Tentative Agenda

17th November 2026 (Tuesday) (Venue: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre)	
Time (hrs)	**Programme**
09:15 - 09:45	**Registration**
09:45 - 10:00	**Arrival of Chief Guest and Dignitaries**
10:00 - 11:10	**Opening Session** **[10:00 - 10:07] Welcome Address** • Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India **[10:07 - 10:11]** *[Screening DAKSHIN-RIS video]* **[10:11 - 10:32]: Special Address** • Ms. Archna Vyas, Country Director, Gates Foundation, India • H.E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India • H.E. Mr. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to India and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in India. **[10:32 - 10:57] Keynote Address** *(25 minutes)* • Hon'ble Mr. Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India **[10:57 - 11:05]** *Felicitation Ceremony* **[11:05 - 11:10] Vote of Thanks** • Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, India
11:10 - 11:45	**Tea/Coffee**
11:45 - 13:00	**Session 1: New Global South Strategic Partnership** **Chair & Moderator** • Mr. Dammu Ravi, Former Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

	Panel *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Barro, Ambassador of Senegal to India • H.E. Dr. Désiré Boniface Somé, Ambassador of Burkina Faso to India, Embassy of Burkina Faso, New Delhi • Mr. Jesper Moller, Representative a.i. (ad interim), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), India Country Office, New Delhi • Ms. Ruchita Beri, Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, India • Dr. Eliud Moyi, Acting Director, Economic Management, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya • Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Executive Director, Confederation of Indian Industry, India • Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, India **Open Q&A**
13:00 - 14:15	**Lunch**
14:15 - 15:30	**Session 2: Food, Agriculture and Rural Transformation** **Chair & Moderator** • Dr. Ramesh Chand, Former Member NITI Aayog, India **Panel** *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Ms. Anisa Kapufi Mbega, High Commissioner of United Republic of Tanzania to India • Dr. Swati Nayak, Scientist and Interim India Country Manager, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), New Delhi, India • Mr. Rashid Hassan Katandula, ICT Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania • Dr. Manish Karmwar, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, India • Dr. Pratap Singh Birthal, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS, India **Open Q&A**
15:30 - 15:45	**Session Changeover**
15:45 - 17:00	**Session 3: Health: From Pharmaceuticals to Health Systems**

	Chair & Moderator • Mr. Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India **Panel** *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, High Commissioner of Uganda to India • Dr. A. Raghu, Adviser (Ayurveda), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India • Mr. Luke Alutuli, Principal Pharmacist Logistics Management at Ministry of Health, Republic of Zambia • Dr. Bhupesh Taneja, Chief Scientist and Head, Infectious Disease Biology Unit, CSIR–Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi, India, New Delhi • Mr. Zali B. Chikuba, Executive Director, Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), Zambia • Dr. Anantha Krishnan, Deputy Director, Devices, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics (Health R&D), Gates Foundation, India • Mr. Michael Owuor, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Development and Innovation Pillar, The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), Kenya • Dr. Monika Kochar, Advisor (Health), DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, India **Open Q&A**
17:00 - 17:15	**MoU Signing Ceremony between RIS and ICAR** **Special Remarks on RIS-ICAR Partnership for Global South Agricultural Cooperation** • Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) & Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India • Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India
17:15 - 18:00	**Networking Tea/Coffee**

18:00 - 19:15	**Cultural Programme**
19:15 onwards	**Reception-cum-Dinner [Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre]**
18th November 2026 (Wednesday) (Venue: Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre)	
09:30 - 10:45	**Session 4: New and Emerging Technologies, Digital Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure** **Chair & Moderator** • Dr. Sadre Alam, Joint Secretary (NEST), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India **Panel** *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Prof. Abdenor Khelifi, Ambassador of Algeria to India • Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India • Dr. Kanwaljit Singh, Deputy Director, Innovation and Scaling, Digital Public Infrastructure, Gates Foundation, India • Mr. Aimable Manirakiza, Chief Executive Officer, Centre For Development and Enterprises Great Lakes (CDE), Burundi • Prof. John Huston Stanfield, Director, Advanced Study of African Renaissance Policies Ideas (ASARPI), Mauritius • Mr. Moses Chisala, Acting Principal Communications Officer, Ministry of Technology and Science, Republic of Zambia • Dr. Amit Das, Advisor (Digital), DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, India **Open Q&A**
10:45 - 11:15	Tea/Coffee
11:15 - 12:30	**Session 5: Building Sustainable Trade and Investment Relations** **Chair & Moderator** • Mr. Yashvir Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

	Panel *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Mr. Sulemana Ibun Iddrissu, Deputy Head of Mission, Ghana • Dr Sarah N. Ssewanyana, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Makerere University, Uganda *(online)* • Mr. Abhijit Das, Former Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, India • Dr. Nasir Jamal, Assistant Secretary General, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), New Delhi, India • Mr. Aashish Chandorkar, Former Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the World Trade Organization, Geneva • Mr. Pranav Kumar, Vice-President, International Trade Policy and Compliance, Reliance Industries Limited, New Delhi, India. • Dr. Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS, India **Open Q&A**
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:45	**Session 6: Connectivity: Linking India and Africa** **Chair & Moderator** • Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Member, Adjudicatory Board for Major Ports, & Former Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India **Panel** *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Mr. Mandehatsara Georget, Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar to India • Dr. Waithaka Njuguna Iraki, Professor and Associate Dean, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Prof. V. N. Attri, Director, International Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, Kurukshetra University and Former Chair, Indian Ocean Studies, University of Mauritius, Mauritius • Mr. B. N. Puri, Director, Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD), New Delhi, India

	• Cmde Sujeet Samaddar, Visiting Fellow, RIS, India **Open Q&A**
14:45 - 15:15	Tea/Coffee
15:15 - 16:30	**Session 7: Africa's Future: From Resource Endowment to Economic Transformation** **Chair & Moderator** • Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador of India to Jordan, Libya and Malta **Panel** *(7 minutes for each panellist)* • H.E. Mr. Muhammad Saidu Dahiru, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to India • Mrs. OTELE AHANDA Estelle-Nadia NTI, Diplomatic Advisor, African Centre for International, Diplomatic, Economic and Strategic Studies (CEIDES), Cameroon • Prof. Nagesh Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi • Ms. Sylvia Pastory Rwehabura, Principal Planning Officer, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, United Republic of Tanzania • Dr Geetha Vani Rayasam, Director, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi • Mr Federico Bonaglia, Deputy Head of OECD Development Centre Paris (online) • Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India **Open Q&A**
16:30 - 17:30	**Closing Session** **Key Highlights** • Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, India

	Special Address: • Prof. A.S. Yaruingam, Head of Department, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, India • H.E. Mrs. Mpon Sylvie Michele Epse Tiek Mambo, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., High Commission of the Republic of Cameroon, New Delhi • Dr. Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS **Valedictory Address** • Mr. Janesh Kain, Joint Secretary (East and Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India *(tbc)* **Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks** • Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, India
17:30 onwards	**High Tea**