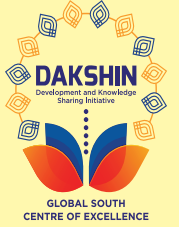




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THE HYDERABAD POLICY CONCLAVE

The Indian ERA

27-29 April 2026

Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad, India





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THE HYDERABAD POLICY CONCLAVE *The Indian ERA*

Plenary Session:1

Navigating Global Uncertainties: India and the Global South

Time: 11.00-11.50 am, Monday, 27 April 2026 | Venue: Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad, India

Agenda

Chair: Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS (5 min.)

Special Remarks: Shri Dammu Ravi, Former Secretary (ER), MEA, New Delhi (10 min.)

Panellists:

- **Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka**, Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation, Hyderabad (8 min.)
- **Prof. Nilanjan Banik**, Professor, Mahindra University, Hyderabad (8 min.)
- **Dr. Archana Srivastava**, Associate Professor of Economics, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad (8 min.)
- **Dr. Srinivas Rao**, Fellow, RIS, New Delhi (8 min.)

Q&A (5 m)

Profile of Speakers

Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma

Director General, RIS



Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma is the Director General of RIS. He has over two decades of expertise in international trade, development cooperation, and multilateral and regional negotiations. His research, advocacy, and capacity-building work have shaped discussions on trade and development, agricultural subsidies, investment, food security, sustainability, market access, trade disputes, transparency, LDC graduation, Aid for Trade, and negotiations at the WTO, FAO, G20, and in regional trade agreements. He holds an M.Phil and a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, with a specialisation in the WTO, international trade, quantitative techniques, and agricultural policy. He is skilled in econometrics, Computable General Equilibrium (GTAP), Partial Equilibrium Modelling, and statistical tools, with extensive experience in trade analytics. Prof. Sharma has authored six books, numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, several working papers, and book chapters, in addition to regularly contributing to policy debates through articles in leading newspapers and participating in global forums. Before joining RIS, he served as a Professor at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

Dr. Prabir De

Professor, RIS



Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He has over three and half decades of full-time research and teaching experiences in India and abroad. He works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development issues. He has been conducting policy research for the Government of India and several national and international organisations including UN agencies and multilateral development banks. He did his M.Sc. in economics from the Calcutta University and Ph.D. in economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI); Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP); and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. He is also the Founding Editor of the Journal of Asian Economic Integration, published by Sage.

Mr. Dammu Ravi

Former Secretary (ER), MEA



Mr. Dammu Ravi is a former Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He has served in Indian Missions abroad in Mexico, Cuba, Brussels in various capacities from 1991 to 2001. He also served at Headquarters in Ministry of External Affairs as Deputy Secretary/Director in West Europe and UN Divisions from 2001 to 2006. He was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs responsible for India's relations with Latin America and Caribbean countries from October 2009 to December 2013. He also handled India's trade and investment relations with regional groups such as G20, BRICS, Commonwealth, SCO, APEC, IORA, ASEM, UNCTAD, etc. He was India's chief negotiator in the mega regional free trade agreement 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'. He holds a Masters Degree in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He has published research papers on trade matters: (i) Standardizing India's Exports, (ii) Liberalizing India's Agriculture Markets.

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka

Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation



Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka is currently the Chairperson of the Politeia Research Foundation. He was previously a Senior Fellow for Research Programmes and Strategic Neighbourhood at the Delhi Policy Group, a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum Library, and a Senior Consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He was a Pavate Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the UK and a former Fulbright Fellow in the Conflict Transformation Programme in the United States. Sanjay's areas of interest include India's South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and India's foreign policy. He has worked on diverse themes such as Geopolitics, Peacebuilding, Ethnic Conflicts, Conflict and Economy, Democracy, Decentralisation, Federalism, Political Transitions, Connectivity Projects, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Defence Cooperation and other related domains. Further, he has been closely following the political transition in Myanmar and conducted field research in that country and in Northeast India. Sanjay also has extensive work experience with think-tanks and civil society organisations in India. He has considerable work experience in strengthening participatory political processes, governance frameworks and platforms for wider consultation. He has a substantive publication record, including books, policy reports, numerous research papers, and Op-Ed essays.

Dr. Nilanjan Banik

Professor, Mahindra University



Dr. Nilanjan Banik is a Professor of Economics and Finance at the School of Management, at Mahindra University. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Utah State University, USA and a Master of Economics from Delhi School of Economics, India. Prof. Banik works focuses on the application of time series econometrics in issues relating to international trade, market structure and development economics. His other areas of work focus on the 'rules' part of WTO; especially examining the non-tariff barriers aspect of GATT/WTO agreements. He has extensive policy and consulting experience with ADB, WTO, UNESCAP, DFAT Australia, ICRIER, RIS, and others, and has authored books, numerous A-journal papers, and over 180 editorials in major global and Indian outlets.

Dr. Archana Srivastava

Associate Professor of Economics, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus



Dr. Archana Srivastava is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, with a PhD in Economics from IIT Kanpur (2013) where she specialized in empirical testing of trade theories and their impact on the Indian economy; she has extensive research experience with national and international institutions including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), DVARA Research Grant, Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF), Shastri Indo-Canadian Research Institute (SICRG), and the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Her expertise is also reflected in her publications in reputed national and international journals. Her research interests broadly include International Economics, Labour Markets, Energy Economics, and Public Health.

Dr. P. Srinivas Rao

Fellow, RIS



Dr. P. Srinivasa Rao is a Fellow at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He specialises in agriculture, rural credit, infrastructure, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on SDG 2. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics and has taught undergraduate economics at the University of Delhi. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals. He has also contributed to municipal finance studies, co-authoring two major reports. At RIS, he supports agricultural policy and played a key role in the G20 Agriculture Working Group during India's G20 Presidency in 2023. He has co-authored T20 policy briefs and discussion papers.