime landscape.

To reiterate, regional connectivity and growth will act as a springboard and enable India (and her industry) to expand its reach and footprint beyond India's immediate neighbourhood. Accordingly, RIS held a round table discussion to elicit diverse points of view on the 'Galathea Bay' project (recently notified as a major port) and 'India-Bangladesh Connectivity'. The discussion correctly highlighted the importance of Galathea Bay for connectivity, and pointed out the importance of India's east coast for easing the logistics pressure on India's western coast. On this issue, India's Syama Prasad

Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (“SMPK”) proposed the development of a Greenfield International Container Transshipment Port and Free Trade Zone in Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar Island. Bangladesh’s keenness to sign a Free Trade Agreement with India was also noted as a potential avenue that India can leverage to boost connectivity in her neighbourhood.

Connectivity and Commerce

Addressing broader commercial themes, RIS hosted the inaugural ‘CMEC Distinguished Lecture Series’ on 29th January 2024 at New Delhi. In his inaugural lecture, Shri Rajiv Jalota, Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust and of the Indian Port Association explained how Indian port infrastructure had scaled up rapidly over time, and was now taking on new commercial challenges like capturing revenue from ships anchored beyond port limits. Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, former Union Secretary in MoPSW and the Ministry of Mines, highlighted the significance and potential of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the port sector.

The discussion paper titled *Assessing India-Vietnam Maritime Trade: An Empirical Exploration* focused on Vietnam, an important partner for India for commercial as well as strategic reasons. It sought to assess, in empirical terms, the maritime trade between India and Vietnam. The analysis (which covered large amounts of trade data) showed a rising volume of ocean trade (and a changing volume-value ratio VVR) between India and Vietnam. The analysis indicated that larger volume of ocean trade lead to a fall in ocean freight between India and Vietnam.

The Connectivity-Energy Interplay

Energy security, and the security of energy form critical sub-aspects of maritime connectivity and infrastructure. Accordingly, the South

Asian Group for Energy (SAGE) at RIS aims to undertake the following - identify infrastructural constraints in Power Transmission connectivity and suggest remedial strategies, identify trade and investment potential (particularly in the energy sector) and suggest measures to address regulatory gaps in the region, identify regional technological solutions in the power sector (generation as well as transmission) and suggest financing and funding options, and, suggest institutional framework(s) for planning and monitoring of project implementation. It also seeks to facilitate India’s efforts at creating a common energy grid in her neighbourhood and beyond, an idea (called One Sun, One World, One Grid, or OSOWOG) proposed by Hon’ble Prime Minister.

In line with these objectives, SAGE convened a meeting to deliberate upon energy-related aspects of connectivity, and focused on broadening SAGE’s scope by incorporating other energy verticals such as petroleum, natural gas, and green energy technologies. Separately, and along with the South Asia Regional Energy partnership (SAREP) Programme of USAID, SAGE also organised a workshop on the ‘Prospects of Clean Energy Transformation and Border Energy Trade in South Asia.’

Focus Areas of Future

To boost the goals and interventions required to achieve India’s Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, and Maritime India Vision 2030, CMEC at RIS will continue to act as a catalyst and resource centre by providing evidence-based inputs towards sustainable, accelerated growth of India’s maritime sector. Technology-driven insights and recommendations for enhancing performance, productivity, efficiency, and cyber-resilience of the maritime sector remain the focus areas of cutting-edge research at CMEC and RIS. Ongoing efforts in this area include a knowledge repository and interactive database that will be used to provide evidence-based inputs to policymakers.

Major Programmes

- A roundtable on 20 April 2023 discussed the 'Galathea Bay' project and 'India-Bangladesh Connectivity,' focusing on developing a Greenfield International Container Transshipment Port in Galathea Bay, Great Nicobar.
- CMEC submitted a policy advisory to the National Shipping Board on 2 June 2023, analyzing maritime transport agreements within BIMSTEC nations.
- SAGE and USAID's SAREP Programme organized a workshop on Clean Energy Transformation on 18-19 June 2023, with Power Secretaries from South Asian countries.
- SAGE convened a meeting on 20 July 2023, chaired by Shri RV Shahi, to outline its future work and enhance collaboration with MEA.
- CMEC at RIS partnered in the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (17-19 October), inaugurated by PM Modi in Mumbai. CMEC's publication, "Propelling India's Maritime Vision," was launched during the event.
- RIS hosted the inaugural CMEC Distinguished Lecture on 29 January 2024, with Shri Rajiv Jalota delivering the first lecture.

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Major Publications

Discussion Papers

- #284: Assessing India-Vietnam Maritime Trade: An Empirical Exploration by Prabir De & Tuhinshubhra Giri

Policy Briefs

- #1: Riding the Waves: Some Ideas on Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal by Subhomoy Bhattacharjee
- #2: Operationalisation of Sittwe Port and What It Means for Regional Connectivity in Bay of Bengal by Prabir De

Book

- Propelling India's Maritime Vision Impact of Government Policies, RIS-CMEC, New Delhi, 2023



Science, Technology and Innovation

RIS holds a rich research legacy in pursuing policy research on Science, Technology and Innovation while approaching the domain from a development perspective lens. RIS has both initiated and engaged in several national and international projects pertaining to STI policy since its inception. RIS' STI work programme has emphasised upon technology impact assessment as a core focus. Considering the Fourth Industrial Revolution, its recent efforts have focused on exploring the discourse on development and governance in frontier technologies including AI and modern biotechnologies.

RIS is also capitalising upon the renewed impetus that science diplomacy is receiving in the current geopolitical context. Having organised several capacity-building programmes on science diplomacy over the past few years, RIS has been engaged in developing a new lexicon on science diplomacy drawing from the experiences of the Global South in general and India in particular. Impactful interventions herein have been initiated in domains including space economy, Arctic and bio governance. Furthermore, RIS

encourages public engagement through the STIP Forum Lectures, fostering dialogue on the societal impacts of STI and emerging technologies.

Impact Assessment and Evaluation

Impact assessment and evaluation has emerged as a key dimension within the STI policy domain. Such exercises contribute to the evidence-based policy making, by identifying the gaps and providing valuable insights for effective implementation and course-correction. During 2023-24, RIS completed a Third-Party Evaluation Study of five Central Sector Schemes implemented by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under a project sponsored by NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO). Nation-wide surveys (both field and online) were carried out for process evaluation and impact analysis of those schemes implemented during 2017-2022.

In pursuing its work on impact assessment, RIS made an effort to focus on emerging and frontier technologies including AI and biotechnology, particularly in the post-pandemic context. Publications as well as lectures from RIS faculty have sought to shine the spotlight on the emergence of an 'Integrated Innovation System' in the post-pandemic context, imbibing features of both national as well as sectoral innovation systems.

RIS has also contributed to the evolving discourse on AI governance by assessing the relevance of periodic developments in the global AI and bio-governance fronts including CRISPR and synthetic biology. RIS has partnered with the Centre for Responsible AI, IIT Madras, to work on issues related to Responsible AI.

It has been part of networks such as Globelics and IndiaLICS, intended to deliberate upon linkages between innovation, development and economics. It co-sponsored the 20th Globelics International Conference held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala). RIS faculty members actively participated in the conference while offering their perspectives on the broad theme of *"Innovation-Driven Knowledge-Economies and Transformation in the Global South"*.

As the Government of India is carrying digitalisation forward with great momentum, RIS' work has sought to present key inputs, while highlighting its potential within the context of sustainable and inclusive development. It is currently participating in two international projects funded by the European Commission. As part of the PRODIGEES project, RIS has been working with multiple global research institutions to study the state of digitalisation and its impact on sustainable development, in select countries across Asia, Europe, Latin America and Africa. As part of PREPARED project, RIS works with other partner institutions in developing guidelines, safeguarding ethical values and supporting rapid and effective interventions in public health crises besides enhancing pandemic preparedness.

Space Economy and Bioeconomy

As India seeks to boost its space economy through a series of reforms, RIS has sought to explore space policy and diplomacy as a major area of intervention. Along with aspects relating to space economy in India, academia-industry interface, trade in space related services and technologies and space economy diplomacy are covered within this research domain. RIS has submitted a report on *"Expanding India's Growing Commercial Space Sector Footprint Internationally"* to the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Department of Space, Government of India, as part of a study sponsored by the latter. The primary objective of the study was to identify a set of countries from within the G20 multilateral and countries outside the G20, where Indian commercial space sector exports can land safely and a secure bilateral business pipeline could be created for them. RIS carried-out this first-of-its-kind study based on a survey with heads of Indian diplomatic missions and senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, where inputs regarding economic, political, and strategic favourability of various countries to engage with Indian space-sector companies have been assessed. RIS also participated in the Space20 meetings as a part of India's G20 Presidency. It was also part of the deliberations relating to space diplomacy at the India Space Congress 2023.

An effort has been made to lay a concerted focus on understanding global policy currents emanating around bioeconomy, a novel policy paradigm. In this regard, the *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, one of RIS' flagship peer-reviewed journals, has published two Special Issues on Bioeconomy. These issues were jointly edited in collaboration with the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice (GSEJ), University of Kent, UK and the School of Biotechnology, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), respectively. It has thereby added significant value to the

evolving scholarly discourse on the matter. RIS plans on laying continued focus on bioeconomy, particularly from the point of view of assessing and contributing to international policy with respect to bioeconomy measurement frameworks.

DST Satellite Centre for Policy Research on Science Diplomacy

A Satellite Centre for Policy Research on Science Diplomacy at RIS has been approved by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Centre's activities shall encompass policy and strategy research on science diplomacy and related themes, aligned with India's national, regional and global priorities. The work programme of the centre shall focus on areas including exploring science diplomacy from the perspective of the Global South, envisioning effective modalities for engaging STEM diaspora and conducting capacity building.

RIS has been contributing towards capacity building, training, building networks and pursuing research within the domain of science diplomacy since 2018. It has been conducting the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) course on science diplomacy, and will be organising its fifth edition in 2025. In addition, Level 1 Course on Science Diplomacy has been designed for the Capacity Building Commission-managed iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi portal, an online learning platform developed for capacity building of all government employees. The course introduces science diplomacy, its stakeholders and modalities. RIS is also working on developing a course on science diplomacy for the UGC SWAYAM portal. As part of the dissemination and outreach, RIS publishes the *Science Diplomacy Review*, an open-access peer-reviewed journal. Serving as a forum for scholarship on theoretical and practical dimensions in science diplomacy,





Dr Ramesh Anant Mashelkar, FRS, Former Director-General, CSIR and Former President, Global Research Alliance and Indian National Science Academy delivered the 50th STIP Forum Public Lecture, marking the Golden Anniversary of the STIP Forum Lecture series, held at New Delhi on 21 November 2023.

it seeks to engage with the developments, issues, perspectives and institutions in science diplomacy. To this end, RIS faculty members have published extensively on science diplomacy and related issues. The team also brings forth the *Science Diplomacy Alert*, a fortnightly newsletter on STI policy and diplomacy since 2018.

Golden Jubilee of STIP Forum Lecture Series

In addition to fostering research that adds new dimensions to the policy discourse, RIS through various endeavours have sought to engage

in effective science communication with the aim to bridge science-society gap. The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture Series, started in 2017, is one such endeavour. STIP Forum has been set-up by RIS in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre, TERI, CEFIPRA, and Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. STIP Forum public lectures are delivered by eminent experts on various important topics related to STI. The 50th STIP Forum Public Lecture, marking the Golden Jubilee of the Lecture Series was delivered by Dr Raghunath Anant Mashelkar, Former Director-General, CSIR on the topic of “*From Developing India@75 to Developed Bharat@100: Vision and Roadmap for Science, Technology and Innovation during Amrit Kaal*”. Public lectures were also delivered on National Quantum Mission and use of CRISPR for developing future crops.

Focus Areas of Research

The STI Work Programme shall draw from its research legacy on AEI, while continuing to substantiate and consolidate the same. In this regard, it shall concentrate on the development of indices related to AEI. The emphasis shall also be laid on shaping policy currents evolving around new techno-economic paradigms including digital economy, space economy, and bioeconomy. RIS shall continue its interventions on emerging and frontier technologies including on aspects related to their governance and regulation. It also plans to lay concerted focus on researching space trade including services and contribute to the development of accounting frameworks for the space economy.

While upholding the values underlying inclusivity and sustainable development, it shall further deepen its research work on Responsible AI in line with the *Viksit Bharat @2047* vision. In doing so, it shall work with other RIS verticals to identify the best means through which AI can be leveraged to further India’s goals in the realm



Professor K. C. Bansal, Former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources and Member, Board of Trustees, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation delivered the 51st STIP Forum Public Lecture held at New Delhi on 24 January 2024

of trade, development, and diplomacy. Through the newly set up Satellite Centre on Science Diplomacy, RIS intends to add to the discourse on the theorisation and practice of science diplomacy based on India's experiences in particular and the Global South's experiences in general.

Major Programmes

- RIS hosted a delegation from the US Embassy, led by Mr. Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counselor, and other officials, on 25 May 2023 to discuss the India-US Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) and explore potential areas of cooperation.
- The 49th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Professor Urbasi Sinha, Head of Quantum Information and Computing Lab, Raman Research Institute, on 1 June 2023. The lecture focused on the "Role and Significance of the National Quantum Mission in India's Development", chaired by Professor Ashutosh Sharma.
- On 27 October 2023, RIS and MyGov organised a virtual session on "Strengthening University-Industry-Startup Innovation Connect post Chandrayaan-3", aiming to engage students on building robust innovation ecosystems.
- The 50th STIP Forum Public Lecture, celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the lecture series, was delivered by Dr Ramesh Anant Mashelkar on 21 November 2023 in New Delhi. His lecture focused on "From Developing India@75 to Developed Bharat@100: Vision and Roadmap for Science, Technology, and Innovation during Amrit Kaal".

- RIS, in collaboration with the G20 Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, and the Republic of Indonesia, organised the Global Summit on LiFE Economy: From Principles to Action on 26-28 November 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event saw cooperation from GiZ, OECD, UNRISD, Impact Hub, and Fourth Sector Group.
- The 51st STIP Forum Public Lecture was delivered by Professor K.C. Bansal, Former Director of ICAR-NBPGR, on 24 January 2024 in New Delhi. The lecture, titled “CRISPR for Developing Future Crops,” was chaired by Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI.
- On 6 March 2024, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG RIS, delivered a lecture on “Science Diplomacy: Issues, Policy Choices, and Southern Perspectives”, organised by the Capacity Building Commission.

Major Publications

Books/Reports

- Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Roadmaps for India, RIS, New Delhi 2024
- Balakrishnan, Bhaskar. 2024. “Management of Ocean Space around India and the High Seas Treaty, ICWA, January.
- Study of Select Central Sector of Department of Science and Technology, submitted to Niti Aayog.
- Third-Party Evaluation Report Study of Central Sector Schemes implemented by DBT and BIRAC, submitted to Niti Aayog.

Journal

- Asian Biotechnology Development Review, Vol 25, No 3, November 2023
- Asian Biotechnology Development Review, Vol 26, No 1, March 2024
- Science Diplomacy Review Vol 5, No1 & 2, August 2023
- Science Diplomacy Review Vol 6, No1, April 2024



Traditional Medicine

The national and global discourse on traditional medicines includes a wide spectrum of issues ranging from sustainability of supply chains to traceability and standards subscription challenges in exports-led growth. India's traditional medicine sector also faces its own challenges. While the Ayush sector has been witnessing a steady growth in exports, varying regulatory landscapes for each market and non-tariff barriers to trade create restrictions to access. Lack of data adds to complexities in effective policy strategies. Further, within Ayush industry, normatively dependent on formulations derived from classical texts and against the use of new chemical entities, the use of IPRs to spur innovations is emerging as a contentious debate. FITM closely studies these issues, both in manufacturing and services for feeding into relevant policy output by the Ministry of Ayush.

This year the focus of research has been on emerging issues of trade, preparedness and growth strategies for the manufacturing and services sectors, multilateral cooperation and

institutionalisation in health governance. It includes a survey of domestic preparedness on safety and efficacy of Ayush pharmaceuticals, standards subscriptions and conformity with traceability norms of major importers, mapping of Ayush manufacturing MSMEs including a firm and state-level analysis of their competitiveness, current strategies and challenges and a survey-based study mapping the size and geographical distribution, the revenue generated and the number and nature of employment in Ayush services sector.

Domestic Preparedness as an Imperative for Growth

The Ayush industry is currently undergoing a significant transition. Buoyed by the growing global and domestic demand and enabled by a strong support to regulatory, R&D and backend infrastructure the sector has shown tremendous growth in the last few years. RIS in its seminal report Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and

Challenges has estimated the size of the Ayush goods sector at USD 23.3 bn in 2022. Yet this growth potential is vastly untapped. Acceptance of traditional medicines as pharmaceuticals outside the countries of origin is still evolving. Market access is highly dependent on the importing countries' regulatory requirements in authorisation, quality and safety. These vary considerably and as per FITM's study on Regulatory Opportunities and Challenges in Key Markets Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) as some of the main hurdles to herbal exports. Traceability through Standards subscription is still a challenge among Indian manufacturers where recommendations for GMP in Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (Schedule T) to be upgraded on the lines of WHO GMP Guidelines for mandatory standards compliance, the need for overhaul of GMP norms prescribed for medicines containing minerals, and International ISO standards for Ayush have been recommended by RIS.

Institutional Linkages for Implementation of Trade Policy Priorities

Domestic preparedness in trade policy implementation is also an important imperative given the high export competitiveness of Ayush sector. India's total global export of Ayush products including pharmaceuticals, extracts and medicinal plants was USD 1.02 billion in 2023. Many products of Ayush such as nutraceuticals, spices, cosmetics, surgical and panchakarma devices, and food supplements are scattered under different HS Chapters in their respective others category. Research and recommendations to the Ministry of Ayush by RIS have highlighted that export facilitation through reframing/ expansion of the HS classification is an important policy intervention required to incorporate AYUSH products leaving the country under various chapters as it will offer greater clarity to policy makers and assist in real-time monitoring of the sector. Based on the reports submitted on HS classifications the Ministry of Ayush



The Ministry of Ayush and RIS, formalized their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 27 February 2024. (From left): Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi.

constituted the Ayush Export Promotion Council (AEPC). This is expected to facilitate trade policy priorities in the long run. The proposed newsletter on the Ayush industry to be brought out by FITM in collaboration with AEPC would also serve as a knowledge repository of events

Multilateral Frameworks and Southern Solidarity in Traditional Medicines Promotion

As countries increasingly institutionalise traditional medicines it is also emerging as an important agenda in multilateral discussions. At India's G20 Presidency, RIS outreach activities focused on India's Views and Perspective on Global Wellness Agenda with an emphasis on traditional medicine systems and Ayurveda as the Holistic Science of Well Being of the World. This conference encompassed discussions on diet, mental well-being and preventive, personalised therapeutic components of Ayurveda. Additionally, FITM published the G20 Primer on Traditional Medicine which highlighted One Health, Universal Health Coverage, and evidence based preventive medicine, Yoga, R&D and digital technologies in Ayush healthcare. RIS participated in the WHO Global Summit for Traditional Medicine co-hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH, as a part of the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting. Hon'ble Prime Minister at the Summit highlighted the important step towards holistic health, wellness and resilience through traditional medicines. Recognising these crucial developments during India's G20 Presidency, FITM published a discussion paper on India's G20 Presidency and Initiatives on Promotion of Traditional Medicines underscoring the importance of promoting dialogue, the exchange of best practices, and international cooperation to harness the potential of traditional medicine to improve global health outcomes.

Overall, countries of the global South, as major repositories of traditional knowledge of medicine and related health systems, are increasingly seeking to strengthen domestic infrastructure through multilateral South-South cooperation. African countries individually and as a region are a key representative of the global South with strong usage of traditional medicines and a wide variation in institutionalisation and regulatory developments. The inclination to create regulatory and integrative healthcare infrastructure for traditional medicines drawn from lessons of countries like India has created prospects for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between India and Africa. That India's exports of Ayush pharmaceuticals to Africa accounted for about 19 per cent of its global exports in 2023 further strengthens the proposition of a mutually beneficial cooperation on traditional medicine systems. Research by FITM aims to further India's policy strategies on these issues.

Regional cooperation frameworks for growth through complementarities in history and practice is another mechanism being explored with varying degrees of success. This includes for example the SAARC region which is endowed with several historical systems of traditional medicine with strong intra-regional complementarities in practice and usage. Medical traditions especially Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha and Sowa Rigpa share broadly common theoretical and similar therapeutic principles with all countries of SAARC referring to the same classical texts for regulatory management of goods and healthcare services. Yet, as the Discussion paper 'Traditional Medicine in SAARC: A Regional Cooperation Framework' highlights that despite South Asian region being attractive to individual SAARC countries as an export destination for several Ayush goods vis a vis the rest of the world, it fares poorly as compared to other regional groupings like BIMSTEC and ASEAN.



IBSA Fellow from South Africa Dr Rajendran Govender presented his paper on “Institutional Framework for the Promotion and Protection of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) with the focus on Traditional Medicine (TM): Lessons from IBSA” on 27 June 2023, RIS. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, chairing the session and H. E. Mr Joel Sibusiso Ndebele, High Commissioner, South African High Commission, New Delhi was also present during the session.

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Internationalisation and IP Protection for Traditional Knowledge of Medicine

The growing traditional medicine industry is also exploring the use of IPRs to incentivize investment in innovation. RIS, in the past, has produced a rich literature on the interlinkage of IPRs, biological resources and associated knowledge systems. Continuing this research focus, Institutional Framework for the Promotion and Protection of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Traditional Knowledge with special focus on Lessons from IBSA countries was explored. It discussed several initiatives and institutions in IBSA Countries like Biological Diversity Act 2002 of India, Traditional Health Practitioners Act of South Africa, laws to safeguard traditional knowledge, particularly related to biodiversity and traditional medicine in Brazil; Given that

local communities have been the custodians of traditional knowledge of medicine and biodiversity a book titled Partners in Progress: The Role of Indigenous People in Sustainable Growth provides a global perspective on the socio-cultural, legal and development related issues and role of indigenous communities.

Institutional Frameworks for Knowledge Generation

Capacity building on Ayush research through institutional frameworks such as Fellowships programmes is a unique initiative under FITM. At present two Doctoral Fellows and one Post-Doctoral Fellow are enrolled in FITM Fellowship Programme. A report by FITM Research Fellow Preet Amol Singh on Agricultural Adoption of Medicinal Plants in Punjab: A Feasibility Study has also been published by FITM. FITM also publishes Traditional Medicine Review, a

peer-reviewed journal which focuses on socio-economic development, public policy, ethical and regulatory aspects of traditional medicine systems from national and global governance perspectives. Two issues of the *Traditional Medicine Review* on a wide range of issues were published during this period.

Focus Areas of Future

Given the need for addressing research and data gaps in traditional medicine, FITM's work programmes will focus on mapping and analysing competitiveness, innovation and exports of Ayush. A survey-based study of the Ayush service sector in India is expected to generate information with respect to number, size and geographical distribution of Ayush

service enterprises, revenue generated and the number and nature of employment in this sector. Research would also be focussed on medicinal plant markets in India with the aim of generating inputs on supply chain, price volatility, and economic viability of medicinal plant cultivation and growth strategies drawn from infrastructure of medicinal plants market places. The industry is now exploring the use of IPRs to incentivize investment in innovation. Mapping this debate is another prerogative of future research at RIS. Data generation on Ayush trade including free trade agreements and studies exploring regional cooperation in ASEAN countries in pharmacopeial standards setting with reference to traditional medicines are other imperatives to be explored.

Major Programmes

- As part of IBSA fellowship programme, IBSA Fellow from South Africa, Dr Rajendran Govender, presented his paper on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Traditional Medicine (TM) at a seminar at RIS on 27 June 2023.
- A national conference on 'Ayurveda: Holistic Science of Well-Being for the World' was held on 15-16 August 2023 at the Indian Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla, co-organised by RIS, IIAS, and Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF).
- On 27 February 2024, the Ministry of Ayush and RIS formalised their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing academic cooperation in Indian Traditional Medicine. Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha signed the MoU on behalf of the Ministry of Ayush, whereas Director General Professor Sachin Chaturvedi was the signatory on behalf of RIS.

Major Publications

Report

- AYUSH Exports: Regulatory Opportunities and Challenges in Key Markets by Namrata Pathak and Sanjna Agarwal

Discussion Paper

- 283: Traditional Medicine in SAARC: A Regional Cooperation Framework by Namrata Pathak

Journal

- Traditional Medicine Review, Vol 3, No 2, October 2023
- Traditional Medicine Review, Vol 4, No 1, April 2024



RIS @ 40: Shaping Global Economic Narratives

Introduction

In 1983, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) was established in New Delhi as a pioneering policy research institution with a mandate to advocate and provide analytical support for developing countries on matters of international economic policies. Amid the celebratory milestone of RIS' 40 years journey, it becomes imperative to trace its foundational ethos. From its inception, RIS has served as a conduit for South-South cooperation, a visionary platform where the voices of developing countries converge to reshape the contours of global economic governance.

The institution's ability to anticipate, adapt, and respond to emerging global challenges is emblematic of its commitment to the progressive ideals of international development. Through its robust research programmes, RIS has sought to deploy trade as a conduit for technological innovation and policy-making, harnessing these as instruments for fostering economic growth and sustainable development. Taking

this task forward, the institution has expanded its intellectual and policy-making horizons by incorporating a nuanced focus on finance and investment, reflecting the increasingly complex matrix of factors that shape global development trajectories.

This chapter attempts to study RIS' evolving research agenda, mapping its intellectual trajectory from its formative engagements to its contemporary focus areas. In this light, the chapter reveals the intricate ways in which the think tank has continuously enriched its methodologies and vision, always poised at the nexus of past experience and future possibility, and reinforcing its unwavering commitment to the dynamic needs of developing countries in a rapidly transforming world.

Genesis and Evolution

RIS was born out of the intellectual and political fervour of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which emerged in the 1960s as a platform for

developing countries to assert their independence in the global political arena. NAM's influence extended beyond political neutrality, focusing on economic justice and advocating for a New International Economic Order. In this context, the Group of 77 (G-77) was formed in 1964, followed by the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). These movements provided the foundation for the creation of RIS.

As deliberations at various NAM and G77 Summits progressed, it became evident that a body was needed to provide policy advice, develop negotiation strategies, and foster economic cooperation among developing nations. The Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers in 1976 considered the report on the feasibility of a research and information system and recommended that the Colombo Summit should have this system in place. Subsequently, the



Economic Declaration of the Fifth NAM Summit held in Colombo in 1976 marked the beginning of the Research and Information System for the Developing Countries in the global framework. The first formal steps toward its creation were taken at a meeting in Belgrade in 1979, initiated by the Yugoslav Consortium of Seven Institutions.

As a follow-up of the resolution passed during the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi in 1983, the Government of India decided to set up the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned

and Other Developing Countries (RIS), as an autonomous body with the objective of providing analytical support to the developing countries on the international economic issues of negotiations and also to create a forum for exchange of ideas and information among developing countries. RIS was also mandated as an advisory body to the Government of India on issues of international economic relations and the development of economic and technical cooperation among the non-aligned and developing countries.

RIS began functioning in February 1984 under the leadership of its first Chairman, the late Shri G.

MILESTONES



Parthasarathy, a seasoned diplomat and former Chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee of the Government of India. Professor Sukhamoy Chakravarty, then Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, served as the Vice-Chairman, ensuring that RIS' research agenda was deeply rooted in India's broader economic and policy goals. During its foundational years, the thrust of the institute's work revolved around promoting collective self-reliance among developing countries and advancing South-South cooperation. Under the dynamic leadership of Shri G. Parthasarathi and

Professor V.R. Panchmukhi, Director General, RIS focused on creating a knowledge base that could support developing countries in international negotiations and policymaking.

As the ideological divide between East and West diminished, so did the political relevance of Non-Alignment after the cold war. By 2004, in response to these shifts, RIS was renamed the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, reflecting the economic collaboration and multipolarity.



Current Research Focus

In the present global landscape, RIS has strategically aligned its research and policy advisory activities with the challenges of a multipolar world, where technology, sustainability, and inclusive growth shape the development discourse. The research framework of RIS is organised around four thematically distinct yet interconnected pillars: Global Economic Governance and Cooperation; Trade, Investment, and Regional Cooperation; Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation; and Science, Technology, and Innovation. The

following points outline the work programmes associated with the specific pillar:

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation

As global development discourse evolved, RIS played a critical role in adapting its research focus to address the changing dynamics of international development. The new development paradigm, which emerged after the decline of the NIEO, emphasised inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and human-centred development.

MILESTONES



RIS is Knowledge Partner with the Ministry of Finance for AIIB Annual Meeting 2019. Report on "New Quest for Mobilising Financing for Infrastructure" launched

2018



Development Cooperation Review launched



Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD) launched



Launching of Journal of Asian Economic Integration

2019



G20 Digest launched

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs): Evidence from ASEAN-India Trade



2020

RIS played an active role during COVID-19 by undertaking studies on implications of health crisis

2021

RIS brought three special issue of RIS Diary, discussing issues arisen out of the COVID-19 pandemic

2022

During the G20 Indian Presidency, RIS had been entrusted with major responsibilities to engage in the work programmes

Establishment of Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC)



G20 University Connect Finale, organised at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed over 3000 university students.

2023

Inauguration of DAKSHIN: The Global South Centre of Excellence

Celebration of RIS@40

RIS contributed to this shift by analysing development strategies that go beyond mere economic growth, advocating for the integration of social and environmental dimensions in policymaking.

RIS began to adopt this human-centred approach, recognising that economic development should be measured not only by output but also by improvements in living standards and quality of life. The publication of *Basic Needs Issues in Development: An Appraisal* in 1992 was indeed a precursor to the foundation for MDGs and later SDGs. The basic needs framework shifted the focus of development from macroeconomic indicators to human well-being, arguing that the satisfaction of these fundamental needs is a prerequisite for sustainable economic progress. RIS contributed to welfare economics by challenging GDP as a sole development indicator, proposing a Basic Needs Framework that focuses on deficits in fundamental amenities, shifting attention toward distributional equity and the broader human development agenda.

One of the significant areas in which RIS has contributed is the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognising the importance of the SDGs as a framework for addressing global challenges, RIS has worked closely with Indian institutions such as NITI Aayog, UN bodies, and various government departments to promote sustainability across different spectrums. It has been working on nationalisation and localisation of global SDGs, food security, greening of trade etc.

Further, RIS developed the GAP Index, a novel methodology for measuring performance disparities across Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using PCA and standardised Z-scores, the index quantifies development gaps across sectors such as education and agriculture, thereby offering a more robust means of comparing SDG outcomes across Indian states and aligning them with global sustainability targets. RIS also introduced an Indicative Technology Mapping

(ITM) methodology, aligning STI solutions with specific SDG targets through cross-domain integration, and advancing the discourse on technology-driven inclusive development in health, agriculture, and energy sectors.

Multilateralism at RIS is not confined to the older frameworks of global economic cooperation. Instead, the institution actively engages in the evolving dynamics of global governance, particularly in the realm of emerging technologies, such as AI governance and climate change negotiations. Its work on the global governance of AI is especially noteworthy, where it has contributed to discussions on responsible AI development and the ethical implications of AI-driven technologies.

The institution's role in shaping global economic governance has been particularly significant in forums such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where it consistently advocated for the interests of the Global South. Central to this vision is RIS' work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

South-South cooperation has always been at the heart of RIS' mission and ideology. From its inception, RIS has sought to promote greater economic collaboration among developing countries, advocating for collective self-reliance and shared prosperity. It conveys the hope that development may be achieved by the poor themselves through their mutual assistance to one another, and the whole world order transformed to reflect their mutual interests vis-à-vis the dominant global North. The institution's work on South-South cooperation spans a wide range of topics, including feasible trade agreements, scope for technology transfer, nature of infrastructure development, and building for various policy measures. These efforts have culminated in the establishment of DAKSHIN – the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Designed as a collaborative hub, the Centre aims to facilitate

the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and strategies among developing nations. It will focus on fostering research, building partnerships, and incubating innovative solutions to address critical global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.

At the Third Voice of Global South Summit in 2024, the Prime Minister introduced the concept of a “Development Compact” to reshape South-South cooperation. This framework integrates five key areas: capacity building, technology sharing, trade for development, grants, and concessional finance, each reinforcing the other. If effectively implemented, this compact could establish a new standard for India’s engagement with the Global South.

Trade, Investment, and Regional Cooperation

The second pillar examines the rise of mega Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), bilateral trade relations, Indo-Pacific cooperation, global value chains, and regional cooperation frameworks within SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, and ASEAN. The institution’s work in this area revolves around assessing the impact of these agreements on developing economies, with a particular focus on how they influence employment, investment flows, and technology transfer. Its research is especially critical in regions such as South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Rim, where economic integration holds the promise of collective development.

The Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC), established by RIS under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India, functions as a research and policy advisory institution. CMEC focuses on India’s maritime sector and its regional and Indian Ocean neighbours, addressing both economic and geo-strategic concerns. Its key objectives include developing a comprehensive framework for the sector’s

systematic growth, promoting regulatory frameworks to attract investments, and fostering international cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

Moreover, RIS is a significant contributor to discussions on the Digital Economy. As digital trade grows in prominence, RIS examines the role of digital platforms, e-commerce, and in facilitating cross-border trade and improving the efficiency of global value chains. RIS has conducted detailed studies on how technology can be harnessed for trade facilitation and improved regional connectivity, thus amplifying the developmental dividends of globalisation.

In addition, RIS has introduced innovative methodologies such as the Indicative Technology Mapping (ITM), which aligns science, technology, and innovation (STI) solutions with the specific needs of developing nations. This approach allows for the identification of critical technological interventions that can bridge developmental gaps across sectors such as education, health, and agriculture, further enhancing the institution’s impact on sustainable development strategies.

To enhance trilateral cooperation between India, Brazil, and South Africa, in 2016, RIS launched the IBSA Fellowship Programme, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, India. This initiative fosters academic exchange among young scholars in economics and social sciences, promoting collaborative research within the framework of South-South Cooperation. The programme focuses on multilateral institutional frameworks for global sustainable development, joint research on macro-economy, trade, and development, and other areas of mutual interest under the IBSA partnership.

Regional Connectivity and Trade Facilitation

This area evaluates the developmental impact of physical and digital connectivity, with a focus on trade and transport linkages that enhance

regional economic cooperation. Promoting regional cooperation has been a key focus of RIS, which, through policy advocacy and Track 2 and Track 1.5 diplomacy, has significantly contributed to shaping India's efforts in fostering regional connectivity and trade facilitation. Continuing its tradition, RIS has undertaken numerous research and networking activities to promote cross-border trade and regional integration, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

RIS research underscores the critical role of quality infrastructure, maritime and energy connectivity, and digital networks. These studies have yielded recommendations aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in these sectors. Further, RIS has explored the emergence of the Indo-Pacific as a regional construct and its implications for India, engaging with key stakeholders from countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, ASEAN members, the European Union, and Japan to address constraints and deepen cooperation in these areas.

RIS has made significant strides in advancing India's sub-regional and regional partnerships, particularly in South and Southeast Asia. It is a founding member and nodal point for the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) in India. Recognizing that maritime connectivity is the backbone of global trade, RIS has expanded its discourse to focus on safe, reliable, and efficient shipping routes, supply chain integration, multimodal connectivity, reduced transit times, and the development of well-equipped ports.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

One of the hallmarks of RIS' work in recent years has been its focus on science diplomacy. Through innovative programmes that bring together scientists, policymakers, and industry leaders, RIS has promoted the use of science and technology to address global challenges. Science diplomacy,



which seeks to use scientific collaboration to build international partnerships, has been a key area of focus for RIS as it seeks to advance South-South cooperation in new and innovative ways. RIS has taken a leading role in advancing research on the ethical and socio-economic implications of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology. The institution's focus lies in leveraging these innovations for inclusive growth, while simultaneously addressing the risk of deepening socio-economic inequalities. At the theoretical level, RIS has contributed significantly to discourses on responsible innovation by developing the AEI (Access, Equity, and Inclusiveness) framework. This model offers a structured methodology for assessing the socio-economic impacts of science, technology, and innovation (STI) initiatives, particularly within developing economies, and aligns these assessments with broader developmental objectives.

Its research on responsible innovation, especially in the fields of biotechnology, synthetic biology, and nanotechnology, highlights the institution's commitment to ensuring that technological advancements benefit all of humanity, particularly those in developing countries. It has contributed to the theoretical discourse on responsible innovation by constructing an AEI framework that integrates principles of equity and inclusive growth. This model provides a systematic approach to assessing the socio-economic impacts of STI initiatives, particularly in developing economies, and links them to broader developmental goals.

One of the key achievements of RIS has been its collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH to establish the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM). This initiative has successfully positioned Indian traditional medicine within the global health landscape, notably through the completion of the first-ever market-size assessment of the AYUSH sector. The study provided critical insights into the increasing global demand for traditional medicines, while

also highlighting the evolving challenges in gaining market access, particularly concerning regulatory frameworks.

New Emerging Areas: Expanding Research Horizon

In recent years, RIS has significantly expanded its research agenda, aligning its focus with the pursuit of a more sustainable, ethical, and inclusive global order. Central to this vision is the LiFE economy, a key priority that underscores India's commitment to sustainability. This effort culminated during India's G20 presidency, when the Prime Minister introduced the concept of LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment – to foster environmentally conscious behaviour, individual responsibility, and resource-efficient practices in daily life. In response, RIS spearheaded a distinctive initiative, Task Force 3 on LiFE, Resilience, and Values for Wellbeing, within the G20 framework, which laid the groundwork for the LiFE economy.

Realising the full potential of the LiFE economy necessitates creating an ecosystem that supports for-benefit enterprises, driven by government policies that encourage ethical practices, financial mechanisms that foster sustainability, standardised reporting frameworks, and other measures that create equitable opportunities for these enterprises.

As part of the sustainable living, RIS also took part in the G20 Agricultural Working Group team and contributed to food security, nutritional value etc.

The Blue Economy has emerged as a key development paradigm, where RIS has provided pioneering research on how marine-based activities can contribute to sustainable economic growth. RIS has launched the Blue Economy Forum in 2017. Through its Blue Economy Forum, RIS explores the economic potential of oceans, while promoting policies that protect marine ecosystems and ensure sustainable resource use.

The institution's research in this area extends to fisheries, coastal tourism, maritime transport, and offshore energy, offering comprehensive policy solutions for countries looking to harness the potential of their maritime resources. RIS employed Harmonized System (HS) codes to delineate 780 specific blue economy products, leveraging input-output analysis and sectoral mapping to estimate the global scale of blue trade in 169 countries, contextualising the growing economic importance of marine-based activities.

RIS is also deeply involved in the governance of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI becomes increasingly integrated into various sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, and education, RIS examines how these technologies can be used to address development challenges. At the same time, the institution advocates for a responsible approach to AI development, one that takes into account issues of privacy, security, and equity.

RIS has also turned its attention to the Arctic, recognising the global importance of protecting this fragile ecosystem. As climate change accelerates, the Arctic faces unprecedented environmental challenges, with implications for global sea levels, biodiversity, and indigenous populations. RIS is contributing to the policy discourse on Arctic protection by researching how international cooperation can safeguard this region while ensuring that its resources are used sustainably.

The institution's contributions to India's domestic policy landscape, including its input into key initiatives like the Digital India programme and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), underscore its expertise in governance reform.

It also developed an indigenous soft power matrix, critiquing existing Global North-biased metrics and proposing a multi-faceted framework that integrates quantitative indicators and perception-based assessments to evaluate soft power strategies within the Global South.

Contemporary Engagements and Partnerships

At the heart of RIS' activities today is its engagement with institutions such as the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), and Indian government entities like the Ministry of External Affairs and NITI Aayog and other line ministries including Finance, DST. These partnerships allow RIS to influence global economic governance through a combination of evidence-based research and policy advocacy, particularly within the spheres of the Global South. Key initiatives include support for India's G20 presidency and the promotion of the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) framework, which champions individual responsibility and resource-efficient practices for environmental sustainability.

The year 2013 was a watershed moment for RIS, with the launch of several high-impact initiatives: the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), the ASEAN-India Centre, and the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST). These platforms were designed to foster dialogue on India's development cooperation strategies and strengthen South-South cooperation. Moreover, RIS' leadership in platforms like the Global Thinkers and South-South Galaxy under the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has further solidified its standing as a vital institution in global SSC dialogues.

Capacity building has also been central to RIS' mission. In 2001, RIS first hosted the first batch of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy. The other ITEC programmes conducted by RIS include. Over the years, through these ITEC programmes, RIS has trained thousands of interns from developing countries, helping them to build the skills and knowledge needed to address their nations' development challenges. The institution has



RIS celebrated 40th anniversary of its establishment in 2023-2024. Distinguished participants at the mega conference on “South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward”, held at New Delhi on 9-10 December 2023.

started an internship programme for students to disseminate complex ideas, to encourage them in further research and leadership programmes, and to build a strong network for academia and think tanks.

RIS@40

The past year has been particularly eventful, as RIS commemorated this achievement through a series of events and scholarly initiatives. A seminar series, panel discussions, and international conferences were held to address pressing global issues. A major conference on “South Asian Integration: Trends and Way Forward” was held in December 2023 in New Delhi, reflecting RIS’ pivotal role in promoting regional collaboration, sustainable development, and leadership in the Global South. Eminent dignitaries, including Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, lauded RIS’s pivotal contributions to policy formulation in South Asia, particularly its support to the Ministry of External Affairs. Throughout the event, plenary sessions and roundtable discussions focused on critical themes such as trade, investment,

regional cooperation, SDGs, and women-led development, aligning with RIS’ core research goals of fostering regional economic resilience and advancing policy frameworks for sustainable development.

As RIS marks this important milestone, the publication of two commemorative volumes encapsulates its journey. The first volume brings together contributions from key individuals who have been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of RIS, including former Chairpersons such as Dr Manmohan Singh, Shri H.S. Puri,





and Ambassador Shyam Saran. These personal reflections offer valuable insights into how RIS

has evolved into a premier institution for policy dialogue, research, and cooperation within the Global South. The second volume focuses on the intellectual foundations of RIS' research efforts, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the theoretical frameworks that have guided its work. Some of the methodological framework include wellness index, cost of non-cooperation, Effective Rate of Protection, Socio-Economic Assessment etc. The institution's ability to adapt to the changing landscape of global development challenges is evident in its continuous focus on new methodologies and innovative research.



RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Addressed the theme of “Examining the Role of the G20 in Global Food Crisis Response Coordination” at the launch of the Global Food Policy Report: Rethinking Food Crisis Responses, organised by IFPRI, 13 April 2023
- Addressed the theme of “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): Analysis and Policy” at the Discussion Meeting on Major Agendas by Participating Countries, organised by KDI School of Public Policy and Management (KDIS), 18-19 April 2023, Danang, Vietnam
- Joined as a panelist in the Panel Discussion on Wellbeing and the Agenda at T7 Japan Summit 2030, organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute, 27-28 April 2023, Tokyo, Japan
- Contributed as a panelist at the 8th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the SDGs, jointly organised by UN-DESA and UNCTAD, 3-4 May 2023, New York, USA
- Participated in the Special Session of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (S-BNPTT), 8-9 May 2023, Thailand (Online)
- Participated in the International Advisory Board and the Think20 India Core Group, organised by the T20 Secretariat, 11 May 2023, Mumbai
- Addressed the theme of “G20-T20 Vision on Lifestyle and Environment” in a webinar on One Health One Planet Climate Mitigation and Digital Health, organised by APAAACI, 12 May 2023
- Participated in the BRICS Academic Forum 2023: BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism, organised by The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, 14-17 May 2023, Cape Town, South Africa
- Joined as a panelist in the Components and Particularities of India’s Think20 Engagement

Group, jointly organised by IDSA, G20 India, and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, 26 May 2023

- Addressed the Concluding Session of 40 Years of Celebration of Cuts International, 28 May 2023, New Delhi
- Made a presentation on Connectivity and Beyond at the EU-India Global Gateway Conference on Connectivity Investments in India's Northeastern States and the Immediate Sub-Himalayan Neighbourhood, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, European Union, and Asian Confluence, 2 June 2023, Shillong
- Addressed the theme of "Value-Based Wellbeing Index" at the Civil 20 Lifestyle for Environment, C20 - LiFE Conference, organised by YOJAK Center for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development, 4 June 2023, Mumbai
- Joined as a panelist in the Inaugural Session on Setting the Tone for Safe, Secure, and Trusted Cyberspace at the B20 Conference on Cybersecurity: Advent of Global Cooperation, combining forces to Secure Cyberspace, jointly organised by G20 India, B20 India, and CII, 5 June 2023, New Delhi
- Moderated a session on "LiFE, Resilience and Values" in a World of Geopolitics at GIGA Talk - T20 Side Event: India's Presidency of the G20, organised by the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), 7 June 2023 (Online)
- Joined as a panelist in the webinar on the G21 proposal: Bringing Ethics into Policy-Making, organised by UNESCO, 7 June 2023 (Online)
- Contributed as a Panelist in the South and South-West Asia Policy Dialogue: Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2023 "Rethinking Public Debt for the Sustainable Development Goals," organised by UN-ESCAP, 8 June 2023
- Addressed the theme of "India and the World: Geopolitics and the Emerging Trade and Investment Regimes," organised by the University of Pennsylvania Institute for Advanced Study of India (UPIASI), 9 June 2023 (Online)
- Participated in the Electronic Taskforce Meeting, organised by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis, 10 June 2023, New Delhi
- Participated in "Connecting Science to Society & Culture" - a Science 20, organised by the Indian National Science Academy, 16-17 June 2023, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Made a presentation on "Industrial Policy for SDG Acceleration" at the Regional Workshop organised by UNIDO, 26 June 2023 (Online)
- Addressed the participants at the C20 Sewa Summit on Government Initiative on Sewa & Good Governance, organized by the Indian Social Responsibility Network in Bhopal on 2 July 2023.
- Chaired the plenary session on New Technologies and Emerging Labour Markets: Global Perspectives at an international conference on New Technologies and the Future of Work in the Global South, organized by the Institute for Human Development (IHD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (WITS University, Johannesburg), in partnership with NITI Aayog on 17 July 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the session on the Inaugural Session - Opening Thoughts for Rural Renaissance at the Madhya Pradesh Rural Colloquy 2023 (Online) on 18 July 2023.
- Participated as a panelist in the session on Traditional Medicine in Think20 at a congregation with Engagement Groups organized by the Ministry of Ayush on 20 July 2023.

- Chaired the session on Technology, Policy, Jobs at the Conference on Green and Sustainable Growth Agenda for the Global Economy, organized by NITI Aayog along with IDRC and GDN in New Delhi on 28 July 2023.
- Made a presentation on the Key Priorities of the Indian G20 Presidency during the Think20 African Standing Group (T20 ASG) meeting organized by SAIIA in Mysuru on 31 July 2023.
- Delivered opening remarks at the panel discussion on the Role of Emerging Economies in Accelerating SDG-3, organized by UNAIDS on 31 July 2023.
- Participated as a panelist in a session on Resilience and the Global Financial Architecture organized by SAIIA on 2 August 2023.
- Chaired a session on the Making of the Indian G20, organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in Mysuru on 2 August 2023.
- Delivered remarks at the conference on Towards Effective Implementation of Mission LiFE, organized by the Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) and the EU Delegation to India in New Delhi on 10 August 2023.
- Participated as a panelist in the session on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Developing Economies, organized by the Embassy of India in Mexico (Online) on 10 August 2023.
- Joined as a panelist at the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit, organized by the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre, co-hosted with the Government of India in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 18 August 2023.
- Contributed as a panelist in a session on India's G20 Presidency: Visions for the Future of Multilateralism at the Annual Meeting of the Munich Young Leaders Alumni, jointly organized by Körber-Stiftung and the Munich Security Conference in New Delhi on 25 August 2023.
- Guest of Honour at a seminar on India's G-20 Vision for Sustainable Development Goals, organized by the University of Delhi on 5 September 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the roundtable on India's global influence, organized by GIZ (Online) on 6 September 2023.
- Panelist in the session on South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the MGG Global Network Conference 2023, organized by Managing Global Governance on 27 September 2023.
- Chaired the session on Trade, Technology, and Industrialisation at the National Conference organised by ISID, New Delhi on 5 October 2023.
- Addressed the closed-door session on Asia's Road to COP 28 - Pathways and Opportunities Roundtable in New Delhi on 11-14 October 2023.
- Delivered a Special Address at the 20th Globelics International Conference 2023 on Innovation-Driven Knowledge Economies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 12-13 October 2023.
- Acted as Discussant in the session on Strengthening Innovation Ecosystems at the Workshop on STI4SDGs Roadmaps and Actions in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 16 October 2023.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the UNICEF South Asia Fall Regional Management Team Meeting, Colombo on 19 October 2023.
- Delivered a lecture on "Role of Value and Ethics in Human Well-being: Time to Go Beyond GDP," organised by IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi on 23 October 2023.
- Delivered a Keynote Lecture on "G20's Recommendations towards a Sustainable

Future,” organised by APAAACI, Singapore on 26 October 2023.

- Moderated the session on “Advancing the Indian G20 Outcomes” at the Annual High-Level Meeting on the G20 Platform on SDGs Localisation, organised by OECD (Online) on 2-4 November 2023.
- Delivered Special Remarks and Chaired the Plenary Session at the R. Radhakrishna Memorial Lecture, organised by the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions, Hyderabad on 4 November 2023.
- Participated as a Panelist at the Global Justice Programme Conference on Structural Change, organised by Yale University on 6 November 2023.
- Delivered the keynote address at the First High-Level Plenary on Solutions for Sustainability & Inclusivity at the 10th Annual Sustainability Conference 2023, New Delhi on 6 November 2023.
- Acted as a Panelist at the Webinar on Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth, organised by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi on 7 November 2023.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the Act4Earth National Dialogue on Road to Dubai: From G20 to COP28, organised by TERI, New Delhi on 9 November 2023.
- Participated as a Panelist at the workshop on Accessing MDB and Global Finance for Development and Green Growth, organised by ICRIER, New Delhi on 16 November 2023.
- Acted as a Panelist in the session on T7/G7 as an Opportunity for New Partnerships, organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute (Online) on 16 November 2023.
- Participated in the closed-door Roundtable Meeting on “Think-tanks, Sustainable Development Brokers in a New Multipolar World?” organised by CEBRI (Online) on 18 November 2023.
- Chaired the session on Socio-economic Development and the Security Nexus at the Roundtable Discussion organised by the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Kurseong, West Bengal on 21 November 2023.
- Moderated the session on India’s G20 Presidency at the India Week 2023, organised by GIGA (Online) on 23-24 November 2023.
- Acted as a Panelist at the RIN Annual Meeting 2023, organised by IDE-JETRO and ERIA, Chiba, Japan on 24-26 November 2023.
- Acted as a Panelist in the session on Time for Africa: AU in the G20 at the Cape Town Conversations 2023, organised by ORF, Cape Town, South Africa on 6 December 2023.
- Participated as a Panelist at the National Workshop on Improving Innovation Aptitude and Performance of States, organised by NITI Aayog, New Delhi on 11 December 2023.
- Made a presentation on Indo-Indonesian Geopolitics, organised by VIF, New Delhi on 12 December 2023.
- Acted as a Panelist in the session on Newly Emerging Trade Architecture in the Indo-Pacific Region at the JEF-Asia Pacific Forum 2023 (Online) on 28 December 2023.
- Delivered a Special Address at the 10th SBI Banking & Economics Conclave on Building Resilient Brand India, organised by SBI, Mumbai on 10 January 2024.
- Acted as a Panelist in the session on G20, India, and The Global South at the Seminar organised by CSIR and IGNOU, New Delhi on 12-13 January 2024.
- Moderated two sessions and participated in the India Banking Conclave 2024, organised by CIEU, New Delhi on 17 January 2024.
- Made a presentation on LiFE Economy and the GALERI Initiative, organised by the

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi on 24 January 2024.
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the International Education Day, organised by Blitz India on 29 January 2024.
 - Made a presentation on Socio-economic Environment & Development Imperatives at the Young Scientists Induction Programme, organised by IIM Visakhapatnam on 2 February 2024.
 - Made a presentation on 'Economic Security' at the Higher Air Command Course (HACC), College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad on 5-6 February 2024.
 - Made a presentation on "STI and Socio-Economic Development: Indian Experience" and delivered the Keynote Address at the Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Slovenia on 6 February 2024.
 - Delivered the Keynote Address at the First Slovenian-Indian Day of Science and Innovations, organised by Jozef Stefan Institute.
 - Participated in a discussion meeting with the Ministry of External Affairs and presented on 'Towards Creating a Regional Agricultural Value Chains in BIMSTEC', New Delhi, 12 May 2023
 - Participated in the 11th Advanced Leadership Programme for Corporate Executives: Leadership Excellence for Atma Nirbhar Bharat (LEAN) (22 May to 19 June 2023) organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and presented on 'Regionalism and India: Broad Trade Dynamics, MRTAs, New FTA Approach,' New Delhi, 31 May 2023
 - Participated as the principal investigator (PI) and led the evaluation team to present two draft reports to the Director General, DMEO, and the team at NITI Aayog, regarding the ongoing project on 'Evaluating 5 Central Sector Schemes Implemented by DST and DBT,' New Delhi, 14 June 2023
 - Participated in the 'High-Level Strategic Dialogue on IORA's 25-Years - Reflection, Review & Renewal,' organised by Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and made a presentation on 'Regional Connect between IORA and IPEF,' Mauritius, 19-21 June 2023

Professor S K Mohanty

Professor

- Participated online as a discussant in the Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) outreach event and Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research Capacity and Influence (PRCI), Global Gathering, organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at Accra, Ghana, 26 April 2023
- Participated as an External Expert in the Selection Committee meeting for the requirement of Associate Professor in the Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, 3 May 2023
- Participated and presented on 'The Growing Importance of Blue Economy in the IORA Region: Possible Partnership with Dialogue Partners,' in the 'IORA Indo-Pacific Outlook' conference, Mauritius, 22-23 June 2023
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting regarding Study on Agricultural Products organised by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 6 October 2023.
- Guest of Honor at the 2nd International Conference on "Geo-strategic, Geo-economic and Geo-political Developments in Indo-Pacific Region organised by The International Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies (ICIPS),

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana on 18 October 2023.

- Participated as a panelist in the 1st Asian Conference on Triangular Cooperation (ACTrC) organised in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI) and made a discussion on Triangular Cooperation – A Partnership Approach on Global Goals at New Delhi on 2 November 2023.
- Participated in the G20 Think Tank Workshop on 'Inclusive Trade for Growth and Prosperity' organised by NITI Aayog and made a presentation on Dynamics of GVC in Global Trade Discussion on GVC in G20 Presidencies at New Delhi on 6 November 2023.
- Participated in the discussion meeting with Secretary, MoCI on India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry at New Delhi on 13 November 2023.
- Participated as a speaker in the India Foundation-Fudan University Bilateral Conference organised by India Foundation and made a presentation on India-China Trade Relations in the session – Managing Trade Imbalance and Enhancing People-to-People Connect at New Delhi on 18 November 2023.
- Participated as a speaker in the 15th South Asia Conference 2023 - Achieving Regional Economic Integration in South Asia and made a presentation on Exploring the Quest for Regional Identity in South Asia in the session – Achieving Regional Economic Integration in South Asia organised by Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi on 14 December 2023.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on India's Free Trade Agreement and Totalization Agreement organised by the Prime Minister's Office at New Delhi on 20 December 2023. Speaker in the Indian Economic Association 106th Annual Conference 2023 and made a presentation in the Special Panel on India's Issues in Free Trade Agreements on India and its Experiment with New Regionalism organised by School of Open Learning, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi at New Delhi on 22 December 2023.
- Participated in the first Meeting of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders as Special Invitee organised by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and made a presentation on ITC HS Code and trade of Red Sanders and its impacts on the export in India at Chennai on 5 January 2024.
- Participated in the Board of Trade (BoT) meeting under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles organised by Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry at 'Bharat Mandapam,' New Delhi on 16 January 2024.
- Participated in the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference 2024: Bridging Billions to Barcelona and made a presentation on Vision 2030: White Paper of the Challenge, jointly organised by Ocean Modelling, Applied Research & Services (O-MARS), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Science at Hyderabad on 2 February 2024.
- Participated as a panelist in the closing panel at the 2nd PRCI Conference in Washington DC, USA, organised by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI), Michigan State University, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the IFPRI PRCI Project on 6-8 March 2024.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Joined as a panelist in two sessions of the South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) on “Value Chains and FDI” and “Macroeconomic Cooperation and the Possibility of a Common Currency”, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4-5 November 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in the session on “India-AU Collaboration on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure” at the NITI Aayog-ORF High-Level Workshop on ‘Inclusive G20 - The Africa Dimension’, held in New Delhi, on 1 November 2023.
- Participated as a panelist in the workshop on “Accessing MDB and Global Finance for Development & Green Growth”, organised by NITI Aayog and ICRIER in New Delhi, on 9 November 2023.
- Participated as a panelist in the session on “Fintech and Financial Inclusion” at the National Conference on ‘G20 Development Agenda: FinTech, Digital Transformation, and Business Prospects, Heading towards a Sustainable & Inclusive World’, organised by Dyal Singh College (Delhi University) and RIS, on 30 November 2023.
- Joined as a panelist in two Action Labs of the Global LiFE Summit on “Policy and Regulation” and “Reforming Development Finance & Global Financial Architecture”, organised by RIS in New Delhi, 26-28 November 2023.
- Made a presentation on “Fintech and Financial Inclusion” at the 20th Globelics International Conference, held at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, on 11-14 October 2023.
- Made a virtual presentation on “Regulating Fintech: Current Practices and Evolving Narratives” at the CGP Seminar organised by the Centre for Global Finance, SOAS, University of London, on 13 December 2023.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Associate Professor

- Roundtable discussion on Book Proposal on LiFE - LiFE, Values, and Wellbeing: Towards a New Development Paradigm for Sustainability, Kumarakom, Kerala, 07 April 2023
- T20 Task Force 3 | Seminar 3: Infusing Ethics and Values in International Relations, 14 April 2023
- University Connect Lecture at Nalanda University, 15 April 2023
- Participated in the Hindu-ORF Conclave: Plenary 2 | Voices for LiFE and Attaining SDGs, 20 April 2023
- Participated in the T20 Mid-Year Conference, Mumbai, 10-12 May 2023
- Participated in the Special Session titled “Economic and Systemic Transformations for LiFE and Well-being” at the Global Solutions Summit, Berlin, 15 May 2023
- Participated in the Wilton Park conference WP3132 ‘Advancing Global Public Investment (GPI)’, 6 June 2023 (Virtual)
- Participated in the Panel Discussion on Bottlenecks to Access SDG Finance for Developing Countries, 13 June 2023, at RIS
- Participated in the session titled “Scaling up SDG and Climate Finance through the Life Economy: Insights for G20 Action” (Official Side Event of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, Paris, 22 June 2023)

Pankaj Vashishth

Associate Professor

- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Share Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance,” Jointly Organised with A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar, 28 April 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Share Future: Youth in Democracy and

Governance,” Jointly Organised with G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, 8 May 2023

- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 17 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with A-Hub Incubation, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, 20 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 23 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 24 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction,” Jointly Organised with South Asian Institute for Advanced Research and Development, Kolkata, West Bengal, 26 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Guwahati, Assam, 31 May 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Health, Wellbeing, and Sports: Agenda for Youth,” Jointly Organised with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai, 2 June 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Health, Wellbeing, and Sports: Agenda for Youth,” Jointly Organised with Telangana State Innovation Cell, Hyderabad, 8 June 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Health,

Wellbeing, and Sports: Agenda for Youth,” Jointly Organised with Strategic Research and Growth Foundation, Pune, 10 June 2023

- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution,” Jointly Organised with Raisina House, Navi Mumbai, 22 June 2023
- Y20 Brainstorming Workshop on “Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills,” Jointly Organised with PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, 28 June 2023
- Participated in the “ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum” organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, 5-6 September 2023.
- Participated in a roundtable discussion on MSME digitalization in India: Challenges and Way Forward, in Pune, 1 September 2023.

Amb Bhaskar Balakrishnan

Visiting Fellow

- Participated as a Discussant in the session “India-Cuba Relations” hosted by ICWA, with the participation of Hon. Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, 27 September 2023.
- Delivered a lecture on “Science, Technology and Public Policy” on 29 September as part of an online course by IMPRI, New Delhi.
- Delivered Chairman’s introductory remarks in the Seminar on Multilateralism Beyond the G20 India Summit 2023, 22 October 2023, at the event in Tiruvananthapuram, organised by Somaiyya and KIC, Session 4 on Economic Outcomes of the G20 India Summit 2023.
- Delivered a Lecture on India’s #Science Diplomacy on 26 October 2023, in the Online International Course on Science Diplomacy 2023, organised by Diplo Academy, Malta.
- Delivered a Lecture on the Role of Emerging and Critical Technology in India and China

on 21 November 2023 at the Center for Chinese Studies, Chennai.

- Participated in as Speaker for the session on “Science Diplomacy and the Asia Pacific region Challenges and Opportunities” in the International Seminar on Science Diplomacy as a Powerful Force for National Unity and Friendship among Nations, organised by the National Science Foundation Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), 11 December 2023.

Dr P K Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the webinar on ‘Release of the Report Express Delivery Services - Supporting the Journey towards India@2047’ held on 4th April 2023 organized by ICRIER.
- Participated in the webinar on ‘Science and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation’ held on 11th April 2023 organised IFPRI
- Participated in the webinar on ‘2023 Global Food Policy Report: Rethinking Food Crisis Responses’ held on 13th April, 2023 organised by IFPRI.
- Participated in the webinar on ‘2023 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum’ held on 17th April 2023 organized by UN ECOSOC
- Participated in the ‘Think7 Japan Summit’ held on 27th -28th April 2023 (virtual)
- Participated in the ‘High-level Committee meeting on SouthSouth Cooperation’ on 1st May 2023 organized by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation(UNOSSC); (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on ‘ Science Technology, Innovation, and Engineering Solutions for the SDGs: Theory, Practice, and Applications (STI Forum 2023 Special Event) held on 3rd May 2023 organized by UNDESA
- Participated in the webinar on ‘India Roundtable on Financial Inclusion’ held on 4th May 2023 organized by PMI at UN ECOSOC
- Participated in the ‘Research Seminar on Rural Non-farm Employment in India: Shift or Diversification?’ held on 25th May 2023 organised by ISID (virtual)
- Participated in the webinar on ‘A better quality of life for all in an urbanising world: promoting health and wellbeing’ held on 6th June 2023, organized by the UN-Habitat
- Participated in the webinar discussion of ‘IFPRI’s 2023 Global Food Policy Report: Rethinking Food Crisis Responses’ held on 21st June, 2023 organized by IFPRI.
- Prepared inputs on the Presidency Note of Discussions, G20 India Presidency
- Participated in the seminar titled “How Local Governments are using SDGs to Rethink?”, organised by UNDP, 10 July 2023.
- Participated in “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving SDG11 through the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in the SICA Region (HLPF 2023 Side Event)”, organised by UN Habitat, 12 July 2023.
- Attended the meeting “SDG 6 and Water Action Agenda”, organised by UN Water, 17 July 2023
- Participated in “The Power of Gen Z: From Radicalism to Sustainable Consumption”, 20 July 2023, organised by Statista.
- Attended “Irregular Migration and Food Security: A View from West Africa”, 20 July 2023, organised by IFPRI.
- Participated in the “Investor Awareness and Protection Webinar”, 17 August 2023, organised by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, IEPFA, and NCAER.
- Participated in “Empowering SMEs for Urban Resilience” on 23 August 2023, organised by ERIA.

- Participated in a research seminar on “Digitalization of Indian Cities: Regional Variations”, 28 August 2023, organised by ISID.
- Participated in the fourth seminar of the IFPRI-AMIS series on Making Sense of Food and Agriculture Markets, 7 September 2023, organised by IFPRI
- Attended the seminar on “Food Security Trends and Resilience-Building Priorities”, 1 September 2023, organised by IFPRI.
- Participated in the meeting “Facilitating Anticipatory Action with Improved Early Warning Guidance”, 26 September 2023, organised by IFPRI.
- Attended the event “Unlocking Capital for Sustainability” on 28 September 2023, organised by ADB.
- Participated in the Annual High-Level Meeting of the G20 Platform on SDGs Localisation and Intermediary Cities - G20 PLIC, held on 26 October 2023, organised by OECD.
- Attended the event “Accelerating Progress on SDGs” held on 6 November 2023, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, organised by NITI Aayog
- Participated in the Research Seminar on “Public Sector Performance in India and the Ongoing Contestation between Efficiency and Equity”, held on 30 November 2023, organised by ISID, New Delhi.
- Attended the seminar “Digital Twins of the Ocean - Opportunities for Future Proof Sustainable Development” held on 7 December 2023, organised by The German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) and DAAD, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Policy Roundtable on “India and the Global Economic Growth”, held on 8 December 2023, organised by ISID-IGIDR, New Delhi.
- Attended the IHD Global Conclave Advisory Committee meeting, held on 18 December 2023, organised by IHD, New Delhi.

Mr G. A. Tadas

Consultant

- Participated in Expert Roundtable ‘Nearly 75% of Global Deaths are Caused by Non-Communicable Diseases – How the G20 Can Help?’, Organised by T20, NCD Alliance & MSD, (Virtual Event), 6 July 2023
- Participated in ‘Saving the SDGs: Seeking New Pathways to the 2030 Agenda’, T20 Summit, Mysuru, 31 July - 2 August 2023.
- Participated in ‘Agriculture Finance to Support Trade & Investment’ at Regional Conference on Agriculture Trade in BIMSTEC: New Opportunities & Way Forward, Organised by RIS & IFPRI, New Delhi, 17 August 2023.
- Participated in Life Economy Strategy Roundtable, Organised by RIS & Fourth Sector Group (FSG), New Delhi, 9 September 2023.
- Delivered concept note on Formation of Global Alliance for Life Economies Research & Innovation (GALERI): Scope of Activities, Composition, Funding, Governance, Life Economy Strategy Roundtable, Organised by RIS, Fourth Sector Group, New Delhi, 9 September 2023.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Publications

Anand, P. K., & Kumar, K. 2023. Financing climate smart agriculture for sustainable agrifood systems. *T20 Policy Brief*, Taskforce 6. T20 India Secretariat.

Anand, P. K., & Kumar, K. 2023. Going beyond gross domestic product (GDP): Valuing wellbeing. *T20 Policy Brief*, Taskforce 3. T20 India Secretariat.

- Balakrishnan, B. 2024. Management of ocean space around India and the High Seas Treaty. ICWA, January.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. India's development agenda and the Global South, *The Sunday Guardian*, 30 April-06 May 2023, New Delhi.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. "Need to go beyond GDP." *Business Standard*, 16 June 2023.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. Redressing global financing for SDGs: Debt relief for LDCs in India's G20 moment: Healing, hope, and harmony. *India & the World*, 127-130.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. "A blueprint for a T20 network in Asia". In T. S. Tetsushi, N. Buchoud, R. Akbar, R. Qibthiyyah, & B. Altansukh (Eds.), *A World in Crisis, A World in Progress: Growing Better Together* (pp. 57-64). ABD Institute.
- Chaturvedi, S., & Mohanty, S. K. 2023. How prudent is India's decision to join IPEF? *Korean Development Institute (KDI)*.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Solidarity, sustainability, and global South: Indian G20 initiatives*. In N. Sharma, A. Srivastava, V. K. Mishra, & B. Thakare (Eds.), *Solidarity for sustainability: Common concerns for global commons* (pp. xx-xx). WOSY Foundation.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. Remarks. In N. Mahawar & D. Bhattacharjee (Eds.), *India's development partnership: Expanding vistas* (pp. 13-19). ICWA.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Some unique facets of India's G20 presidency*. In J. Kirton & M. Koch (Eds.), *India the New Delhi Summit* (pp. 42-43). GT Media Group Limited.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Indonesia and Indian G20 presidencies in perspective*. *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, 15(3), 17-21.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Bharat-Pachhim Asia-Europiya Aarthik Galiyara: Gatishakti ka Anterrashtiyakaran* (in Hindi). *Amar Ujala*, September.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Closer links, faster growth: A new economic corridor*. *Deccan Herald*, 17 September.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *G20 Summit India: Indian ethos and values for global solutions*. *Organiser*, 5 September.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Data beyond survey: Statistical system requires reforms and investment in state-of-the-art technologies*. *Indian Express*, July.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *Swadeshi and Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Contradictions, complementarities, and the way forward*. In A. Mahajan (Ed.), *Aatmanirbhar: A Swadeshi paradigm* (pp. 1-17). Rupa Publication India Pvt. Ltd.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *India's G20 Presidency: Pushes global economy, ensures space for Global South*. *Foreign Affairs Journal*, 17(3-4), 146-157.
- Chaturvedi, S., Kumar, A., & Saha, S. (2023). *COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of integrated innovation system*. In L. Singh & K. J. Joseph (Eds.), *Reimagining innovation systems in the COVID and post-COVID world* (pp. 104-120). Routledge India.
- Chaturvedi, S. 2023. *LiFE, global governance, and climate change: Principle-based action agenda for G20*. In I. S. Sevea et al. (Eds.), *India and the future of G20: Shaping policies for a better world* (pp. xx-xx). Bloomsbury Publishing.
- De, P. 2023. New horizon of Japan-India economic relations in the Indo-Pacific. *Contemporary India Forum Quarterly Review*, No. 57, Japan-India Association, Tokyo.
- De, P., & Giri, T. 2023. *India-Japan trade and investment relations: Emerging trends*. In N. K. Mahawar & J. V. John (Eds.), *70 years of India-Japan diplomatic relations: Reflections and way forward*. KW & ICWA.
- De, P. 2023. *Regional integration in the Bay of Bengal region in post-COVID-19 period*. In L. Ghosh & A. B. Ray Chaudhury (Eds.), *India's relations with neighboring South and Southeast Asian countries: Perspectives on Look East to Act East policy* (pp. xx-xx). Springer.

- De, P., & Ao, T. (Eds.). 2023. *Geopolitical shifts and opportunities: New horizons in India-Southeast Asia relations*. KW & ICWA.
- De, P., & Giri, T. 2023. *Charting the new agenda of ASEAN-India cooperation*. In the same volume.
- De, P. 2023. *Accelerating regional cooperation in BIMSTEC*. Hindu Businessline, 21 December.
- De, P. 2023. *Emerging contours of ASEAN-India maritime cooperation*. East Asia Explorer, 1(10), October.
- De, P. 2023. *Scaling up BIMSTEC*. East Asia Explorer, 1(11), November.
- De, P. 2023. *Trilateral cooperation between India, Korea and ASEAN*. East Asia Explorer, 1(12), December.
- De, P. 2024. *Shaping global economic narratives: 40 years of RIS*. Hindustan Times, 5 January.
- De, P., & Durairaj, K. 2024. *Assessing the trade-connectivity linkages in South Asia in post-pandemic period: An empirical investigation*. Journal of the Asia-Pacific Economy, 29(2).
- De, P. 2023. *Unlocking the GVC potentials in India: Role of trade facilitation*. In T. B. Chatterjee, A. Ghose, & P. Roy (Eds.), *Risks and resilience of emerging economies: Essays in honour of Professor Ajitava Raychaudhuri* (pp. xx-xx). Springer Nature Singapore.
- De, P., & Anbumozhi, V. 2023. *Cross-border energy trade and development of border economic zones (BEZs) in Northeast India: Toward an integrated regional program*. In V. Anbumozhi & K. B. Singh (Eds.), *Cross-border integration of renewable energy systems* (pp. 56-96). Routledge, New Delhi.
- De, P. 2023. *Myanmar's integration with the world: Emerging trends and way forward*. In V. Anand & C. Vasisht (Eds.), *Revisiting Myanmar: Present through the past* (pp. xx-xx). VIF & Pentagon Press.
- De, P. 2023. *The 20th ASEAN-India Summit: Key takeaways*. East Asia Explorer, 1(8). <https://www.delhipolicygroup.org/publication/east-asia-explorer/east-asia-explorer-4976.html>
- De, P. 2023. *India's Act East Policy: The power of progress*. East Asia Explorer, 1(6). <https://www.delhipolicygroup.org/publication/east-asia-explorer/east-asia-explorer-4947.html>
- De, P. 2023. *India's Act East Policy: The power of progress*. East Asia Explorer, 1(6), July.
- Mohanty, S. K. 2024. *Prospects of growth dynamism in South Asia: Trade and investment as drivers of regional development*. In *The Routledge Handbook of South Asia* (pp. 176-197). Routledge India.
- Mohanty, S. K. 2024. *Prospects of the blue economy in India: Emerging policy challenges and the way forward*. Current Science, 26(2).
- Srivastava, A., Mathur, S. K., & De, P. 2023. *Ex-ante evaluation of India's trade alliance with the Indo-Pacific region: A general equilibrium analysis*. Foreign Trade Review, 58(2), May.
- Tadas, A. G. 2023. *Choosing LiFE in G20 India*. In J. Kirton & M. Koch (Eds.), *G7 India: The 2023 New Delhi Summit* (pp. 58-59). University of Toronto. <https://www.globalgovernanceproject.org/choosing-life/>
- Vashisht, P. 2023. *Indo-Pacific strategies: What do they entail for India?* Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs, 6(3), 109-128.

Sukhomoy Chakravarty Library and Data Information Centre

Introduction

The Documentation Centre houses an extensive collection of the latest specialised publications, reports, databases, e-journals, and articles, ensuring the provision of up-to-date information for RIS faculty and visiting scholars. The institute maintains a robust exchange programme with several national and international organisations, continuously enriching its resource base by adding new publications and study materials on critical global issues.

RIS has established linkages with major global institutions such as FAO, ILO, OECD, UN, UNCTAD, World Bank, and WTO. Working Papers, Discussion Papers, Reprints, and Occasional Papers, both in print and electronic formats, are received through exchange programs or downloaded from institutional websites. The Documentation Centre currently holds over 24,730 books, including government publications and documents from other research institutions, both in print and electronic formats. It also contains 1,850 bound volumes of journals. The

Centre subscribes to more than 492 print and online journals, including platforms like JSTOR, Elsevier-ScienceDirect, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley, and receives around 40 journals free of charge from prestigious sources. Additionally, the collection includes over 350 CD-ROMs and databases. As a member of DELNET, the Centre actively promotes resource-sharing. A regular Current Awareness Service is provided to faculty members.

The comprehensive collection is also accessible online via the intranet for easy reference.

Collection includes:

- Books
- Statistical Yearbooks
- Documents-WP-OP-DP
- Journals/Periodicals (Print+Online+CD-Rom)
- Newspapers both Indian and International
- Back Volumes
- CD-Rom
- Databases in CD-ROM

RIS Databank

The RIS also has a rich global database on trade, tariff and non-tariff measures, balance of payment, financial statistics, development statistics, industrial statistics, intellectual property services and corporate data and information.

RIS Database

RIS has developed the DevCoopIndia database, documenting India's development assistance to partner nations from 1947 to 2021. This database encompasses the five modalities of Development Compact, namely Capacity Buildings, Grants, Concessional Finance, Trade and Market Access, and Technology Transfer. The overarching categorisation is further subdivided into sub-modalities, sectors, and activities. In addition to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), many additional ministries are involved in delivering development aid via several modalities and sub-modalities. The database includes bilateral aid and contributions to international institutions. The allocation for development aid in the fiscal year 2021-2022 is determined by the Revised Estimates for 2021-22, as outlined in the Annual Report for 2022-23.

Another database contains a wide range of macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, trade, investment, tariffs, and other relevant factors. Data is sourced from the national as well as a variety of international sources. In the context of trade and tariff databases, RIS effectively restructures data at the maximum dis-aggregated level. For example, the allocation of bilateral trade statistics for India is based on an 8-digit Harmonised System (HS) product classification, whereas for the rest of the world it is based on a 6-digit HS classification. The data is recorded at all nomenclature existing in the international trade classification. The level of disaggregation and time series level varies with different data

sources. This database is updated at regular interval.

RIS Data Server

The modern Data Server available in RIS is firewalled against any possible external attacks, including data exterminating viral or hacking as part of the enhanced security of its databank. This institution has acquired domestic and international time series data for quick reference. It has uploaded vital domestic and international trade data (HS&SITC) on it, along with tariff database, DGCIS database on Indian Domestic Trade Lines - 8 Digit Level both Export and Import Data, Indian Firms Database, Direction of trade statistics, (Dots) World Development Indicators (WDI), etc. The server's databases are updated periodically, supporting evidence-based research by faculty members and eliminating the need for costly global data subscriptions.

RIS Website and Online Documentation Centre

(www.ris.org.in)

RIS operates a vibrant website, regularly updated by its in-house team to ensure a user-friendly and content-rich experience. The website provides extensive information on RIS's core areas of research, including trade, finance, investment, development cooperation, global economic issues, regional cooperation, South-South cooperation, health, agriculture, science and technology, and innovation. The website provides a free download facility of the wide range of publications brought out by RIS faculty in the form of research reports, journals, newsletters, and media articles. It also features details of various conferences, seminars, workshops conducted by RIS. During this FY 2022-23, three new web pages were been developed in-house

RIS Main Website

<http://ris.org.in>

Asia Africa Growth Corridor

<http://aagc.ris.org.in>

BRICS

<http://bricscivil.ris.org.in>

Blue Economy Forum

<http://blueeconomyforum.ris.org.in>

**Indian Ocean Rim Association
(IORA) Initiative**

<http://iora.ris.org.in>

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

<http://sdg.ris.org.in>

**Forum for Indian Development
Cooperation (FIDC)**

<http://fidc.ris.org.in>

**Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine
(FITM)**

<http://fitm.ris.org.in>

New Asia Forum

<http://newasiaforum.ris.org.in>

STI for SDGs

<https://ris.org.in/sti-for-sdg>

BIMSTEC

<http://ris.org.in/bimstec>

Delhi Process

<http://ris.org.in/delhi-process>

Documents on Non-Aligned Movement

<http://ris.org.in/documents-non-aligned-movement>

Summer School

<https://ris.org.in/en/exim-bank-summer-school>

Paris Peace Forum

<http://ris.org.in/deadline-extended-extra-time-submit-your-project-Paris-peace-forum>

University Connect

<https://ris.org.in/university-connect-engaging-young-minds>

T20

<https://ris.org.in/think-20>

G20Digest

<https://ris.org.in/G20Digest/index.html>

CMEC

<https://ris.org.in/cmec/>

Other Websites maintained by RIS**ASEAN India Centre**

<http://aseanindiacentre.org.in>

Global Development Centre (GDC)

<http://gdcin.org>

**Network of Southern Think-Tanks
(NeST)**

<http://southernthinktanks.org>

**Forum For Indian Science Diplomacy
(FISD)**

<http://fisd.in>

IBSA

<http://ibsa-trilateral.org>

**South Asia Centre for Policy Studies
(SACEPS)**

<http://saceps.org.in>

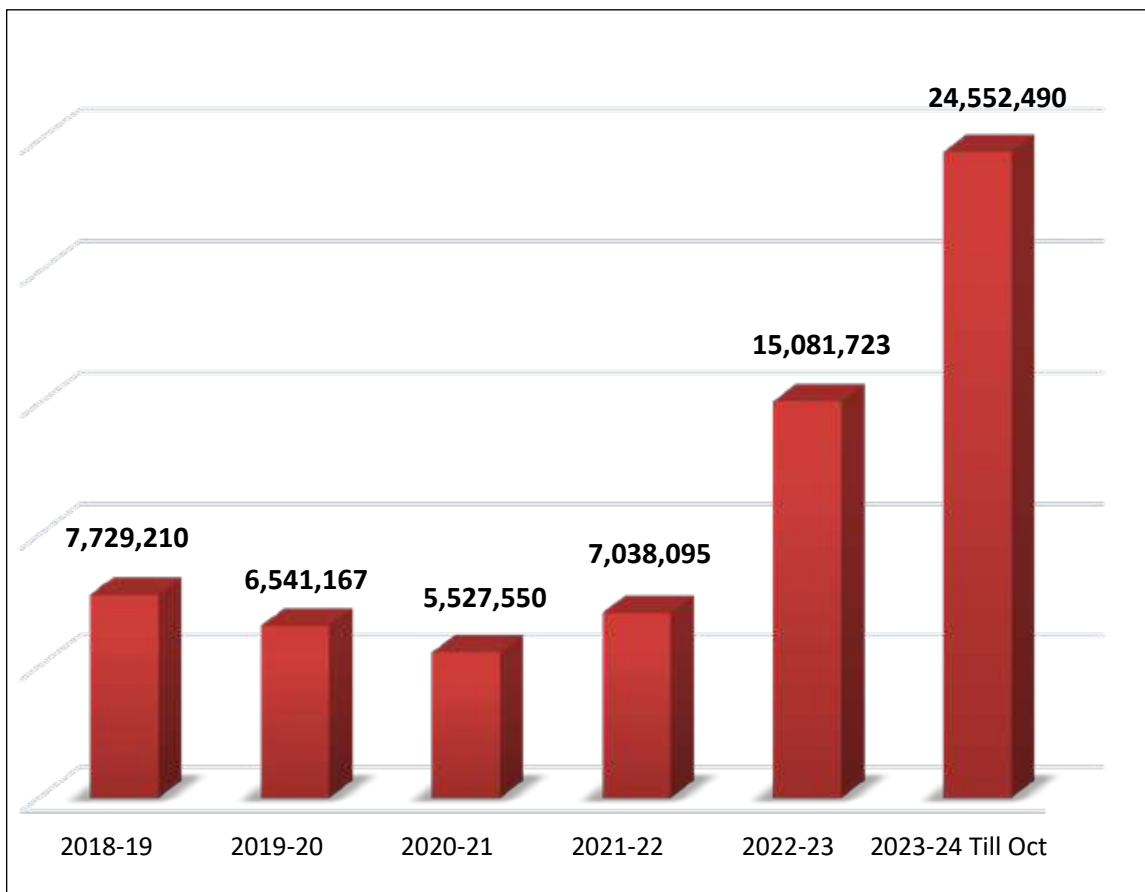
and linked to the RIS website for their clearer and wider accessibility. The eight sub-domains and nine web pages are as follows:

RIS' website has gained recognition as one of the top research institute results on Google, enhancing its visibility. RIS also regularly brings out its quarterly e-newsletter and monthly e-journal, which are disseminated all over the world among leading policy-makers and shapers, think tanks, universities, national and international organisations, prominent academia and other national and international eminent personalities to keep them abreast of the wide variety of credible research work being carried out on issues of critical importance to the developing countries by RIS. There has been a substantial increase in the number of hits in viewership.

Social Media Outreach

Over the years this institute has deepened its outreach on the social media platforms like Blog, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. RIS YouTube channel is constantly kept updated. There are around 13.2k on twitter. Video recordings of events are made available in YouTube for easy access. There has been consistent a rise in viewership and subscriber's base in YouTube channel. Around 1.45 k subscribers on found on RIS YouTube channel. The number of followers on Facebook is more than 5.1 k followers and its pages have been rated at 4.6 out of 5 on the basis of public opinion polls. RIS promptly updates both platforms with news of its activities, encouraging real-time public engagement.

RIS Website Hits in last Six Years



Acknowledgement

We express our profound appreciation to the esteemed faculty and researchers at RIS whose unwavering commitment has driven the transformative research and broadened the institute's global influence. This RIS Annual Report is a testament to their expertise, offering an in-depth perspective on the institute's impactful journey and achievements over the past year. We further extend our acknowledgment to Professor S.K. Mohanty, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Dr Amit Kumar, Dr Namrata Pathak, Dr Sneha Sinha, Dr Pratyush Sharma, Dr Anupama Vijaykumar, Dr Ivy Roy Sarkar, Syed Arslan Ali, Rana Amanat Singh, Vaishali Chaudhary, and Mayank Mishra for their significant contribution in this report.

Human Resource



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

Specialisation: International Economic Development and Cooperation

Faculty



Professor S. K. Mohanty

Distinguished Fellow

Specialisation: Global & Regional Economic Integration

Trade and Development Issues



Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Associate Professor

Specialisation: : Technology & Development Economics and International Trade



Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

Specialisation: Macroeconomics and International Finance



Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor

Specialisation: Trade, Technology, and Labour Market



Dr Sushil Kumar

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: International trade and finance



Dr Amit Kumar

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: Innovation, foresight, and S&T governance



Dr Pankhuri Gaur

Assistant Professor

Specialisation: International Trade, Blue Economy, FTAs and Mega Regional

Distinguished Fellows



Mr Rajeev Kher
Distinguished Fellow
Specialisation: International trade and commerce



Ambassador Amar Sinha
Distinguished Fellow
(till 31 October 2023)
Specialisation: Economic diplomacy and South-South Cooperation



Mr R V Shahi
Distinguished Fellow
(till 31 December 2023)

Visiting Fellows



Professor T C James
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)



Mr Krishna Kumar
Visiting Fellow
(till 31 October 2023)
Specialisation: Official statistics and SDGs



Dr P K Anand
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: Economic growth and development



Dr K. Ravi Srinivas
Visiting Fellow
Specialisation: IPRs and global trade



Mr Amol Baxi
Visiting Fellow
(From 8 January 2024)



Mr G. K. Arora
Fellow
(From 26 September 2023)

Our heartfelt tribute to Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan and Dr Ram Upendra Das



Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan
(25 September 1947-21 January 2024)



Dr Ram Upendra Das
(18 November 1967- 25 February 2024)

Fellow/Consultants

**Dr Namrata Pathak***Consultant**Specialisation: Traditional knowledge***Dr Anshuman Gupta***Consultant**Specialisation: Environment and Climate Change***Dr Chaitanya Giri***Consultant**Specialisation: Space Domain Strategies, Planetary Science***Dr Beena Pandey***Consultant (till 29 February 2024)**Specialisation: Social Sector, Gender Empowerment and Development Issues***Dr Sneha Sinha***Consultant**Specialisation: Science and technology studies***Dr Rahul Ranjan***Consultant (till 28 September 2023)**Specialisation: Energy Economics and Trade in Energy***Dr Sayantan Ghosal***Consultant**Specialisation: International Relations, Social Protection Welfare Systems***Dr Anuj Diwedi***S&T Specialist***Dr Pushpak Kumar Roy***Consultant**(from 18 September 2023)***Dr Sarin N S***Consultant**(from 1 December 2023)***Professor Milindo Chakrabarti***Consultant**(from 23 February 2023)**Specialisation: Micro-economics, International trade, development cooperation and evaluation***Mr G. A. Tadas***Consultant**(till 24 February 2024)***Dr P Srinivas Rao***Fellow**Specialisation:***Dr Ivy Roy Sarkar***Fellow***Ms Niyathi Singh***Consultant**(till 31 March 2024)***Ms Elizabeth Roche***Consultant**(till 31 March 2024)***Dr Rohit Saini***Fellow***Mr Sanket Chavan***Consultant**(from 1 December 2023)***Dr Anupama Vijaykumar***Consultant**(from 8 February 2024)*

ASEAN India Centre at RIS



Professor Prabir De
Professor/Coordinator, AIC
Specialisation: International Economics,
Trade & Transport Facilitation and
Service Trade



Dr Tuhin Subhra Giri
Fellow
(till 11 March 2024)
Specialisation: International trade



Dr Sampa Kundu
Consultant

DAKSHIN



Mr Atul Kaushik
Fellow



Dr Monika Kochar
Advisor (Health)
(from 1 February 2024)



Dr Araypalli Sivasenareddy
Advisor (Agriculture)
(from 22 March 2024)



Dr Pratyush Sharma
Consultant
(from 23 January 2024)



Ms Rituparna Banerjee
Manager
(till 31 January 2024)



Mr Amit Arora
Manager



Ms Chandni Sharma
Research Assistant
(from 18 September 2023)

Research Assistants



Mr Syed Arslan Ali



Ms Divyanjana



Mr Arpit Berman



Ms Twinkle Gupta

(till 21 February 2024)



Mr Sukrit Joshi



Mr Kartik Kishore



Ms Neha Gupta

(till 23 December 2023)



Ms Anushka Tripathi

(from 1 August 2023)



Ms Rana Amanat Singh



Ms Vaishali Chaudhary

(from 1 February 2024)



Mr Arya Jash

(till 31 July 2023)



Mr Vimalendu Chauhan

(from 23 February 2024)

Adjunct Senior Faculty



Professor Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director-General, Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa



Professor Manmohan Agarwal

Formerly RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram



Professor Haribabu Ejnazarzala

Former Vice-Chancellor-in-Charge, University of Hyderabad



Professor Shahid Ahmed

Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia



Dr Benu Schneider

Formerly with UN, UNCTAD & Adviser at the Reserve Bank of India



Professor Srividhya Ragavan

Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Norman, USA



Professor Amrita Narlikar

President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)



Dr Ramkishan S. Rajan

Vice-Dean (Research) and Professor Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy National University of Singapore



Professor Mukul G. Asher

Professorial Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore



Dr Suma Athreye

Professor, International Business and Strategy, Brunel Business School, UK



Dr Balakrishna Pisupati

Chairperson, FLEDGE and Former Chairman, NBA, Chennai



Dr T. P. Rajendran

Formerly Assistant Director General, ICAR and Visiting Fellow, RIS



Dr Biswajit Banerjee

Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana.



Professor Kevin P. Gallagher

Professor, Department of International Relations, Boston University; Senior Associate, GDAE, Tufts University



Dr Mitu Sengupta

Professor, Department of Politics and Administration, Ryerson University, Canada, Visiting Professor Council for Social Development (CSD)



Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja

Adjunct Senior Fellow Senior Research Associate at the Overseas Institute (ODI), London, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS)

Staff Members

Mr Anil Kant Sharma

Director (Finance and Administration)

Mr Mahesh C. Arora

Advisor (Finance and Administration)

DG Office

Mrs Ritu Parnami,

Private Secretary

Ms Gohar Naaz,

Secretarial Assistant

Mr Baljit,

Special Assistant

Publication Department

Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra,

Publication Officer

Mr Sachin Singhal,

Publication Assistant (Designing & Web)

Mr Sanjeev Kumar Karna,

Publication Assistant

Library and Documentation Centre

Mrs Jyoti, Assistant Librarian

Mrs Sushila, Library Assistant

Information Technology/Databases Unit

Mrs Sushma Bhat,

Dy. Director (Data Management)

Mrs Poonam Malhotra,

Computer Assistant (till 30 April 2023)

Mr Satya Pal Singh Rawat

Jr. Assistant

Ms Nisha Saini, Website Developer

Finance & Administration

Mrs Anu Bisht, Assistant (till 30 November 2023)

(Mr Surjeet, Accountant (on Deputation))

Mr Anil Kumar, Assistant

Mr Arun Kumar Gupta, Consultant (Accounts)

(till 30 April 2023)

Mr H. K. Malik

(till 1 June 2024)

Administrative Officer (Administration & Accounts)

Mr Yogesh, Consultant (Accounts)

(from 1 April 2023)

Mr Piyush Verma, LDC (till 30 April 2023)

Mrs Shalini Sharma, Receptionist

Ms Sonia, Administrative Assistant (from 2 February 2024)

Mr Bhaskar Tiwari, Accounts Clerk

Mr Salman, Accounts Clerk

Mr Piyush Mathur, Accounts Clerk

(from 7 August 2023)

Research/Secretarial Support

Ms Kiran Wagh, Secretarial Assistant (from 1 February 2023)

Mr Sanjeev Sharma, Private Secretary (On Deputation)

Mr Surender Kumar, Private Secretary

Mrs Bindu Gambhir, Stenographer

Mr J. Srinivas Rao, Secretarial Assistant (till 31 January 2024)

Mr Baidnath Pandey, Office Assistant

Support Staff

Mr Satyavir Singh (Sr. Staff Car Driver)

Mr J.B. Thakuri (Staff Car Driver)

Mr Balwan (MultiTask Staff) (till 31 September 2023)

Mr Pradeep (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Raju (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Raj Kumar (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Manish Kumar (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Raj Kumar (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Sudhir Rana (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Birju (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Pradeep Negi (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Avinash Kapoor (MultiTask Staff)

Mr Ramesh Singh Chaudhary (MultiTask Staff)

Financial Statements

G S A & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the General Body of
Research and Information System for Developing Countries

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Research and Information System for Developing Countries**, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, (the entity), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2024, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Entity as at 31st March 2024, income and expenditure and its receipt and payment for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) specified under section 143(10) of the Act. Our responsibilities under those SAs are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements under the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on the financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, and financial performance of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Report on Other Requirements

We report that:

- (i) We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- (ii) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the entity so far as appears from our examination of the books; and
- (iii) The Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of account.
- (iv) In our opinion, the aforesaid financial statements comply with the Accounting Standards specified under section 133 of the Act.

For GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/N500339



(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899



UDIN: 24083899BKCBNX3711
Place: New Delhi
Date: 26/09/2024

Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)

Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2024

		Amount in ₹	
Particulars	Sch. #	As on 31-Mar-24	As on 31-Mar-23
LIABILITIES			
Research and Development Fund	1	18,29,58,394.08	15,89,79,552.22
Fixed Assets Fund (Non - FCRA)	} 2	13,63,08,128.00	11,68,27,535.00
Fixed Assets Fund (FCRA)		37,767.00	46,037.00
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	} 3	5,26,91,435.14	82,18,008.14
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		10,38,85,408.39	8,09,19,187.15
Unutilised Grant-in-Aid from the MEA, GOI	4a	-	-
Current Liabilities and Provisions (Non - FCRA)	} 4	3,88,49,637.12	5,39,75,073.60
Current Liabilities and Provisions (FCRA)		8,28,273.00	1,00,87,720.00
Total		51,55,59,042.73	42,90,53,113.11
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA)	} 5	13,63,08,128.00	11,68,27,535.00
Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)		4,39,063.00	4,47,333.00
Investment (Non - FCRA)	} 6	4,86,37,819.00	3,41,56,930.00
Investment (FCRA)		20,74,85,254.95	18,98,49,406.95
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	} 3	5,36,57,088.47	1,14,78,167.20
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		27,791.72	26,18,735.62
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	} 7	3,27,57,529.66	5,36,66,026.67
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (FCRA)		3,62,46,367.93	2,00,08,978.67
Total		51,55,59,042.73	42,90,53,113.11

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

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Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached

For GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/ N500339

For Research and Information System for Developing Countries



(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899

Place : New Delhi

Date : 26/09/2024




Anjlit Banerjee
Acting Director (Fin & Admin)



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

**Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)**

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2024

Particulars	Sch. #	Amount in ₹	
		Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Year Ended 31-Mar-23
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	4(a)	14,66,55,672.00	14,03,42,651.00
Sponsored Projects Grant transferred to meet Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	14,99,30,592.85	9,76,25,342.96
Surplus amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		31,39,579.28	-
Income from Royalty, Publications, etc. (Non - FCRA)		3,54,826.74	2,54,695.00
Interest Earned :			
On Term Deposits (FCRA)		66,81,945.00	47,52,929.00
On Term Deposits (Non - FCRA)		21,21,416.00	17,05,429.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (FCRA)		5,31,005.00	7,22,692.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (Non - FCRA)		20,94,862.00	10,57,788.00
On Loan to Employees (Non - FCRA)		27,000.00	28,301.00
On Income Tax Refund (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		8,450.00	89,439.00
Other Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		-	9,367.18
Recoveries for Training Programs and Overheads from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		99,86,318.00	63,39,491.00
Payable Written Off		1,18,987.00	-
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - W.D.V. of Assets Sold/ Written-off (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		-	-
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - Dep. on Assets Acquired out of Grant-in-Aid from the GOI/ Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	2	1,60,59,892.00	34,67,093.00
Total		33,77,10,565.87	25,63,95,218.14
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	8	14,99,30,592.85	9,76,25,342.96
Establishment Expenses (Non - FCRA)	9	10,60,21,518.00	10,22,72,449.00
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA)	10	4,08,03,011.00	3,89,93,050.31
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (FCRA)	11	5,078.16	84,413.66
Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	5	1,60,59,892.00	34,67,093.00
Deficit amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and Prior Period Expenses)	3	9,11,632.00	-
		-	-
Surplus transferred to Research and Development Fund		2,39,78,841.86	1,39,52,869.21
Total		33,77,10,565.87	25,63,95,218.14

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts

16

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of the accounts

As per our report of even date attached


For GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 000257N/ N500339

For Research and Information System for Developing Countries


(CA Sunil Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 083899




Arijit Banerjee
Acting Director (Fin & Admin)





Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26/09/2024

**Research and Information System for Developing Countries
(A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860)**

Receipt and Payment Account for the Year Ended March 31, 2024

	Year Ended 31-Mar-24		Year Ended 31-Mar-23		Year Ended 31-Mar-24		Year Ended 31-Mar-23	
	Receipts	Payments	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures
A Opening Balances								
i) Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	11,981.00		42,473.00		10,81,57,740.00		9,44,94,281.00	
Cash in Hand (FCRA)	4,608.00							
ii) Bank Balances :								
In Savings Account - Andhra Bank	36,140.00		38,140.00		4,44,91,438.48		5,02,82,673.34	
In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	4,55,14,305.87		5,55,00,240.03					
In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	3,97,661.08		54,77,360.14		5,078.16		1,038.66	
In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	8,98,49,406.95		8,61,53,579.95		15,55,79,656.85		7,56,74,290.96	
In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	3,41,56,930.00		5,26,19,103.00					
In Savings Account- State Bank of India (FCRA)	1,27,19,262.59		10,65,20,308.00					
In Fixed Deposits - State Bank of India (FCRA)	10,00,00,000.00							
Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non - FCRA)	3,74,337.00		2,39,036.00					
Total A		28,30,87,622.49		30,66,81,240.12		3,55,73,661.00	1,74,66,307.00	
B Grants Received								
i) From the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	15,80,21,516.00		14,99,00,000.00					
ii) From various Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	11,85,68,787.00		2,93,28,512.82					
iii) From various Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	9,37,21,122.00		4,59,04,814.13					
Total B		37,01,41,427.00		22,01,33,326.95		3,55,73,661.00	1,74,66,307.00	
C Interest Received								
i) Interest on Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	26,000.00		25,301.00					
ii) Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (FCRA)	5,04,627.00		7,11,765.00					
iii) Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (Non - FCRA)	13,61,793.00		20,57,140.00					
iv) Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (FCRA)	50,64,251.00		16,85,660.00					
v) Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (Non - FCRA)	20,64,882.00		10,57,786.00					
vi) Interest on Income Tax Refund	8,450.00		89,438.00					
Total C		56,22,69,052.49		56,37,094.00		13,49,952.00	15,19,625.80	
D Others								
i) Grants Refunded					78,66,611.00		1,07,74,521.00	
ii) Amount Received from LIC and Paid to Employees					34,97,609.00		99,75,421.00	
iii) Amount paid to RIS Provident Fund					1,38,425.00			
iv) Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refunded to GOI, MEA)								
Total D					1,38,425.00			
Total Carried Forward		56,22,69,052.49		53,24,51,661.07		35,66,60,231.49	28,09,11,652.76	

	Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Year Ended 31-Mar-23
Receipts					
Total Brought Forward					
D Other Income					
i) Royalty	67,798.74	-	9,367.18	19,301.00	11,881.00
ii) Miscellaneous Income	-	67,798.74	-	-	4,608.00
Total D					
E Advances and Deposits					
i) Recovery of Loan Advances (Non - FCRA)	-	-	93,657.00	35,140.00	39,140.00
ii) Advances Recovered from Staff (Non - FCRA)	35,000.00	-	-	2,56,27,010.86	4,55,14,305.87
iii) State Cheques (Non - FCRA & FCRA)	-	-	58,282.00	2,16,150.00	-
iv) Amount Received from LIC and Payable to Employees	38,01,938.00	-	98,75,467.00	4,12,393.08	3,97,661.08
v) Amount received in Advance (Non - FCRA)	-	-	-	9,37,50,784.95	8,98,49,406.95
vi) Recovery of Loan Advances (FCRA)	3,389.00	-	32,636.00	4,96,37,819.00	3,41,56,930.00
vii) Amount received on behalf of RIS PF	-	-	-	11,37,34,550.00	10,00,00,000.00
Total E					
F Others					
i) Disposal of Tangible Assets	-	38,40,327.00	-	2,70,34,863.85	1,27,19,252.59
ii) Disposal of Tangible Assets and Misc. Items (Refundable to GOI, VEA)	49,525.00	-	86,900.00	-	-
iii) Income Tax Refund	-	49,525.00	12,59,311.00	52,539.00	3,74,337.00
Total F					
Total	66,22,69,052.49	66,62,26,703.23	64,39,79,275.25	66,62,26,703.23	64,39,79,275.25
Payments					
Total Brought Forward					
Closing Balances					
i) Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
ii) Cash in Hand (FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
iii) Bank Balances:					
In Savings Account - Andhra Bank (Non - FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Savings Account / Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Savings Account - State Bank of India (Non-FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Fixed Deposits - State Bank of India (FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
In Savings Account- State Bank of India (FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
iv) Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non-FCRA)	-	-	-	-	-
Total E					
Total	35,66,60,231.49	35,66,60,231.49	30,96,66,471.74	30,96,66,471.74	28,30,67,522.49

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts (Schedule -16)

Schedules 1 to 16 form an integral part of this accounts

As per our report of even date attached

For GSA & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 030257M NS00339

(CA Sunit Aggarwal)
Partner
M. No. 053895

Place : New Delhi
Date : 26/09/2024

For Research and Information System for Developing Countries

(Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi)
Acting Director (Fin & Admin)

(Ajit Banerjee)
Acting Director (Fin & Admin)

(Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi)
Director General







About RIS: Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

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विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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