

आरआईएस

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट

2020-21



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

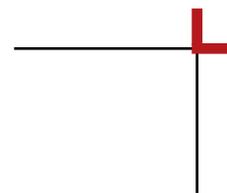
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

RIS

Annual Report

2020-21

Contents



Message from Chairman.....	v
Report of Director General.....	vii
1. Global Economic Cooperation:G20	1
2. Development Cooperation	15
3. BRICS.....	39
4. IBSA	43
5. Trade	47
6. Finance	55
7. STI.....	63
8. Health	79
9. Blue Economy	85
10. Energy.....	91
11. GDC.....	95
12. ASEAN India	99
13. Capacity Building Programme	107
14. RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogue and Publications.....	109
15. Data and Information Centre	123
16. Human Resource	127
17. Financial Statements.....	133

Governing Council

Chairperson



Amb. (Dr) Mohan Kumar

Ex-Officio Members



Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs
(Since 29 January, 2020)



Mr Tarun Bajaj
Secretary, Department
of Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Finance
(Till April 2021)



Mr Ajay Seth
Secretary, Department
of Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Finance
(Since April 2021)



Professor Ashutosh Sharma
Secretary, Department of S&T,
Ministry of Science and
Technology
(Till April 2021)



Dr Renu Swarup
Secretary,
Department of
S&T,
Ministry of Science
and Technology
(Since April 2021)



Dr Anup Wadhawan
Commerce Secretary,
Ministry of
Commerce and
Industry
(Till June 2021)



**Mr B.V.R.
Subrahmanyam**
Commerce Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce
and Industry
(Since June 2021)



Mr Rahul Chhabra
Secretary (ER),
Ministry of External
Affairs,
(Till July, 2021)



Mr Dammu Ravi
Secretary (ER),
Ministry of External
Affairs,
(Since July, 2021)

Non-Ex-Officio Members



Dr Seshadri Chari
Chairman, China Study
Center, MAHE, Manipal



Dr Jayant Dasgupta
Former Ambassador
of India to WTO



Mrs Shyamala Gopinath
Former Deputy Governor,
RBI



Dr Shailesh Nayak
Director, National Institute
of Advanced Studies

Member-Secretary (Ex-Officio)



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, Research and Information
System for Developing Countries

Research Advisory Council

Chairperson



Amb. Sudhir T. Devare

Members



Professor N.S. Siddharthan
Hon. Professor of Economics, Hon.
Director, Forum for Global Knowledge
Sharing, Madras School of Economics



Professor Pulin B. Nayak
Former Director
Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi



Ms Sindhushree Khullar
Formerly CEO, NITI Aayog



Mr Anupam Ray
Joint Secretary [PP&R]
Ministry of External Affairs

Special Invitee



Dr Nagesh Kumar
Head of Office, Subregional Office for
South and South-West Asia
UN-ESCAP, New Delhi

Member Secretary



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, Research and
Information System for Developing
Countries



Amb. Dr Mohan Kumar

Message from Chairman

If 2020 was the year in which COVID really struck, 2021 was the year in which its full impact was felt with all the attendant consequences. Either way, the period April 2020 to March 2021 will go down in history as one of the most challenging in recent times.

Policy think-tanks like RIS could not have escaped the impact of COVID. But what they can do is find innovative and creative ways of coping. And I am particularly proud to state that the RIS did so and was able to deliver results in such a challenging environment. Both the message from the DG and the Annual Report itself that follows stand testimony to this.

The period began with intensive lockdowns which prevented any physical interaction whatsoever. Slowly but surely, all had to adjust to “webinars”, a term hardly in use until then. While webinars can never be a substitute for in-person meetings, RIS converted the crisis into an opportunity by organizing webinars on themes such as G-20, BRICS, IBSA and ASEAN. Global Development Centre at RIS also held several webinars. In some ways, it was easier to connect with experts located in far away locations like Brazil, South Africa, Italy not to mention Russia. Gradually, the webinars multiplied in number and there were more interactions than ever before, and this in a year punctuated by crises.

The ASEAN India Centre (AIC) continued to provide policy inputs to the MEA on how best to implement the Act East policy. In this, Prof Prabir De as the Head of the Center played an important role.

RIS takes its job of providing policy advice very seriously. As in the past, RIS worked closely with NITI AAYOG, Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Commerce and of course, its parent Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs. Details of all this and more may be found in the Annual Report.

RIS did not and cannot forget its core competence: South-South Cooperation, Connectivity, Regional Trade and Investment as well as Global Governance. To this may be added subjects such as Science Diplomacy, South Asian Energy Group as well as Public Health. It is a matter of pride that RIS maintained its status as one of the foremost policy think-tanks in the country on economic, trade, public policy and governance issues. This is as it should be given the credibility and integrity of research that RIS has carried out over the years.

A policy think-tank is only as good as its Faculty and Staff. I take this opportunity to thank the RIS team led ably by its Director General and his dedicated team of professionals. My gratitude to the Governing Council and General Body for their guidance. Last, but not least, RIS is indebted to the Ministry of External Affairs for their invaluable support at all times.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mohan Kumar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mohan Kumar



Report of Director General

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

The Financial year 2020-2021 began when the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis was fully gripping the world. The lockdown brought out all socio-economic activities to standstill. The darkness unleashed by the pandemic spread its tentacles all over. Coming to terms with dismal situation and encouraged by clarion call of PM Narendra Modi to face the COVID-19 crisis boldly, RIS soon adjusted to new style of functioning from home.

The institute embarked on reaching the partner institutes and cross sections of experts from all over the world for online consultations to deliberate on the abnormal health, social and economic challenges created by COVID-19 and evolve a new narrative on regional, sub-regional, multilateral cooperation for collectively facing the crisis. The faculty members also worked hard to analyse the outcome of the catastrophe. RIS brought three special issues of the *Diary*, discussing issues arisen out of the pandemic, such as global partnership, inter-state migrants, pharmaceutical industry, uncertainty in financial sector, ripple effect on the world, role of WHO, food and nutrition security, global multilateralism, harnessing science, technology and innovation, Indian traditional system of medicine, overall impact on the world economy among others. As the unlocking process started, the institute planned exchange of ideas with collaborative efforts in the spirit of "One World," ensuing well being of all by the all. The present *RIS Annual Report 2020-21* give details of the RIS work programme during COVID-19 crisis.

Further, RIS has also scaled up its engagements. Contribution to the G-20 specific research is expanding and its connect with various stakeholders and the other engagement groups. The following sections discuss the deeper involvement of RIS in various regional and multilateral economic issues.

Development Cooperation

RIS continues to be engaged in a wide range of academic activities under its global economic governance and cooperation programme. It has further advanced its research on developing data base for India's development cooperation, econometric base technique for analyzing development cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation, localizing the sustainable development as part of the agendas of SDGs, UN@75, development cooperation during COVID-19 pandemic, etc.

BRICS and IBSA

Under Global Economic Governance and Cooperation pillar, RIS has developed exclusive expertise and has a dedicated work programme on BRICS cooperation. RIS is part of network of BRICS academic institutions, think-tanks and civil society organizations; and has hosted the BRICS Civil Forum and BRICS Academic Forum in the past. RIS regularly provides policy inputs on BRICS to the Ministry of External Affairs and other departments of the Government of India. RIS has once again been entrusted by the Ministry of External

Report of Director General

Affairs to organize the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 and BRICS Academic Forum 2021 to mark India's BRICS Presidency 2021, preparations and workshops have already been initiated in this regard. RIS has also been nominated by the Ministry of Finance as their Knowledge Partner for the proposed BRICS Economic Conclave 2021. Earlier also RIS had partnered with the Ministry of Finance for the BRICS Economic Forum.

As part of Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation pillar, RIS is among the early exponents and supporters of IBSA Cooperation. RIS currently hosts the IBSA Fellowship Programme which was announced by the Government of India in 2016. RIS is also strongly networked with partner think-tanks in IBSA, hosts the IBSA Academic Forum and has regularly provided policy inputs to the Ministry of External Affairs on IBSA matters.

International Trade

Trade issues are being discussed, researched, and analysed at bilateral, regional, and multilateral level in RIS. The faculty has been engaged in areas related to India's bilateral trade with South Asian countries like Iran, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. Trade between India and China is examined in the context of '*Atmanirbhar Bharat*' initiative. Preparation is underway to bring out flagship reports of RIS – '*World Trade and Development Report*' and '*South Asia Development Cooperation Report*'. At the regional level, there are ongoing studies on BIMSTEC and Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). At the global level, the structural reforms of the multilateral trading system, new issues relating to trade including e-commerce, trade and environment, special and differential treatment, global and regional value chains and competition policy issues are being researched.

Issues Related to Finance

As is well known, the Financial sectors worldwide are evolving rapidly in the form of new products & services, associated risks, business models and regulations. Fintech, digital currency and crypto assets are the new financial innovations which apparently offer huge potential for the banks and financial institutions to unbundle certain segments from traditional model of financial intermediation and package it efficiently at a much lower cost and ease of the customers. This new wave of fast evolving financial domains demands equal attention by the central banks and monetary authorities especially in emerging markets and developing economies in order to assess the emergent risk and vulnerabilities and make necessary regulatory changes. Along with the focus on growing and innovative segments of the financial sector, some traditional issues such as infrastructure finance and development finance assume importance in recent years. The critical role of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) for bridging the gaps in infrastructure financing and funding development projects has resurfaced in many countries of the world. In order to examine the opportunities, risks and challenges in some of these segments, RIS launched a number of research studies and webinar series in the year 2020-2021 in collaboration with national and international institutions.

Leveraging STI for Equitable Growth

Similarly, the RIS work programme on science, technology, and innovation (STI) is one of the most dynamic and broad-based research programme focussing on applications of science, technology, and innovation for serving public goods. Leveraging the centrality

Report of Director General

of STI for addressing complex societal challenges, the RIS work programme focuses on set of existing and emerging technologies and explores policy pathways for their creation, commercialisation, diffusion towards addressing a range of contemporary developmental challenges. The rapid technological change often brings with it a range of benefits as well as risks that need better appreciation for sound policymaking. Towards promoting applications of STI for fostering equitable growth and development, the STI work programme also works closely with Programme on Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for promoting international S&T-led international cooperation towards fostering transformative developmental pathways.

Importance of Health Sector

As the pandemic presented unprecedented challenges on health front, the health programme of RIS assumed added momentum. It covers broad aspects of health and wellbeing that are directly relevant to present scenario and appeal to policymakers. The programme relies on an integrative approach to healthcare delivery and cooperation. Therefore, the focus of the programme ranges from, but not limited to, Pharmaceutical Policy, Traditional Medicine, Healthcare Diplomacy, SDG-3 Health and Wellbeing for all, and concepts of wellness and wellbeing. The team collaborates regularly with domain experts, academia, CSOs and policymakers via consultations, seminars/webinars and conferences.

Various Dimensions of Blue Economy

The concept of Blue Economy has been engaging wider attention. Blue Economy (BE) encompasses activities, stakeholders and policies beyond seas and oceans to target high economic growth with environment sustainability. For estimating contribution of BE to GDP, there has been no commonly agreed global framework, and RIS is presently working on evolving a framework for the estimation of BE in India and its neighbours. Besides, Blue Trade, different from maritime trade, is emerging as a novel concept in the global trade literature. RIS has developed a framework for the estimation of Blue Trade. In India, Blue trade is growing faster than GDP and also overall trade of the country. As an important issue of BE, fishery subsidy negotiations in the WTO is critical for the small and marginal fishermen in India and other resource poor littoral countries for reducing/eliminating fisheries subsidies. RIS is analysing the issue of fishery subsidy negotiations in the WTO. For fostering debate on various dimensions of BE, RIS has formed a platform as Blue Economy Forum (BEF) to share perceptions of various domestic and international experts/policy makers.

Promoting Energy Cooperation

As the issue of energy cooperation assumed greater significance, RIS launched the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) for promoting energy cooperation between India and its neighbours. Led by eminent experts, practitioners, and industry representatives, the group is exploring policy pathways and addressing hurdles in the way of building electricity interconnections between India's neighbourhoods. Recognising the mutual gains of regional electricity trade, the SAGE is also forging regional cooperation networks and facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders for creating a region-wide electricity trading network.

Report of Director General

Global Development Centre

GDC at RIS has been launched to take the Indian development experiences to other countries. It strives to promote and showcase some of India's globally acclaimed experiences and practices across countries through India's indigenously evolved development cooperation norms which are widely accepted in Global South and boost universal resilience and sustainability. GDC encourages engaging with partner institutions like government agencies, think-tanks and Civil Society Organisations having footprints in the national and international domains to scale up cross-learning and innovation.

Deepening ASEAN-India Partnership

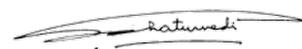
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS is playing an important role in deepening ASEAN-India partnership. AIC serves as a resource center for the ASEAN countries and India aiming at strengthening cooperation and nurturing ties between them. AIC works under the enabling leadership of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in providing valuable and feasible directions to the ASEAN-India relations. In 2020-21, AIC held virtual conferences and undertook studies to look at the various issues like trade, connectivity and maritime transport in the Indo-Pacific; production networks, energy cooperation, Trilateral Highway and Implications on India's Northeast, etc.

The *Annual Report* presents the detailed RIS work programme in the backdrop of what has been stated in the preceding paras. It also recounts the details about number of policy dialogues organized by RIS on important themes, particularly in the backdrop of COVID-19 health crisis. Similarly, the report also catalogues the publications that the institute brought out such as reports, discussion papers, policy briefs, journals, etc. for disseminating policy research outputs with emphasis on pandemic and to serve as references for policy makers, academics and practitioners. The faculty members also contributed to outside policy dialogues and publications.

The Institute continues to be guided by its Governing Council and the Research Advisory Council to enlarge its vision and mission for conducting research on a number of economic challenges that country face in both at the domestic and international fronts. We are grateful to Chairman, Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar and Members of RIS Governing Council and General Body for their encouragement and support and to Ambassador Sudhir Devare and other RAC members for their valuable advice to firm up RIS research agenda.

We also take this opportunity to convey our thanks to the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, NITI Aayog, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of AYUSH and other partner organisations, both at the national and international levels, for their close association with our work programme and support received.

We also express thanks to all colleagues both in faculty and administration, for their continuous support to carry forward various dimensions of our work programme.



Sachin Chaturvedi

Global Economic Governance and Cooperation: G20

As the nation prepare for the G-20 Presidency, RIS has scaled up its engagement and contribution to the G-20 specific research and is expanding its connect with various stakeholders including T-20, S-20, B-20 and the other engagement groups. The following paragraphs give details of RIS work programme in this regard.

G20 work programme at RIS involves contribution to T20 policy briefs, in-house research on important G20 issues, and publication of 'G20 Digest'. A total of 10 policy brief proposals by RIS faculty have been accepted by T20 Italy. The accepted policy briefs prepared in collaboration with T20 institutions from other G20 countries would be published on T20 Italy website shortly.

In addition, policy brief proposals submitted to T20 Saudi Arabia (both published and unpublished) would converted to suitable RIS policy briefs. Research papers on select themes of G20 by RIS faculty relating to their T20 contribution are ongoing. 'G20 Digest' is increasingly being noticed by the G20 fraternity in India and other countries with contribution of articles by leading thinkers in different fields.

Services Trade in G20

Dr Priyadarshi Dash & Ms Sabhya Rai

Services trade as such is evolving globally and it is believed that emerging and developing economies possess huge scope for services trade expansion. Lack of disaggregated bilateral trade data and gaps in data reporting by countries, a complete understanding of potential of services exports and imports are not properly estimated. However, given the changes in trading behaviour enabled by e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Alibaba, Flipkart, Snapdeal, etc. indicates growth triggers in several services sectors. G20 being a dynamic international grouping can play a constructive role in promoting and governing services trade. The coverage of issues in G20 leaders' summits are not scant suggesting a huge knowledge gap in understanding services trade. Unlike goods, trade barriers in services are qualitative and varied across countries. It is important to examine the trends in services exports and imports within G20, emerging patterns with respect to G20-developing countries in G20, reflection of those trends and patterns in G20 summits and official tracks, and the role of G20 as a market for global services trade and rule-making. Besides mapping the evolving trends, trade barriers and policy issues in services trade, the study empirically examines the factor that determines the services flows between the G20 countries.

RIS Contribution to T20 Policy Briefs

RIS has been actively contributing policy briefs to the T20 Engagement Group of G20. The following T20 Policy Briefs from RIS have been accepted by the T20 Italy.

Sl. No	Task Force	Task Force Theme	Policy Brief Title	Authors
1	1	Covid-19 and Health	International initiatives to ensure universal access to medical treatments and vaccines -- Need and Way Forward	T.C. James & Others
2	3	Trade, Investment and Growth	Expanding Market Access in Agriculture in G20: Addressing Barriers and Inequities in Trading Rules in Post-Pandemic Era	Priyadarshi Dash Shreya Kansal
3			G20-facilitated Specialised Public-Private Sector Non-Sovereign Financing Mechanism to address the global gap in trade finance and trade-related infrastructure investment	Rajeev Kher Arun Nair
4	5	2030 Agenda and Development Cooperation	STI for SDGs Post Pandemic: Strengthening TFM and Global Public Goods for Low and Middle Income Countries	Sachin Chaturvedi Sabyasachi Saha
5			Mainstreaming the Kampala Principles on Effective Private Sector Engagement in Development Cooperation	Sachin Chaturvedi & Others
6			G20 policy leadership for early childhood: a critical lever for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals	P.K. Anand Krishna Kumar & Others
7	6	Social Cohesion and the Future of Welfare Systems	How do we know goals are achieved? Integrated early childhood monitoring and evaluation systems as key to developing effective and resilient social welfare systems	P.K. Anand Krishna Kumar & Others
8	7	Infrastructure Investment and Financing	Digital and Sustainable Infrastructure: Exploring Innovative Private Sector Participation in PPP Frameworks	Sachin Chaturvedi Priyadarshi Dash & Others
9			G20 Support for Improved Infrastructure Project Cycles in Africa	Priyadarshi Dash & Others
10			The infrastructure of a new sustainable economy: distribution, urbanization, governance	Sachin Chaturvedi & Others

In 2020, RIS had submitted good number of policy brief proposals. Some of those have been published by T20 Saudi Arabia. The other proposals are being developed as RIS policy briefs on G20. These include G20 Leadership and Relevance of Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmaps; Trade to Invigorate Growth Dynamism in the G20: Focusing on GVC and Technology Intensive Trade; Energy, Water, and Food

Interconnects for Sustainable Food Security; Promoting Quality Foreign Direct Investment Flows for Sustainable Development; Common but Differentiated Migration Linked Strategies in G 20 countries for promoting SDGs; Tackling Climate Change and economic growth: going beyond the UNFCCC; Fintech Revolution: Opportunities and Risks in Developing Countries; Innovative Financing for Sustainable and Quality Infrastructure; Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Technologies; Reforming Global Trade Governance through Dynamic Issue-based Coalitions and Effective Regional Integration; and Institutionalizing a Governance Structure for SDGs and Development Cooperation in G20: A Polycentric Approach.

Agriculture in G20- An Assessment of Priorities

Dr Priyadarshi Dash & Ms Shreya Kansal

Agriculture is an important priority sector for G20 especially for the G20-developing countries. Trade in agricultural products and related policy-making has been quite contentious at the global level. In view of no fresh round of multilateral trade negotiations by WTO, plurilateral routes are increasingly being explored for negotiation of agriculture trade. In absence of any global frameworks for agricultural trade, one would expect G20 to take up agriculture trade issues seriously. With this motivation, this paper examines whether agriculture has got due importance in G-20 process. G20 leaders' summits and agriculture minister tracks are studied in depth to decipher the range of issues that G20 has prioritized over the years and how consistent are those in line with contemporary challenges faced by the world and the developing countries, in particular.

A T20 policy brief on agriculture would be published on T20 Italy website soon. In addition, a sponsored RIS-IFPRI PRCI project on agriculture in BIMSTEC would add to the existing knowledge on agriculture.



Green Finance in Developing Countries: Evolving Global and G20 Frameworks and Regulations

Dr Priyadarshi Dash & Ms Kritika Khanna

Infrastructure investments would continue to be a preferred policy tool for G20 and other economies of the world. The onus rests on identifying priority sectors such as green and clean energy, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, etc, and exploring innovative financing instruments to fund projects in those sectors. Conventional financing in the form of bank loans and concessional bilateral and multilateral loans cannot fully cover the entire gamut of financing. Moreover, to link infrastructure funding to climate mitigation and adaptation, green bonds can be promoted. Besides issuance of green bonds a whole range of green finance products are being envisaged globally to attract targeted investments. Developing countries should benefit from this wave and meet their Paris Agreement commitments. It would require innovations in terms of tapping conservative institutional investors like insurance companies, pension funds, etc and idle household savings. Mobilizing retail investors for funding infrastructure projects would necessitate awareness about returns to investments even though perceived risks associated with those investments are already high. Financial innovations may include local currency-denominated energy finance bonds, sustainable energy, resilient urban transportation systems, futuristic infrastructure assets, etc. Cost of borrowing and cost of issuing green bonds are apparently high in developing countries. Proper and harmonized regulatory system including the Basel framework is needed to promote, regulate and streamline mobilisation of green finance domestically and attracting foreign investments.

Joint Coalition between RIS, CII and INSA

In order to bring synergy in generating meaningful inputs on G20 a joint coalition between the three institutions namely, Research and Information system for Developing Countries (RIS), Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Indian National Science Academy (INSA) was formed. RIS has been contributing to T20 for past several years. Likewise, CII is one of the biggest and oldest industry associations in the country and an important stakeholder from India in the B20 process. Moreover, INSA is a prominent institution for science education and research in the country with potential for significant contribution to G20 science and innovation agenda. With combined strength and synergy, this coalition aims to provide massive intellectual support to the G20 process.

Net Zero: India's Options

Mr Augustine Peter

'Net zero' GHG emissions by 2050 is being pushed at the multilateral forums. The US has taken a leadership role with President Biden at the helm. Diplomatic pressure is mounting on countries, especially on India which is the third largest emitter in absolute terms. Net zero means whatever carbon footprints one is putting into the atmosphere has to be neutralized by carbon sinks which absorb CO₂. In other words all remaining human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are balanced by removing GHG from the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide emissions constitute 76 per cent of the source of global warming. As per the information available from IEA, G20 countries accounted for 85 per cent of CO₂ emissions in 2019 (as against 92 per cent in 1990). Five G20 countries had in 2019 more than 1000 MTCO₂e. These are PR China (9802), the US (4766), India (2309), Russia (1587) and Japan (1066). These five countries account for 58 per cent of world emissions. If we consider the per capita CO₂ emissions, among the G20 countries Australia and Canada are at the top with about 15.3 tCO₂. India is at the bottom of the ladder of per capita emissions with 1.7 tCO₂, while the world average per capita is 4.4 tCO₂. And the per capita emissions of five G20 countries (Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Mexico) are lower than the world average.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were to be declared by the countries party to the Paris agreement, and 191 NDCs were filed after the Paris Agreement. NDCs are expected to be revised every five years. The pandemic has, however, come in the way. Of the G20 countries China, the US and India are yet to make revised commitments.

Net zero targets have been declared by many countries to be by 2050/60. Countries like the UK and France have even passed laws to this effect. The latest declaration has been by China who publically declared to the emissions to peak by 2030 and reach net zero by 2060. Germany, Japan and the US also fall in this category of those who have publicly declared target years. Before net zero, peaking of emissions has to be achieved. As per available information, 14 of the G20 countries have already peaked between 1990 to 2018, last being South Korea in 2018. And India, China, Australia, Indonesia, and Mexico are yet to peak.

President Biden's virtual meeting with leaders of 40 countries in April 2021 gave a fillip to the climate cause. His pledge to cut US emissions by 50-52 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels can be treated as ambitious, though may fall short of the requirement.

The UN Green Climate Fund's (GCF's) goal is to mobilize at least US\$100 billion by 2020. As per information available only US\$ 10 billion has been mobilized till date. This is against the estimated requirements by developing countries of US\$ 3.5 trillion by 2030 to meet their climate pledges.

COP26 scheduled in Glasgow, UK during 31 October to 12 November 2021 is important because it is the first quinquennial 'global stock take'. The pandemic and the global efforts at recovery will influence the discussions at COP26. Sustainable recovery will be a much debated issue. Diplomatic pressure is certain to build up further as COP26 approaches. Fifty eight countries have already announced 'net zero' emission targets dates. NDCs have to be revised as well.

India is the third largest emitter as well as one of the fastest growing large economies. The issues before India are: (i) declare a reasonably close date for peaking and a reasonably close date for achieving net zero and (ii) at the same time ensure that the potential growth trajectory of the country is not compromised in the process. Balancing climate and development objectives is crucial.

Coal has been stated to be the lightning rod of climate diplomacy. India plans to add 60 GW of coal power capacity by 2026. But most of the existing coal plants are working about 50 per

cent capacity. Funding is a problem. But the public sector lenders in India have not shown much hesitation till date. When electric vehicles grow, demand for electricity would grow and coal demand will grow. Given the cost competitiveness of renewable, continuing with coal first strategy may not be suited. Besides given ESG considerations funds for coal plant would also dry up as time passes.

India is going ahead with using gas as a 'bridge fuel'. But the current pricing regime of gas has been seen as a stumbling block. Coal and oil will continue to be in India's energy basket for some time to come. But we need to make them cleaner. Critical position of natural gas as a transition fuel for near term GHG reductions and enable entry of hydrogen in a decade is also considered.

The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme was implemented and changes to FAME policy in April 2019 have been announced where incentives have been substantially enhanced.

What is the way forward for India?

- (i) An innovative climate governance system needs to be evolved quickly
- (ii) Reducing fossil fuel dependence: Action on Coal and Oil: What is the status now and what is the way forward to achieve net zero goal within a reasonable time frame.
- (iii) Actions on major sectors: Promoting green mobility; Promoting environment friendly buildings; sectors like cement, steel etc.
- (iv) Use of green hydrogen: Government is planning to impose obligations on user industries like oil refineries, fertilizer firms for use of green hydrogen. MNRE has circulated the draft National Hydrogen Energy Mission document for inter-Ministerial consultation, with a view to creating a hydrogen value chain in the country and bring down the cost of hydrogen production. Apart from industrial use, hydrogen technology can also be used to store electricity and potentially to run vehicles.
- (v) Identifying technologies that work for India and nurturing these into viable projects. Coordinate with the US on affordable technologies as per the Indo-US cooperation on climate change;
- (vi) Executing just transition plans for impacted people and industries;
- (vii) Enabling new instruments and sources of capital for financing to flow more smoothly;

US support in terms of technology and finance would come handy

- (viii) Government plans 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol. Use of E20 fuel (20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol) is expected to reduce carbon monoxide emission from that source by 30-50 per cent.
- (ix) What should developed countries do to make global climate action more equitable?

In the run up to COP26 as far as net zero is concerned the focus would be on the following issues besides the above:

- (i) When to achieve peaking and Net Zero. There is pressure on India as a G20 country to declare at least a tentative target year. China has declared 2030 and 2060 as peaking and net zero years. India cannot certainly peak in 2030. We are behind China by much more than a decade in economic growth. So peaking cannot be before 2040. Which means Net Zero cannot be achieved before 2070. But will this be a presentable date for India, being a G20 Member? Will there be embarrassment? What should be the set of strategies India should formulate and follow? Who all would be our coalition partners in this endeavour?

The China vs. India comparison is interesting and would help in decision making on this issue. At the absolute level India's GHG emission is less than one fourth of that of China. While the current share of coal in India's energy mix is 50 per cent that of China is 62 per cent. And China is reported to be adding 17 new coal power plants in 2020 alone. China's total solar generating capacity is 200 GW, compared to India's cumulative solar capacity of only about 39 GW. Besides, the manufacturing capacity of China is about 100 GW, while that of India is just about 10 GW (This does not include the plans declared by RIL recently). Storage is another constraint. China is a virtual monopoly in this area. India needs to concentrate on green hydrogen and the recently announced hydrogen mission would be pursued vigorously.

- (ii) A two pronged strategy needs to be followed: (i) increase at a fast pace renewable energy; (ii) reduce carbon emissions through improvements in energy efficiency in a spectrum of sectors like transport, manufacturing, steel, chemicals, shipping, cement, aviation, waste management, construction etc.

- (iii) The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' cannot be allowed to be diluted. Historical mistakes of developed countries cannot be laid at the door-step of developing countries like India.

India is the only G20 country whose actions are compliant with the Paris Agreement goal of keeping temperatures from rising above 2 degree Celsius. Should India rush to declaring a net zero year? Or should India follow a pathway keeping the objective of net zero in mind but not rush to declare a target date.

India needs to work for global standards and transparency as also credible net zero targets. As distinguished diplomat Shyam Saran stated "For India.. it is important that mitigation does not overshadow other key elements of the Paris Agreement. Adaptation should have equal billing with mitigation."

- (iv) Issues related to emission trading scheme contemplated by India needs to be analysed;
- (v) Need to provide policy support to the private sector in the area of green hydrogen. Support in terms of underwriting of R&D investments is an idea that needs to be analysed. It has been reported that government may push refineries and fertilizer firms for use of green hydrogen.
- (vi) How to attract capital for green transition?
- (vii) Large companies in specified sectors may have to be persuaded to reach net zero as early as possible.

The Research Programme on Net Zero would cover the above dimensions of the issue, especially with COP26 in mind. Research papers on specific issues would be brought out. Seminars on some of the above dimensions of the issues would also be held.

Fintech Revolution: Opportunities and Risks for Developing Countries

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

For the past 20 years, G20 has advocated strong, resilient and compliant financial systems with adaptive supervisory and regulatory systems for sustaining the future of economic growth in the member countries and in the world economy. A major plank of G20 has been to promote orderly development of financial sectors worldwide including emerging Fintech as well as to build coherent global regulatory frameworks. As growth of Fintech and InsurTech sectors can be efficiently aligned with key social and economic goals such as financial inclusion, women empowerment, promotion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), skill development, etc., G20 must view Fintech as a priority sector and mobilize consensus among the member states and peer non-G20 developing countries through possibly a Task Force and Working Groups on Fintech particularly on industry dimensions, financial inclusion and regulatory framework. Since nature and scope of banking and financial transaction risks especially cyber risks arising from common third party service providers has amplified, the utmost public policy challenges for countries now are safeguarding data privacy, cyber security, consumer protection, fostering competition and compliance with anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism commitments.

A sponsored project titled “ESRC-ICSSR Collaborative Project on UK-India Bilateral Trade in FinTech and FinTech-Enabled Services: Emerging Trends and Potential for Growth’ being studied jointly by RIS with University of Essex, ISID, GIFT and others would help further consolidate understanding on Fintech.



Commitments under Women Entrepreneurs – Finance Initiative (We-Fi) : An Initiative for Empowering Women

Dr Beena Pandey

The setting up of Women 20 (W 20) and We-Fi are two of the most important initiatives of G-20 for women empowerment. While analyzing the rationale of We-Fi initiative, the paper would focus on its Governance Structure, Constitution of We-Fi Secretariat, Implementing Partners and the financial structure. It would also throw light on Capacity Building of women in developing countries through Increasing Access to Finance, Increasing Access to Training-Mentoring, Increasing Access to Markets and Improving the Enabling Environment. Further, the analysis of the entire projects portfolio undertaken by We-Fi initiative would touch upon the country specific, scope, targeted beneficiaries, and timeline schedule and its impact on the beneficiaries, whether catering to any SDGs.

The study has the following components: Introduction – G 20 Initiatives: Setting up of W 20 and We-Fi are two of the most important initiatives of G-20 for women empowerment. Rationale of We-Fi – Focus on: Governance Structure, Constitution of We-Fi Secretariat, Implementing Partners, Financial Structure, and Status of Different Rounds of Financing. Capacity Building of women in developing countries through - Increasing Access to Finance, Increasing Access to Training-Mentoring, Increasing Access to Markets, and Improving the Enabling Environment. Projects Portfolio – Analysis: Projects implemented by the Implementing Partners in Different Developing countries, Completed Projects, Ongoing Projects, and Approved Projects. It would conclude with way ahead.

Impact of Covid-19 on Working Women in G-20 : Policy Response

Dr Beena Pandey

At present world is facing gruesome effects of COVID -19 pandemic. Men, women, elderly and even children are not untouched by the serious implications of this pandemic. Millions of people across the world have lost their lives due to this corona virus because of the non-availability of any authentic medicine or vaccine.

Under these unprecedented circumstances, in G 20 countries females have been more affected in bearing the brunt of COVID-19 sharing dual responsibilities, especially working women, of managing work at home and work from home. In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze the present status of female employment and their contribution in the different sectors of the economy. Further, it would also throw light on the women's dual responsibility of working from home and work at home in terms of doing household chores and discharging organisational responsibilities while facing challenges and opportunities. It would also throw light on all the respective G 20 Government's intervention in this regard.

Webinar on Priorities for India's G20 Presidency in 2022: Role of Engagement Groups

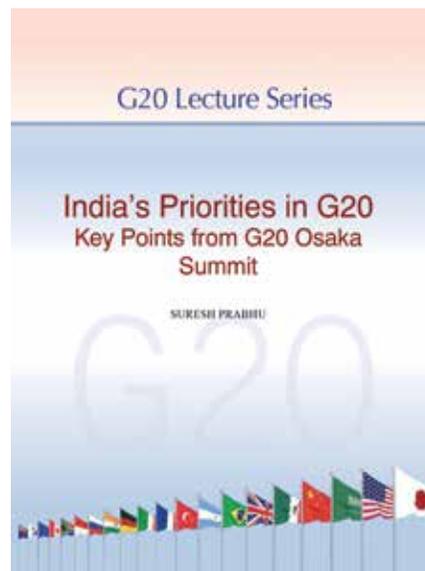
G20 serves as an important global forum on issues of trade & investment, economic growth & financial stability, sustainable development goals, climate change, digital economy, and host of other areas. Like its active participation in the past as well as current Leaders' Summits and other tracks, India's presidency of G20 in 2022 would be closely watched especially by the developing countries. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa of India, India is gearing up to steer the G20 process in 2022.



Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa of India.

Besides official tracks, Engagement Groups such as Think Tank 20 (T20), Women 20 (W20), Business 20 (B20), Civil 20 (C20), Science 20 (S20), etc. play crucial role in articulating ideas and solutions for the Leaders' Summits. With an aim to promote collective understanding of the unique space and strength of each engagement groups and build a synergistic narrative on common areas, RIS organised a Webinar on "Priorities for India's G20 Presidency in 2022: Role of Engagement Groups" on 11 May 2020. The programme began with

initial remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Remarks by Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. The Special Address was delivered by Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa of India. This was followed by a Panel Discussion: W20: Professor Pam Rajput, Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh; T20: Professor Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER, New Delhi; B20: Mr Pranav Kumar,



Head-International Trade Policy, CII, New Delhi; S20: Dr Sadhana Relia, Prominent International Science Cooperation Expert and Commentator; and C20: Mr Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive officer, VANI, New Delhi were the prominent panelists. After the discussion the floor was opened for Q&A session. At the end of the programme Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor, RIS extended the Vote of Thanks.

'Future Roadmap for Global Economic Recovery: Reflections on G20 Riyadh Summit and Beyond

Italy, Indonesia and India - or the three'I's need to play a crucial leadership role in reviving the spirit of multilateralism and helping the group of the world's 20 leading economies to bring out collective solutions to mitigate climate change,

provide universal health coverage and revive the global economy, underline India's Sherpa to G7 and G20, said Hon'ble Mr. Suresh Prabhu. Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'Future Roadmap for Global Economic Recovery: Reflections on

G20 Riyadh Summit and Beyond', organised by RIS in collaboration with CII, Hon'ble Mr. Prabhu said multilateralism was being scrutinised even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world due to conditions such as inequality, unsustainable



Mr. Nicolas Pinaud,
OECD G20 Sherpa



Mr. Deep Kapuria, Chairman of the
Hi-Tech Group of Companies and
co-chair of the CII national committee on
international trade policy



Ambassador Mohan Kumar,
Chairman, RIS



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS

debt, low investment levels, lack of sufficient jobs and stagnating wages. However, given the global nature of these challenges, he said, “denial of multilateralism is not only a folly but a definite recipe for more disasters.”

He said the three ‘I’s – Italy, Indonesia and India – must take proactive measures during their respective G20 Presidency years “to remind the rest of the world that the solution (to these problems) does not lie in saying ‘I’, but ‘we’.” He added: “The three ‘I’s can shape the future and should work together on global governance issues. The G20 must not only guide and lead the world, but also through action show that they are responsible for future of the humanity and the planet.” According to him the G20 must ensure the effective implementation of the Paris climate accord and universal health coverage, in addition to making sure the COVID-19 vaccine is available across the world as well as in dealing with the challenges of digitalisation and the fourth industrial revolution. G20 should also prioritise employment generation and skill development, he said. Incidentally, the incoming Biden administration in the US has indicated its support to multilateralism and that the US would re-join the Paris climate accord as well as the World Health Organization (the Trump administration had pulled the US out of the WHO and exited the Paris agreement on climate change mitigation).

The OECD G20 Sherpa H.E. Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, speaking on the occasion, said though the economic stimulus measures and the development of the COVID-19 vaccine have boosted consumer and business confidence, the second wave of infections is leading to large-scale uncertainty. Referring to the virtual halt in private investments since the first wave of the ongoing crisis, he said this will impact productivity and growth, delay integration of youth in labour market, slowdown global demand, reduce consumption and further impact growth. Sectors such as tourism and retail, which had employed several women, have been hit badly, he said, adding that millions of people will be pushed back into poverty. The increase in protectionist measures have been hurting international trade, while rising leverage and downside risks for banks could undermine economic recovery, he said. The increase in debt accumulation and leverage combined with slower earnings growth are eroding corporate debt sustainability of highly leveraged issuers, he said, adding that the jump in bank non-performing loans in 2020 is likely to erode banks’ willingness and capacity to lend.

The coming year is likely to witness a tsunami of corporate bankruptcies, he said, adding that there is a need to ensure a good insolvency regime and bankruptcy laws to address the structural problems as well as those faced by corporates. Citing Italy’s G20 Presidency and its prioritisation of

3Ps – People, Planet and Prosperity, he said this will help tackle inequalities, promote equal opportunities, implement commitments relating to the Paris agreement and SDGs, foster new tech and digital transformation as the drivers of growth and better quality of life and promote resilience. Going forward, there is a need to reallocate capital and labour resources in G20 economies, support people through a robust social safety net mechanism and universal healthcare as well as bring out active labour market policies that includes skill development programmes. In order to build back sustainably and resiliently, multilateralism will be the key as there are a lot of cross-border elements in these challenges, Pinaud said.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said there is a need to focus on skill development and build quality infrastructure in addition to taking forward the key outcomes of the G20 Summit held in Saudi Arabia this year. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, and Deep Kapuria, Chairman of the Hi-Tech Group of Companies and co-chair of the CII national committee on international trade policy also spoke on the occasion. The RIS has been bringing out a bi-monthly publication ‘the G20 Digest’ on G20 issues as part of generating meaningful inputs for India’s G20 Presidency in 2022, in addition to actively taking part in the T20 (Think-Tank) process at the G20.

B-20 Global Dialogue in India



There is need to remove discord regarding Paris accord to achieve climate goals. Governments and business organisations of the world's 20 leading economies -the G20 and B20, respectively - need to prioritise taking forward the Paris climate accord, bridging the digital divide, building quality infrastructure, strengthening value chains and medical supplies as well as ensuring food and energy security, said India's Sherpa to G7 and G20 Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa.

Speaking at a virtual conference titled 'B-20 Global Dialogue in India' on 7 October 2020 organised by RIS, in collaboration with CII and the Indian National Science Academy, Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu, also a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), referred to India hosting the G20 Summit in 2022 and said while the country will seek to push its own priorities at the event, it will also carry forward the work done by other countries as part of them holding the G20 Presidency.

B-20 or Business 20 is the business community from G20

countries and provides inputs and policy recommendations to the G20 Summits, along with other engagement groups including T20 (think tanks), W20 (women), C20 (civil society), Y20 (youth), S20 (science), L20 (labour) and U20 (urban). G20 has a rotating presidency with each member country holding the presidency for a year. Saudi Arabia, holding the current G20 presidency, will pass on the baton to Italy for the year 2021.

Talking about the need to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Hon'ble Mr Suresh Prabhu said India's approach to solving global problems will be to follow its philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ('the world is one family'). Questioning how the global community can consider itself prosperous if any member state was suffering, he asked the business community to focus on not just the bottom line (profit), but also lifting the people at the bottom of the pyramid. Hon'ble Mr Suresh

Prabhu said companies need to help in achieving the climate goals as well as in removing digital disparities. He added that the discord regarding the Paris climate accord (the US had withdrawn from the pact) needs to be sorted out.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, referred to the recent B20 report to the G20 and said the immediate need was to revive the international economy by making the global supply chains resilient as well as by reviving productive sectors. He said despite the need to fulfil the huge domestic demand, India has kept its medical supply chains open and provided generic drugs and medical equipment to several countries. During the ongoing pandemic, India also helped other countries with rapid response teams, information exchange platforms and healthcare training through webinars, besides taking forward the G20's 'debt service suspension initiative' by supporting several countries in this regard.

Fostering Policy Dialogue:
Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: G20

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, said the institute was engaged in converging the ideas put forward by stakeholders including businesses, scientists, economists and civil society groups to ensure that it would be easier for policy makers to absorb and implement them at the G20 level. In this regard, the RIS has been bringing out a quarterly publication 'the G20 Digest' on G20 issues as part of generating

meaningful inputs for India's G20 Presidency in 2022, in addition to actively taking part in the T20 (Think-Tank) process at the G20, he added. RIS Chairman Amb Dr Mohan Kumar also participated in the programme.

Mr Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyani, B20 Saudi Arabia Chairman, said Saudi Arabia, during its G20 Presidency, has prioritised increasing the participation of women in

business as well as addressing issues relating to climate change, infrastructure-finance as well as trade and investment.

H.E. Mr Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to India, Mr Naushad Forbes, Past President, CII and Chairman CII International Council and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, CII Director General, also spoke during the programme.

RIS G-20 Digest

G20 has emerged as an important global forum over the years, and G20 Leaders' Summits are watched worldwide with interest and suspicion. Successive presidencies of G20 have encapsulated a vast array of issues beyond the financial sector; each having potential impact on trade & investment, global governance and social sector. Each presidency has contributed to the summit process by adding new issues along with the routine ones resulting in a wider and diverse G20 Agenda. In view of the diversity of issues and complex challenges the world is grappling with, the expectations from G20 has multiplied. It is imperative to comprehend and assess the rise of G20, and its role and function in shaping the future global order. In order to motivate and stimulate fresh ideas on G20 and its implications for global economy, RIS brings out the quarterly journal, *G20 Digest*, as a platform to compare, contrast and create new knowledge that matter for the people in the G20 countries and in the world, including the developing and less developed countries.



Publications



Policy Brief

#99 STI for SDGs: G20 Partnership and National Imperatives by Sachin Chaturvedi and Sabyasachi Saha



Policy Brief

#100 G20 Sherpa and Finance Tracks: Commonalities and Opportunities by Priyadarshi Dash, Sonal Garg & Sabhya Rai

New Initiatives on G20

3Is- OECD Development Centre would be launching an initiative called '3Is' involving select think tanks from Italy, Indonesia and India to address the issues of multilateralism, education, human development, science & technology cooperation, among others. RIS is part of in this initiative to contribute Indian perspectives on G20 issues besides addressing the G20 issues in its entirety. The initiative has completed the conception phase by identifying the focus areas and the activities to be undertaken as part of the initiative.

G20 Research Forum: RIS (India); CSIS (Indonesia); LEPM, University of Indonesia and ERIA, Jakarta would launch a joint initiative, tentatively called G20 Research Forum with an aim to promote cooperation among the upcoming developing country presidencies of Indonesia, India, South Africa and Brazil on important global development issues. Besides conducting studies, the Forum would be bridge between the governments and the official T20 process.

Analytical Support Provided

- Talking Points for Conference on B20 Global Dialogue to Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA.
- Note on 'Possible theme for India's G20 Presidency - Sharing of India's New Development Paradigms and Experiences', 2020.
- Note on G20 Virtual Finance Track Meeting organised by DEA, Ministry of Finance.
- Policy Brief to MER Division of MEA on 'G20 Sherpa and Finance Tracks: Commonalities and Opportunities'.

2

Development Cooperation

RIS has been engaged in a wide range of academic activities under its global economic governance and cooperation programme. It has further advanced its research on developing data base India's development cooperation, econometric base technique for analyzing development cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation, localizing the sustainable development as part of the agendas of SDGs, UN@75, development cooperation during COVID-19 pandemic, etc. In its efforts to enhance research activities in development cooperation, RIS collaborated with academic institutions and development agencies from different parts of the world and organized several webinars, online interactions and other events as well. Additionally, it has regularly published reports, policy briefs, discussion papers and a dedicated journal Development Cooperation Review (DCR). The following sections present some of the details.

SDG: Development of States, and Statistical Frameworks

Dr P.K. Anand and Mr Krishna Kumar

The following are distinct components of this work programme: Monitoring and capacity building covering, Policy, Strategy and Action points to fast track achievement of SDGs in all the three dimensions namely social, economic and environmental; development of official statistical system of India to make it more vibrant to assist in taking evidence based policy decisions

by leveraging Science & Technology and Innovation; interaction with States for faster development through exchange of best practices, field visits, interaction with field functionaries, deliberations with various stakeholders etc; and Cross-Border Development Partnerships and South-South Co-operation for mutual gains through exchange of ideas, regional projects, technical and economic co-operation, etc.

Developing a Database on India's Development Cooperation

Professor S.K. Mohanty, Dr. Sushil Kumar, Ms Aditi Gupta and Ms Shweta Shaju

The main features of this database is that it covers all modalities of Development Compact such as capacity-building (deputation of experts, training programmes in host country, scholarships, third country training, deploying volunteers, conducting feasibility studies and prototype production and training centre), grants (grant in cash, grant in kind, debt forgiveness and humanitarian assistance), Concessional Finance (line of credits, buyer's credit), trade and market access (duty-free tariff preference scheme, infrastructure improvement for trade facilitation, trade promotion and trade support services, providing business facilitation services, assistance for improving regulatory capacity, providing Investment fund and developing intra regional supply chains) and technology transfer (technical cooperation, joint scientific and academic research, turnkey projects subsidising licensing or exemption from IPR arrangements, technology transfer with or without component of

capacity building). Database details bilateral flow as well as multilateral flow. Its coverage gives details regarding flow of India's development cooperation ministries and sectors and India's development cooperation with the regional institutions. The time period of the database is from 1946 to till date.

The database includes following ministries and departments

- Ministry of External Affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Ayush
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
- Department of Agricultural Research and Education
- Department of Biotechnology
- Department of Science & Technology
- Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
- Ministry of Education

Indo-Pacific Research Programme 2021-22

The Indo-Pacific region has assumed importance as a source of global prosperity and peace in the recent years. The geographical spread covered by the littoral countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Eastern Africa and the Pacific across Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean present vast opportunities for higher economic growth, trade and investment promotion, livelihood diversification and greater people-to-people interactions. All major countries including the United States, Japan, ASEAN, Australia, EU and India have formulated their vision and strategies for comprehensive engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. While all these country strategies on Indo-Pacific cover a wider canvass, India has broadened the concept of Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) by underlining the importance of 'inclusiveness'. At the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore in June 2018 Prime Minister of India emphasized that India's own engagement in the Indo-Pacific would be based on five S' in Hindi: Sammaan (respect); Samvad (dialogue); Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace), and Samridhi (prosperity) which broadly resonates with the position of other countries.

So far, Indo-Pacific has been viewed as a strategic construct primarily from the perspective of promoting maritime security, ensuring freedom of navigation, and promoting regional peace and stability. Although the strategic component of FOIP would remain critical for peace and prosperity, there is a need for strengthening the economic agenda of Indo-Pacific paradigm. In order to concretise the development narrative of FOIP, countries in the region may explore mutually-beneficial and human-centric economic cooperation initiatives in the spirit of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC). These initiatives could yield tangible economic outcomes in the forms of trade and investment flows, infrastructure investments, deepening global value chains, and enhancing people-to-people and business-to-business partnerships.

In recent years, India has embraced comprehensive development partnership in the Indo-Pacific region. Several projects are being implemented under the framework of SSC and TrC in the South Asian and East African countries. Given the greater scope for synergistic cooperation in different sectors, India underscores the importance of much deeper engagement with the regional partners. Further, Indo-Pacific is important for India to explore new horizons of trilateral and multilateral development cooperation. The specific areas of development partnership could cover development innovations, capacity building, technology transfer, new and renewable energy, community development, education and research & development, diversification of local economy and grassroots level development, digitalization.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic has impaired the growth momentum in the world including the Indo-Pacific region. It has awakened the humanity about the priorities and emerging challenges which need to be addressed through innovative international collaborations. Indo-Pacific being an important region should prompt regional countries to adopt suitable policies and initiatives to ensure orderly economic recovery and protect the lives and livelihoods of the people. In light of these developments, it is imperative to identify certain priority sectors of cooperation and the specific modalities of development partnership. RIS has been working on some of those issues as part of its research programmes on ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean and Asia-Africa cooperation. As part of that endeavour, RIS would leverage GDC in relevant sectors on Indo-Pacific economic cooperation with focus on select sectors which would build on the accumulated knowledge from the above mentioned programmes. The programme would have the three integrated and mutually-reinforcing components such as research, advocacy and contribution to policy-making.

Localising Sustainable Development Goals – Perspectives from North East India

To bring the perspectives from the North East India on localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), RIS has been engaged with regional academic institutions, civil society organizations and grassroots level organizations. RIS webinar series on localizing SDGs with North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA) provided a forum for policymakers, scholars and practitioners to deliberate on issues and challenges of localizing SDGs in each state of the North East region.

A wide range of themes such as initiatives for localisation of SDGs, sustainable livelihoods, climate adaptive agriculture, health, education, skill development, communication, connectivity, infrastructure development and financing of SDGs were discussed in the context of each state.

The first Webinar in the series was held on 4 July 2020. Professor Kanak Haloi, President, NETRA chaired. The lead speakers were Dr. Siladitya Chatterjee, Advisor, Centre for the SDGs, Govt. of Assam, Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS and Associate Dean, Jindal School of Govt. and Public Policy; and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS. Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NERC moderated. Knowledge Partners were: United Nations Development Programme; Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Govt. of Assam; and Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana.

The second Webinar was held on 11 July 2020 on the Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Assam. Dr P.K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS Chaired. Prof. Jyotiraj Pathak, Head, Deptt. of Political Science, Bodoland University and Founder Member of NETRA Foundations was the moderator. The Panelists were: Mr. Rupak Mazumder, IAS, Commissioner, Deptt. of Transformation and Development, Govt. of Assam; Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati; Mr. Jiban Chanra Phukan, Consultant, Centre for SDG, Assam; Prof Polly Vauqueline, Head, Deptt. of Women Studies, Guwahati University; and Dr. Syed Sultan Kazi, Director, North East Development Foundation, Assam. The Knowledge Partners were, Department of Political Science, Bodoland University.

The third Webinar held on 18 July 2020 dealt with 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Tripura'. Shri Krishna Kumar, Visiting Fellow RIS Chaired the Session and Dr. Subhrabaran Das, Associate Professor, Deptt. of Economics, Tripura University moderated. The panelists were: Shri A.K. Chanda, Joint Director, Planning (Eco. & Stat.) Dept., Government of Tripura; Dr. V.T. Dralong, Vice-Chancellor, Martin Luther Christian University, Meghalaya; Prof. Chandrika Basu Majumdar, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Commerce, Tripura University; Dr. Jayanta Choudhury, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NERC, Assam; and Dr. Sreelekha Roy, Executive

Director, GHAT, Tripura. For this session, Knowledge Partners were: Department of Rural Management, The ICFAI University, Tripura.

The fourth Webinar that was held on 25 July 2020 focussed on 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Sikkim'. Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, RIS chaired. The knowledge partner was Department of Political Science, Sikkim Central University. The panelist in the session included: Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU and Chief Economic Advisor, Government of Sikkim; Dr. A.K. Shrivastava, IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim; Dr. Sandhya Thapa, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Sikkim Central University; Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Sikkim Central University; and Dr. Sarala Khaling, Regional Director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Eastern Himalaya Northeast India.

The fifth Webinar in the series was held on 1 August 2020 on the theme of 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Meghalaya'. Professor Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow, RIS and former Professor and Dean, School of Social Sciences, JNU Chaired this session. Department of Rural Development, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya was the Knowledge Partner. Dr. Bamin Tade, former Advisor (Health), North Eastern Council, Meghalaya; Dr. P.S. Nianglang, Chief

Fostering Policy Dialogue: Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: Development Cooperation

Planning Officer and Head, SDG Cell, Government of Meghalaya; Dr. Deigracia Nongkynrih, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Dr. Papiya Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Rural Development, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya; and Miss. Mayfereen Rytahiang, President, GRASSROOT, Shillong, Meghalaya were the panelists.

The Sixth Webinar under the series was on 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Mizoram', which was held on 8 August 2020. Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS Chaired the Webinar. Shri. Naveen Verma, Former Secretary, Ministry of DONER, Government of India spoke on 'Inclusive Development in the State of Mizoram', which was followed by presentations on 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram' by Dr. C. Vanlalramsanga, Secretary, Planning & Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram; 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram' by Dr. C. Lalfakzuali, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl; 'Industrial Development in Mizoram : With Special Reference to MSME' by Dr. Bidhu Kanti Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Mizoram University, Aizawl; and 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram' by Prof. Tluanga, Secretary, Young Mizo Association & Controller of Examination, Mizoram University. Concluding Remarks were given by the Chair.

The Seventh Webinar under the series was on 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' which was held on 14

August 2020. Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS Chaired the Webinar. The following were the presentation in the Webinar: 'Livelihoods & inclusive development issues in Localising SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' by Professor Saket Kushwaha, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajeev Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh; 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' by Mr. Prashanta S. Lokhande, Commissioner, Investment & Planning Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh; 'Gender and Child issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' by Prof. Kesang Degi, Professor, Department of Education, Rajeev Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh; 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' by Dr. Narayan Sahoo, Associate Professor, NIRD&PR, NERC, Guwahati; and 'Role of Civil Societies Organisations and Media in Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Behera, Senior Journalist, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Eighth webinar in the series was on 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Manipur' was held on 22 August 2020. Amb. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS Chaired the Webinar. The following were made the presentations: 'Inclusive development issues in Localising SDGs in Manipur' by Prof. E Bijoykumar Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University; 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Manipur' by Ms. Kulka Rani Devi, Joint Director, Department of Planning, Government of Manipur; 'Gender issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Manipur' Ms. Thingreiphi

Lungharwo, Executive Secretary, Mountain Indigenous Knowledge Centre; 'SDG and Tribal Development in Manipur: Problem and Prospects' by Dr. N. Surjitkumar; Head, Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Manipur and Formerly Visiting Scholar, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; and 'Role of Local Government in Localisation of SDGs in Manipur' by Dr. Kanak Haloi, Professor, NIRDPR-NERC (Rtd.) & President NETRA Foundation.

The last Webinar under this series was on 'Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Nagaland' on 29 August, 2020. Welcome Address was given by Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, Sikkim Central University. Dr. D.K. Bhalla, Senior Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland Chaired and addressed the Webinar. The following were the presentations: 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Nagaland' by Mr. Nosazol Charles, Addl. Development Commissioner, Planning & Coordination Department, Nagaland; 'Sustainable Agriculture in Localising SDGs in Nagaland' by Dr. Rongsen Ao, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Assam; 'Gender issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Nagaland' by Dr. Petekhere, Women Studies Centre, Nagaland University; 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Nagaland' by Dr. Kanak Haloi, Professor, NIRDPR-NERC (Rtd.) & President NETRA Foundation; and 'Role of Civil Societies Organisations and in Localisation of SDGs in Nagaland' by Dr. Amba Jamir, Director, Sustainable Development Foundation, Nagaland.



The North East SDG Conclave organised on 24-26 February 2020 in Guwahati, Assam with participation of senior ministers from the Central Government and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States.

SDG Conclave 2020 – Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States

RIS was nominated by the NITI Aayog as their knowledge partner for the North East SDG Conclave that was organised on 24-26 February 2020 in Guwahati, Assam with participation of senior ministers from the Central Government and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States. The other partners in this effort included the Government of Assam, TATA Trusts and the UNDP. RIS was entrusted with the responsibility of producing a comprehensive report on North East

and SDGs, which was developed over a period of six months between September 2019 and February 2020. The report was drafted after due consultations with various State governments in the North East, often at the level of highest political leadership and through field visits undertaken by RIS faculty members to various State capitals. A workshop with local resource persons and the NETRA Foundation was organised in October 2019 to capture the ground realities and perspectives. Guidance

was also received from the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and other officials. The Report included the following chapters: State Initiatives and Localisation of SDGs; Drivers of Economic Prosperity and Sustainable livelihood; Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Diversification; Nutrition, Health and Well being; Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Communication, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development; and Financing of SDGs.

Webinar on the theme, “India-Vietnam S&T Cooperation: Prospects and Perspectives”

On 24th June 2020, RIS in collaboration with Vietnam Embassy, New Delhi hosted the Webinar on the theme, “India-Vietnam S&T Cooperation: Prospects and Perspectives”. H.E. Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of Vietnam to India and Shri Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam jointly chaired the event. Among the key speakers for the webinar included Shri Sanjeev Varshney, Head & Advisor, International Bilateral Cooperation Division (IBCD), Ministry of Science and Technology, India; Professor Dr Le Van Toan, Chairman of Scientific Council, Center for Indian Studies;



Shri Arvind Gupta, Founder iSPiRT& Digital India Foundation; Dr Le Thi Hang Nga, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Journal for Indian & Asian Studies, Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian studies, and Dr

B. Balakrishnan, Former Indian Ambassador and Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. The seminar aimed to build a bridge between S&T communities between India and Vietnam.

Expanding South-South Cooperation in an Interdependent World

RIS in consultation with the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC-Colombia) organised the Seminar on ‘Expanding South-South Cooperation in an Interdependent World’ on 10-11 September 2020. The first session on Interdependence and Solidarity: “Work between partners who need each other” was held on 10 September 2020 and the second session on ‘Unlikely conversations after COVID-19: ‘What you want to know, but haven’t been able to ask’ was held on 11 September 2020.

The session I took up discussion that each region was comprised of countries with common languages, histories, influence areas and development problems. These interdependencies are the basis of

South-South Cooperation - solutions developed in one country can be adapted and replicated in another one, for the wellbeing of our peoples. But this interdependency also entails a vulnerability. Global crisis situations underscore how vulnerable our economies, our political systems and our societies are to the problems that besiege our neighbors. Whether we are discussing climate change, migrations, capital or disease flows, certain situations shake our countries and demand joint answers.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made a presentation in the Session II on Unlikely conversations after COVID-19 “What you want to know, but haven’t been able to ask”. From RIS, Professor Milindo Chakrabarti,

Visiting Fellow also participated. The Session discussed that the COVID-19 pandemic has moved our governments, companies and organisations to a path of accelerated learning to evaluate and take action to contain the expansion of the virus, with severe socio-economic effects, which are themselves contagious due to our interdependencies. The virtualisation of life caused by the lockdown is already generating important social, economic, fiscal and urban impacts, which are partially irreversible, and for which South-South Cooperation will have to formulate innovative answers. However, the current situation should not completely distract our attention from other necessary matters that need to be discussed.

Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d'Ivoire

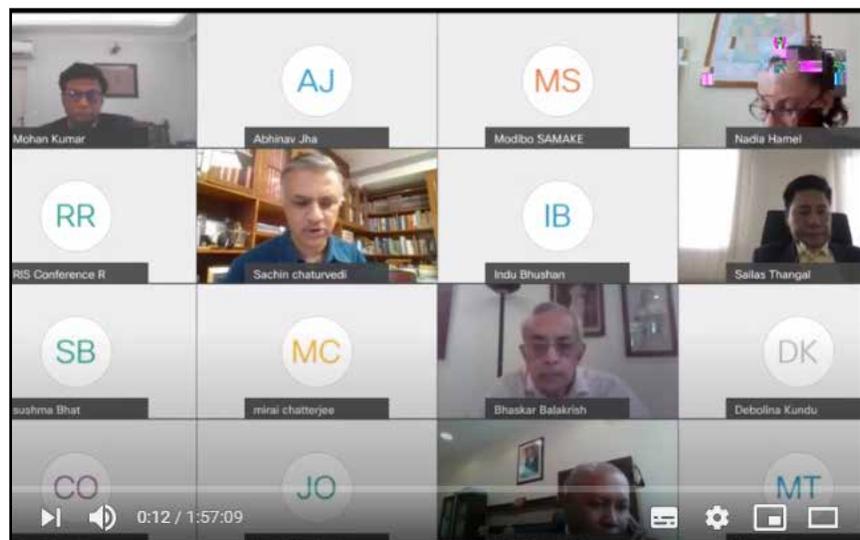
RIS in partnership with the Indian Embassy in Abidjan and the Government of Ivory Coast organized a Webinar on Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d'Ivoire, on 7 September 2020.

The Inaugural Session was Chaired by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Welcome Remarks were given by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Ambassador Sailas Thangal, Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire. Keynote address was delivered by Mr. Patrick Achi, Hon'ble Minister in President's Office, Cote d'Ivoire. The first session on 'Opportunities for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in implementing Universal Health Insurance Systems' was chaired by Ambassador Sailas Thangal, Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire. Special addresses were given by Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB - PMJAY) and the National Health Authority (NHA); and Dr K. Srinath Reddy, President, PHFI in this session.

The second session on 'Opportunities for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in Improving Agricultural Productivity' was Chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. The distinguished panelists were Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), ICAR, who spoke about the possible technical collaboration on farming system, climate adaptation farming,



Webinar in progress



NRM etc.; and Dr T. P. Rajendran, Former Assistant Director General, ICAR and Adjunct Fellow, RIS spoke about the major advancement in integrated pest management, regulatory system of agrochemicals and biological inputs such as biofertilisers, biopesticides including microbial pesticides, quality risk management of agri-inputs, farm gate commodity safety assurance through Good Agriculture Practice. The third session was on 'Opportunities

for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in Implementing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs); and policies for Affordable Housing' was Chaired by Dr Rajesh Tandon, Chairman, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). The Panelists were Dr Mirai Chatterjee, Director, Social Security, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and Prof. Dr. Debolina Kundu, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Hon'ble Mr. Felipe Solá, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressing the webinar.

India and Argentina in the New World Order

The Embassy of India, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, RIS jointly with CIPPEC organised a virtual webinar on 'India and Argentina in the New World Order' on 6th November, 2020. Hon'ble Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Felipe Solá, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina addressed the participants.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister Dr. Jaishankar emphasized that our ties with Argentina that were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2019, when we also observed 70 years of our diplomatic relationship. In the last ten years, we have witnessed bilateral trade more than doubling, and a robust economic relationship is further bolstered by the presence of several Indian companies in Argentina and vice versa. However, there remains unexplored complementarities and untapped potential for increasing engagement in agriculture, mining and minerals, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and automotives. The people of Argentina have great admiration for Indian culture, philosophy and spirituality. Argentina also holds a special place in India's collective

cultural consciousness. The presence of highest per capita yoga practitioners and a plethora of yoga schools in Argentina is a statement in itself.

The webinar comprised three main sessions along with inaugural and concluding sessions. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to Argentina, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Dr. Julia Pomares, Executive Director, CIPPEC. Amb. Dinesh Bhatia set the context of the webinar and highlighted our deep relationship between two countries in terms of our common principles, our collaboration and strategic partnership in trade and economy, diplomacy, interest and value. The event deliberated upon the current status and future of the relations between the two strategic partners India and Argentina. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi explored and appreciated the common efforts of the countries in shaping the world new order in the digitalised world and evolving narrative of South-South Cooperation from Buenos Aires to G20 Saudi Presidency. Dr. Julia Pomares stressed on development cooperation between Argentina and India and potential partnership in the

future of work in the global South as digitalisation would affect the labour market of both the countries.

The first session on 'India-Argentina Bilateral Relations' was chaired by Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs. The panelist for the session were Prof. Sunanda Sen, Former Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. María Florencia Rubiolo, Córdoba Catholic University - CONICET and Dr. Manuel Gonzalo, General Sarmiento National University - UNDEC and Mr. Bernabé Malacalza, Quilmes National University - CONICET - Torcuato di Tella University moderated the enrich discussion on bilateral and multilateral cooperation between India and Argentina and potential for scaling up the trade and economic relationship in post-COVID-19 world. The session captured the current bilateral trade flow, strategic partnership, potential for further diversification in trading basket and commonality between the two countries as both the countries are juggling to improve some of the macroeconomic indicators during the pandemic. The session also highlighted some of the priorities and

Fostering Policy Dialogue: Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: Development Cooperation

focus area particularly in trade and investment and Science Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation. It was emphasized that concentrated and deep routed cooperation in the area of clean technology, biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, climate change, as technology and technological disruption poses many challenges for countries, which requires multinational cooperation. Manufacturing and agriculture sector may not have enough to give and the export profile has to be broadened and needs scaling up. Current regime is trying to increase demand. Advanced infrastructure in science and energy challenges are the major concern for both countries that need a stronger focus. Thus, India and Argentina have a big possibility for joining hands to arrive at a better stage and encourage inclusivity through education, health, and infrastructure; empowerment of STI cooperation and enhancement of multilateralism to work together.

The second interactive session on 'Globalisation, Digitalisation and Future of Work: Lessons from Global South' was chaired by Ms. Irene Brambilla, Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies and four panelists were: Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, Dr. Urvashi Aneja, Founding Director, Tandem

Research, Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS and Mr. Ramiro Albrieu, Senior Researcher of Economic Development, CIPPEC. All speakers emphasized the role of technologies and discusses how to harness the potential of new technologies like AI and its contribution to lead an inclusive, sustainable and equitable society. The session focused on the current growth trajectory of India and Argentina and draws a roadmap to become more self-reliant and how technology can increase productivity. Generally, technology gets the blame for its adverse effect due to huge job losses but it has immense potential to imprint positive impact for sustainable consumption and production. The speakers discussed how we can infuse dynamism in the traditional sector for economic growth.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made a presentation in the session III on 'India and Argentina in the New World Order post-COVID'. The session was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Carciofi, Senior Researcher of the Economic Development Program, CIPPEC and other eminent speakers were Mr. Jorge Chediek, Former Director, UN Office of South-South Cooperation, Prof. Harsh V Pant, Director of Studies & Head Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation

and Ms. Gladys Lechini, Rosario National University – CONICET. Prof. Chaturvedi highlighted the issue of multilateralism and raised the issue of disengagement among the Global South. Hence, the time has come to revisit the idea of multilateralism and need for global agreement on much more responsive, innovative, constructive and more engaging participation. India -Argentina should join hands in bringing the moral compass back. Prof. Chaturvedi stated that we need more ideologists to understand each other's cultural connect to play a more important role in the Global South.

The final concluding remarks were delivered by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Felipe Solá, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina. Mr. Sola highlights our traditional support and long-lasting strategic alliance in trade, economy, culture, cooperation and diplomacy. India and Argentina have many joint projects in the area of space technology, nuclear energy, space cooperation agreements, knowledge-based economy, IT, bio-technology, agro-technology etc. as both the countries have very long lasting sharing history and affinity respect for culture, thus the two nations can deepen their relationship.





RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



COVID 19 and Mental Health Response in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation

24 November, 2020, 4.00 pm (IST)



Welcome Address

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, RIS



Inaugural Address

Prof. K. Srinath Reddy
President, Public Health
Foundation of India



Keynote Address

Prof. Vikram H. Patel
Department of Global
Health and Social
Medicine, Harvard
Medical School



'COVID-19 and Mental Health Response in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation'

Recent studies estimate that more than a quarter of the population in South Asia suffer from at least one mental health disorder. World Economic Forum estimates that, globally, mental illnesses will result in a loss of 16.1 trillion USD between 2010 and 2030. The COVID 19 has further aggravated this situation owing to fear and uncertainty around the pandemic, increased social isolation due to unfamiliar public health measures and financial losses. South-South cooperation through exchange of knowledge and resources in South Asia could go a long way in addressing these concerns and creating proactive strategies on the same. However, discussions and policy strategies on addressing this issue has been minimal. To deliberate upon these issues, RIS along with

Sangath, a leading mental health research organisation organised, a Webinar on 'COVID 19 and Mental Health Responses in South Asia: Opportunities for Learning and Cooperation' on 24 November 2020. It brought together academics, policy makers and leaders in mental health research from across South Asia to evaluate the mental health impact of COVID-19, discuss health systems and neuroscience responses in the region, and plan the way forward. Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS offered the welcome address. Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India delivered the inaugural address and Prof Vikram Patel, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School gave the keynote address. The

Panel discussion that followed was moderated by Dr Anant Bhan, Lead, Sangath, Bhopal and the panelists included Dr Sunimale Madurawala, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo; Dr. Rohullah Amin, Biruni Institute, Kabul; Prof. Pushpa Prasad Sharma, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Kist Medical College, Nepal; Mr Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka; Prof Surinder Jaiswal, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; Prof. Neeraj Jain, Director, National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon; Dr. Ishwar V. Basavaraddi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delh; and Ms Shubhrata Prakash, Director, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.

The Multilateral Response to Covid-19 – Perspectives from South Asia

Webinar on the Multilateral Response to Covid-19 – Perspectives from South Asia was organised jointly by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in partnership with RIS, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) on 27 October 2020. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) chaired.

The programme began with introductory remarks by Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive

Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Keynote presentation was made by Mr Olivier Cattaneo, Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy, Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, and Chair, Southern Voice. It was followed by comments by regional partners: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan; Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy

Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka; and Dr Puspa Sharma, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. After comments by region partners floor was open for discussion, followed by special comments by Dr A. B. Mirza Azizul Islam, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, Ministries of Finance and Planning and video message by Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the Development Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD made closing chair remarks.

Virtual discussion on

THE MULTILATERAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH ASIA

Organised by

Tuesday 27 October 2020
3.00 pm (Bangladesh Standard Time)

LIVE /cpd.org.bd

In partnership with

PROFESSOR REHMAN SOBHAN
Chairman, CPD

DR A B MIRZA AZIZUL ISLAM
Former Advisor to the
Caretaker Government,
Ministries of Finance and Planning

MR JORGE MOREIRA DA SILVA
Director of the Development
Co-operation Directorate, OECD

DR DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA
Distinguished Fellow, CPD
Former, Citizen's Platform
for SDGs, Bangladesh

MR OLIVIER CATTANEO
Head of Unit, Policy Analysis and Strategy
Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

DR FAHMIDA KHATUN
Executive Director, CPD

PROFESSOR SACHIN CHATURVEDI
Director General, RIS

DR ABID QAIYUM SULERI
Executive Director, SDPI

DR DUSHNI WEERAKOON
Executive Director, IPS

DR PUSPA SHARMA
Executive Director, SAWTEE



The virtual dialogue on “India-Sri Lanka Relations: Deepening India-Sri Lanka Ties in the New World Order” was organised jointly by ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, ICWA, Pathfinder Foundation and Asian Confluence on 29 October 2020. Dr. T C A Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) chaired. The welcome remarks were given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director,

Asian Confluence and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Amb. Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman, Pathfinder Foundation made opening remarks. Admiral Jayanath Colombage (retired), Foreign Secretary, Sri Lanka delivered the keynote address.

The Panel Discussion was chaired by Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese

Studies (ICS), and former Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute, London; Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Founding Chair of LIRNEasia, Colombo; and Mr. Vish Govindasamy, Group Managing Director, Sunshine Holdings PLC and Deputy Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo were the lead speaker from Sri Lanka. From India, Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi; Prof. Biswajit Nag, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi; and Mr. M. S. Negi, Vice-President (Credit), State Bank of India (SBI), Colombo led the discussion.

H.E. Mr. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Colombo delivered the valedictory address and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, AIC at RIS, extended the vote of thanks.

India Korea Dialogue

ICWA and RIS signed an MoU with Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea on 22 October 2020 at a ceremony held at ICWA, New Delhi. Prof. Wongi Choe (Head, Center for ASEAN-Indian Studies, KNDA) moderated the programme. Dr. Kim Joon-hyung, Chancellor, KNDA; Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA; Dr. Jung Sung Chun, Senior Vice President, KIEP; and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made remarks. It was followed by signing of the MoU. Amb. Sripriya Ranganathan, Ambassador of India



to Republic of Korea; and Amb. Shin Bongkil, Ambassador of Republic of Korea in India made special remarks.

After open discussion, the concluding remarks were made by Dr. Jojin John, Research Fellow, ICWA. ■

Partnerships to Foster Decent Work for Sustainable Development

As part of Webinar series on the road to Delhi VI, NeST, UNDP, RIS and Anáhuac, Mexico jointly organised the programme on ‘South-South Partnerships to Foster Decent Work for Sustainable Development in Latin America’ on 18 December 2020. Since 2013, the Conference of Southern Providers (Delhi Process) has been attracting attention on issues and emerging challenges for SSC among relevant stakeholders within the international community configuration.

A series of annual meetings and frontier debates around SSC, become a unique space for experts, practitioners, academia, think tanks and international organisations to share their experiences and knowledge. The purpose of the present programme was to liaise and connect with regional actors, nourish interests and address concerns regarding SSC efforts to support

countries to better recover from the current COVID-19 crisis.

Aspiring to overcome the paradigmatic 1978 Buenos Aires Action Plan, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), set the stage to finally address the elephant in the room: what is the concrete contribution of South-South (SSC) to sustainable development? The challenge is to assess if SSC programmes and projects are increasing developing countries’ capacities to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and produce more high-value goods and services (i.e. SDGs 2: “Zero Hunger”, 8: “Decent work and economic growth” and 17: “Partnerships for the goals”).

The programme began with opening remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr. Sandra Soso, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mexico. It was followed by the session on South-South partnerships to foster Decent Work for

Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities.

The main speakers were: Dr. Gabriel Terres, Advisor to the Executive Director, AMEXCID; Dr. Paulo Esteves, Director of the BRICS Policy Centre; Dr. Martín Rivero, Coordinator of the Social Cohesion and SSC unit, SEGIB; and Dr. Lidia Fromm Cea, Executive Director, Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project. Dr. Carlos Cortés Zea, Coordinator of the AMEXCID-UNDP Cooperation Program, UNDP Mexico was the discussant and moderator.

The panelists focussed on the concrete examples on the contribution of SSC to fostering decent work for sustainable development in Latin America under Innovative SSC approaches in the field and sharing challenges and opportunities of unconditional cash transfers programmes. Dr. Jorge A. Pérez-Pineda, Nest Mexico/Universidad Anáhuac México gave closing remarks.



Fifth BNPTT Meeting

The Virtual Fifth BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) Meeting was hosted by RIS on December 21-22, 2020. The meeting was attended by 22 delegates from think tanks of seven member countries of BIMSTEC and seven officials of the BIMSTEC Secretariat. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS chaired the meeting. Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, India delivered the Keynote Address. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat presented special remarks on the achievements of BIMSTEC in recent years and shared the priorities and initiatives those are in the pipeline.

The Meeting took stock of the progress made on the decisions and commitments announced in the Fourth BNPTT Meeting held in Thimpu, Bhutan in 2018. Special focus was given to Covid-19 related economic disruptions in the region and the roadmap for economic recovery in the BIMSTEC region. While prioritisation of sectors for BIMSTEC cooperation was emphasized, certain sectors and issues were considered most important for the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in 2021. Those include early conclusion of BIMSTEC FTA negotiations, need for thrust on sectoral value chains given high potential for intra-regional trade in certain sectors, scientific and

technological cooperation in health and medical equipments, emerging sectors like digital economy and fintech, among others.

RIS delegation led by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi comprised of 10 faculty members including Prof. S.K. Mohanty, Prof. Prabir De, Prof. T.C. James, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Dr. Sabysachi Saha, Dr. K. Ravi Srinivas, Ms. Pratiba Shaw, Ms. Pankhuri Gaur and Ms. Sabhya Rai. RIS team made the host institution's presentation on the scope and diversification of BIMSTEC cooperation agenda and on the priorities and recommendations for the upcoming Fifth BIMSTEC Summit besides active contribution to other segments of the meeting.



Access to Vaccines, Pharma and Diplomacy

India's Vaccine Diplomacy Generating Goodwill

Highlighting India's vaccine diplomacy, post the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak is an excellent example of the country's development partnership. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, said around 60 million Made-in-India COVID-19 vaccine doses have so far been supplied to more than 70 countries generating goodwill from across the world and enhancing India's global standing.

Speaking at the first annual Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) Symposium being called as 'Development Cooperation Dialogue' organised by RIS on 20-21 March 2021, Mr Muraleedharan described 'development partnership' as a maintaining core element of India's foreign policy. He added that a distinctive feature of India's development partnership was that it was human centric and based on sustainable development. He emphasised that India's development partnership does not have any prescriptive or extractive conditions, and instead provides opportunities to partner countries to fulfil their potential.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, India has provided humanitarian assistance to countries across the world by sending essential medicines, conducting capacity building and training programmes through webinar modules, dispatching rapid response teams and developing information sharing platform (in South Asia), the Minister said. These efforts have also



shown India's solidarity with other developing countries at this time of global crisis, he said.

His remarks came at a time when development cooperation has assumed added significance in view of the ongoing pandemic as well as due to the concerns about the maintaining of Agenda 2030 within its pre-decided timeline on account of the impact of the pandemic on global capacity in resource generation.

Referring to the various elements of India's development partnership including grant-in-aid, Line of Credit (LoC) as well as capacity building and technical assistance, Shri Muraleedharan said more than USD 4 billion has been given as grant-in-aid covering sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, education and health generating goodwill and long-term partnership. Moreover, India has extended 311 LoC worth USD 31.6 billion to 64 countries covering 657 projects on socio-economic development and capacity building in developing countries, he said. These LoCs are expected to boost India's export of goods and services in sectors including power, transport, connectivity, agriculture, irrigation

and manufacturing in markets abroad, he added.

Another special focus of India's development partnership is the regional connectivity initiatives in its neighbourhood including the Act East Policy. So far, 104 such projects worth USD 7.69 billion have been taken up, of which 47 are complete, and these act as force multipliers for people-to-people contacts as well as to boost trade and investment, he said. He also detailed India's efforts to boost cooperation with developing countries through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programmes on capacity building as well as through conservation and restoration of heritage sites including temples in South East Asia.

As a multi-stakeholder platform on India's development cooperation, FIDC brings together civil society, academia and policy makers to deliberate, share and disseminate experiences of India's development cooperation internationally. Given the global challenges of the corona virus, development cooperation has assumed greater significance, and India's support to other countries has become much stronger.

The FIDC Annual Symposium 2021: Development Cooperation Dialogue was organised in a hybrid mode at this juncture to spell out a clear and operational roadmap to this effect. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr Rajesh Tandon, Chairperson FIDC and President, PRIA, spoke on the occasion. The details of the programme available on the RIS website.



Global Trends in Triangular Cooperation with India

RIS and the OECD's Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) organised a Webinar on 25 January 2021 for launching of the paper '*Global Trends in Triangular Cooperation with India - Emerging Policy Choices for Enhanced Collaboration with Civil Society Organisations*' by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi and Dr Nadine Piefer-Söyler. The virtual event brought together representatives from governments, civil society, international organisations and research institutes to discuss the findings of the paper.

The programme began with welcome and setting the scene by Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD).

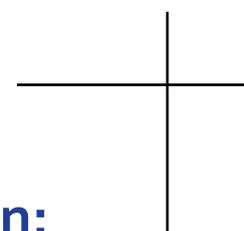
Introductory remarks on India's interest in triangular co-operation were made by Mr Akhilesh Mishra, Additional Secretary, Development Partnership Administration, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Dr Susanna Moorehead, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) spoke about DAC's interest in working with India, including through triangular partnerships. Dr Rajesh Tandon, President of the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) and Founder-President of PRIA made remarks on FIDC and CSO perspectives on triangular cooperation. Dr Ana Fernandes, Head of the Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform (FOR) Unit, OECD/DCD moderated discussion

with authors: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr Nadine Piefer-Söyler, OECD DCD/ Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform (FOR) Unit. It was followed by discussion with eminent participants that included Dr Ashok Khosla, Founder & Chair of the Board of Development Alternatives; Dr Karen Klimowski, Deputy Mission Director, USAID India; Ms Renana Jhabvala, President of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Bharat Board; and Dr Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre.

The paper highlights India's engagements in Triangular Cooperation since the early 1950s. Triangular cooperation projects have been implemented mostly through civil society organisations, private sector, research institutes and other non-governmental channels. In the 1950s, India entered into different modalities of Triangular Cooperation including Triangular partnerships to share expertise, joint triangular support for migrants, Triangular partnerships with resource contributions from India, support for the engagement of Indian civil society organisations in triangular partnerships. It was through Ramakrishna Mission that India engaged for the first time in Triangular Cooperation. In 1964, India created the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) programme to institutionalise its technical cooperation with developing

countries. Since the late 1990s, India has enhanced its engagement in multilateral initiatives to increase its cooperation with developing countries. India has engaged in Triangular Cooperation with several partner countries including Japan, Germany, UK, France, Russia, etc.

The Indian government remains committed to the principles of South-South Cooperation. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India's approach towards Triangular Cooperation has evolved since 2014. There is now greater engagement with OECD and DAC members. This paper captures the role of civil society in enhancing Indian Triangular Cooperation and suggests that new opportunities have opened for triangular partnerships with India. CSOs play a significant role in triangular partnerships with India. CSOs have worked on several social and economic policy areas. Indian CSOs have prioritized and focused on several domestic issues prevalent in India. They have worked for the benefit of marginalized groups in India by addressing the issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion. Barefoot College in Rajasthan serves as a significant example where Indian CSOs have received government support for engaging in South-South Cooperation. The experiences of India flagship programmes like Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Aadhaar (Bio-metric) Enabled Service Delivery, etc., are some of the developmental initiatives that can be replicated by Indian CSOs in other developing countries.



The UN@75 and South-South Cooperation: Evolving Roles and Responsibilities

RIS and the German Development Institute (GDI)/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) co-hosted a Webinar on The UN@75 and South-South Cooperation: Evolving Roles and Responsibilities on 16 February 2021. Speaking at the webinar former UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki Moon on Tuesday expressed concern over traditional donors - the rich countries - cutting back on aid at a time when the developing

world was challenged by budgetary constraints.

Noting that nationalism and protectionism were hindering multilateral cooperation, he asked the global community to redouble efforts to ensure that critical resources reach the needy through measures that are flexible, accountable and country-driven. Moon's comments assume significance as global experts and the heads of international organisations

including the UN, WHO and the WTO have warned against vaccine nationalism and the related export curbs disrupting the COVID-19 vaccine distribution, especially to poor countries, and in turn, slowing down economic recovery.

Mr Moon, who is the Deputy Chair of The Elders (an independent group of global leaders), also pointed out that many nations, particularly those in the global South, were



Fostering Policy Dialogue: Conferences, Symposia and Workshops:
Development Cooperation



facing expanding budgetary constraints in 2021. “Traditional donors are cutting aid when it is most needed. Despite this, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that critical resources continue to reach the most in need and that assistance is flexible, accountable and country-driven. We must remember that this is a sound investment in sustainability, inclusivity and prosperity.”

Stating that development cooperation was under pressure as a result of the pandemic and the ensuing global economic crisis, Mr Moon said the call for Agenda 2030, mitigation of global warming and the quest for ways to tide over the scourges of the present pandemic also necessitate a further collaborative approach towards provision of global public goods and protection of global commons.

He urged both the UN and the emerging powers to continue to play an active role in the global system. “Your countries are the stewards of our multilateral future. Indeed, while you have lifted millions of people from poverty, you can further help millions more,” he said. Mr Moon said, while the COVID-19 pandemic has tested the international system and collective efforts, it has also created opportunities to expand cooperation to help build back better and ensure that no one is left behind.

The webinar sought to address concerns regarding cooperation between the developing countries (South-South Cooperation or SSC) to support countries to better recover from the current COVID-19 crisis. Since 2013, the Conference of Southern Providers (Delhi Process) has

been attracting international attention on issues and emerging challenges for SSC. UN support for SSC has been an integral part of these efforts. The 75th anniversary of the UN provides a landmark to examine how the relationship between the UN and the South, – i.e. the majority of its member states – has evolved.

Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, former Special Advisor to UN Secretary General; Dr Sven Grimm, Head of Research Programme on Inter- and Transnational Cooperation, Training, DIE; and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS also addressed the inaugural session. As part of the programme, discussion with distinguished panelists was also held. The details are available on our website.

Digitalisation and Development: Reflections from Asia



NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar said India's National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) would lead to "extraordinary portability" enabling all its citizens to be treated anywhere in the country and get access to telemedicine including in the 150,000 health and wellness centres being established under the Ayushman Bharat scheme as part of providing Universal Health Coverage for all.

According to the NDHM 'health domain principles', 'NDHM will have a national footprint and will enable seamless portability across the country through a Health ID – Personal Health Identifier, with supporting blocks, including adoption of Health Information Standards will play a pivotal role in national portability'.

Speaking at a webinar on the theme 'Digitalisation and Development: Reflections from Asia' organised by RIS in collaboration with OECD Development Centre and ERIA on 5 March 2021, Dr Kumar said, that "NITI Aayog was

looking closely at the establishment of the NDHM that is added on to the digi-stack. India has already got digi-lockers and online education going in a massive way. The NDHM will allow for extraordinary portability to all our citizens so that they can be treated anywhere in the country and get access to telemedicine, which is something that we are now pushing forward in a big manner."

Dr Kumar added that the 150,000 health and wellness centres, being established under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, will be equipped with telemedicine capabilities so that the patients do not necessarily have to physically go to the medical service providers.

He said the government was also encouraging use of technology for efficient agriculture in a manner that helps in conserving water and help the country ensure a balance between development and environment rather than them being treated as trade-offs.

Referring to Prime Minister Modi announcement that in the

next 1,000 days every village in India will be connected with optical fibre, he said already 150,000-gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre and the next 100,000 will be connected in the next two years. "Then we want to expand this to every village. To enable that, we have provided electricity to all villages already," he said, adding that "we have to ensure digital technology is accessible to all".

He said the 350,000 Common Service Centres (CSC) opened across the country are helping in delivering over 50 Central schemes and more than 300 State government schemes to people and services related to services such as birth certificate and marriage certificate all online. "We have been able to transfer more than 400 government grant schemes as direct benefit transfer to the beneficiaries. Another 200,000 CSCs are going to be put in place soon," he said. The government is deeply cognizant of the prowess and potential of technology, he said, adding that the Prime Minister has said this was an opportunity for India to not just leapfrog but pole-vault into our development agenda and make our development paradigm different from everywhere else.

OECD Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India

The webinar also saw the India launch of 'OECD Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2021: Reallocating Resources for Digitalization'. According to the report, "the growth slowdown

Fostering Policy Dialogue: Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: Development Cooperation

in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly affect Emerging Asia (ASEAN-10, China and India).” It added that “economic output is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels across most Emerging Asian economies in 2021.”

Dr Kensuke Tanaka, Head of Asia Desk, OECD Development Centre, Paris, said India’s economic challenges include narrowing monetary and fiscal room for manoeuvre, structural issues (such as vulnerability of financial system; manufacturing challenges; infrastructure constraints; level of digitalisation particularly among the smaller firms) and rising inequalities. Rising debt levels could

pose solvency risks in countries including India, he said.

According to the report, “Until an effective vaccine against COVID-19 is widely available, viral transmission will continue to put considerable pressure on health care systems. It will also prevent a timely withdrawal of social restrictions and a return to normal economic conditions.” The report stated that policy makers need to enhance their pandemic management strategies continuously throughout this period, guaranteeing efficient storage and equitable distribution of vaccines.

“With the digital health industry expanding its services during the pandemic, policy makers need to

establish a clear legal framework for data protection that governs the collection, storage, processing and sharing of patients’ data,” according to the report. It stated that public authorities should guarantee the equitable distribution of digital health benefits by ensuring equal access to reliable, affordable and easy-to-use equipment. Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS, Dr Mario Pezzini, Director of OECD Development Centre, Paris and Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director, UNESCAP, SSWA Office, India, also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS presented the key findings of the webinar and proposed vote of thanks.

Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific

RIS and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with the Embassy of Japan (EoJ) in New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India organised a Seminar on Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific in virtual mode on 18 March 2021. Welcome Remarks at the seminar was made by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and the Opening Remarks was given by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Special Remarks was given by H.E. Mr Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi. Smt. Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) delivered the Inaugural Address. There were two technical sessions: Session I: Good Practices of Connectivity Projects, and Session II: Rules-based Connectivity Cooperation. The Session I was chaired by Mr Rajat Nag, Distinguished Fellow, NCAER and Former MDG, Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Delhi. Speakers of the Session I were Mr Takeo Konishi, Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Delhi; Mr Jagjeet Singh, Vice-

President, International Solar Alliance (ISA), Gurugram; and Dr Yose Rizal Damuri, Research Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. Session II was chaired by Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS, New Delhi. Speakers of the Session II were Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Kieo University, Tokyo, and Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; and Dr Jayant Menon, Visiting Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore.

Launch of special issue of DCR on Disaster Risk Management

RIS publishes the Development Cooperation Review (DCR), which aspires to capture holistic narrative around global development cooperation and fill an important knowledge gap towards theorization, empirical verification and documentation of Southern-led development cooperation process. A Special Issue of the journal on 'Disaster Risk Management' was brought out, which discussed different aspects of disaster management in the context of COVID-19 and related dimensions within the Indian as well as in the regional and global context.

A virtual launch of the Special Issue was organised on 5 February 2021, followed by a Panel Discussion. The programme began with welcome address by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General,



RIS and Context setting of the Special Issue by Mr Rajeev Issar, UNDP, Crisis Bureau, Global DRR Team. Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Managing Editor, DCR briefed about the DCR. Mr Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India gave special address. Mr Akhilesh Mishra, Additional

Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India chaired the session. Mr Rajeev Issar also chaired the panel discussion with panelists: Dr Emily Wilkinson, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London; Dr A. Subbiah, Director, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard EW System (RIMES), Bangkok; and Mr Gatkuoth Kai, Technical Coordinator for DRR, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AU Commission. Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired the valedictory session. Dr Mona Chhabra, Director, Research and Knowledge Management, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) gave the valedictory address.

For details: <http://ris.org.in/journals-n-newsletters/Development-Cooperation-Review>

Publications



Report

Global Governance and Economic Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries, RIS, New Delhi, 2020

Report on Virtual Panel Discussion on Joe Biden Administration, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

Development Cooperation Review Volume 3, No.2, October 2020



Discussion Paper

#255, What Ails Global Multilateralism: Prognosis and Way Forward by Augustine Peter

#256, Negotiating Bretton Woods in Hindsight by Manmohan Agarwal

#251, The IMF and Its Operation till the Breakdown in the 1970s: Implications for International Liquidity and Adjustment by Manmohan Agarwal

#250, India-EU Connectivity Partnership: Potential & Challenges by Arun S. Nair

Post-COVID Challenges: Need of UN to Metamorphose-Rediscover Its Priority and Functionalities by Aruna Sharma

#249 Water and Sanitation: Achievement of Large Indian States by Manmohan Agarwal & Rimon Saha



Policy Brief

#98, COVID-19: Economic Collapse and Recovery by Manmohan Agarwal

#97, Global Goals (SDGs) for post-COVID: Dealing with Reversal of Gains and Spectre of Global Poverty by Sabyasachi Saha & Prativa Shaw

#93, Global Governance of Technology and Institutional Architecture by Sachin Chaturvedi

#92, COVID-19 Lesson - A Time for Disruptive GDPs by Dr P K Anand & Mr Krishana Kumar

#89, Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in the Times of Corona Epidemic by Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas

Analytical Support Provided

- Inputs for preparing a database of Indian diaspora working and residing in Europe were provided to MEA.
- Inputs about India's Initiatives for Early Childhood Care and Education for the Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society held in April 2021.
- Note on 'India and Africa Looking Ahead: Contemporary realities and emerging prospects' to MEA.
- Note on India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue - Academic Forum was provided to MEA.
- Inputs on India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue (Track 1.5 Dialogue) were provided to MEA.

New Initiatives

Development Cooperation

In this interconnected world, no single country is in a position to address all the developmental challenges regardless of its level of development. Development cooperation has been the most effective and accepted mode of sharing resources, expertise and technology among the countries. At this juncture, the world economy is facing the catastrophic effects of Covid-19 pandemic which necessitates innovative formats of development cooperation like SSC and TrC models to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FOIP offers avenues for broad-based economic cooperation in line with the principles of inclusive and sustainable development.

India's approach to development cooperation is comprehensive and involves several instruments including grant in aid, lines of credit, capacity building and technical assistance. Mostly, Indian cooperation projects are demand-driven and based on the priorities of partner countries. GDC based at RIS undertakes research on various issues of development cooperation and promotes sharing of knowledge and best practices on various development interventions with partner countries in Asia and Africa. GDC also brings together different stakeholders from partner countries like academicians, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), government bodies, philanthropic foundations and private sector, among others. As FOIP stresses on inclusion, GDC aims to foster partnership for holistic development. In that perspective, development cooperation as a pillar of the Indo-Pacific research programme at GDC would provide necessary building blocks for achieving larger developmental objectives of FOIP.

3

BRICS

Under Global Economic Governance and Cooperation pillar, RIS has developed exclusive expertise and has a dedicated work programme on BRICS cooperation. Apart from a rich repertoire of in-house publications like reports, discussion papers and policy briefs published in the previous years, RIS faculty has also contributed several publications globally. RIS is part of network of BRICS academic institutions, think-tanks and civil society organizations; and has hosted the BRICS Civil Forum and BRICS Academic Forum in the past. RIS regularly provides policy inputs on BRICS to the Ministry of External Affairs and other departments of the Government of India. This year, RIS has once again been entrusted by the Ministry of External Affairs to organize the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 and BRICS Academic Forum 2021 to mark India's BRICS Presidency 2021, preparations and workshops have already been initiated in this regard. RIS has also been nominated by the Ministry of Finance as their Knowledge Partner for the proposed BRICS Economic Conclave 2021. RIS had partnered with the Ministry of Finance for the BRICS Economic Forum in 2016 as well. The section highlights some of the major work undertaken.

BRICS Civil Forum and BRICS Academic Forum

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Dr. Beena Pandey, Dr. Amit Kumar, Dr. Kapil Patil, Ms. Prativa Shaw, Mr. Siddharth Naidu, Mr. Amit Arora and with support and inputs from Prof S K Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Dr P.K. Anand, Mr Krishna Kumar

India has taken over the Chairship of the BRICS grouping in 2021. Under the overall approach of BRICS @ 15 - Intra BRICS Cooperation with Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus for Reformed Multilateralism, Counter Terrorism Cooperation, Technological and Digital solutions for Sustainable Development Goals and enhancing P2P cooperation, more than 100 meetings are being organized by India over the span of one year.

RIS has been participating in BRICS Academic Forum/ BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC)/ BRICS Civil Forum in the previous years and as

assigned by MEA, took the lead in organizing BRICS Civil Forum and BRICS Economic Forum in 2016 (exclusively), and BRICS Academic Forum in 2016 (jointly with ORF) during India's Chairship of BRICS in 2016. Following the same practice, MEA has assigned RIS to organise the BRICS Civil Forum 2021 (exclusively) and BRICS Academic Forum 2021 and BTTC (jointly with ORF). RIS had been entrusted by the MEA to host BRICS Civil Forum 2021 during India's Presidency of BRICS - this involved series of meetings during April-July 2021 on different thematic priorities. RIS was also hosting BRICS Academic Forum 2021 jointly with ORF during India's Presidency of BRICS - this involved meetings led by RIS during May-July 2021 on different thematic priorities. RIS was tasked by the MEA to produce a Report on Consolidation of BRICS engagement as well as a report on Sustainable Consumption and Production in BRICS.

RIS as Knowledge Partner for the Study on BRICS Finance with Ministry of Finance

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash

The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India has approached RIS to be the 'Knowledge Partner' for the activities of the Finance Pillar during India's BRICS Presidency in 2021. As part of this cooperation, RIS would provide inputs and organise the BRICS Economic Conclave tentatively scheduled to be held in September 2021. Further details on the pillar and other activities from DEA are awaited.

Towards BRICS Civil Forum 2021: Partners Consultation

As part of its preparation for the BRICS Civil Forum Curtain Raiser in April 2021, RIS organized a Partner's Consultation on 27 March, 2021 in virtual format. Many researchers/practitioners from the leading CSOs and Think-tanks from all BRICS countries participated in this event. The BRICS Civil Forum Website which will be the information repository for BRICS Civil Forum activities was launched at the meeting. Prior to this, RIS had organized an internal dialogue with Mr P. Harish, India's BRICS Sous Sherpa and a group of representatives from Indian CSOs on 21 March, 2021 in New Delhi.

The partners' consultation comprised of the inaugural session followed by a roundtable discussion to solicit feedback on four key issues: choice of themes; resource persons and stakeholders; format of consolidation; and expected outcomes. The meeting was guided and moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

In context setting, Professor Chaturvedi mentioned the key issues in the BRICS Civil Forum that need to be discussed such as how to align BRICS Civil Forum agenda with the theme of 3Cs (Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus) of India's BRICS Chairship 2021. He also raised the issue of

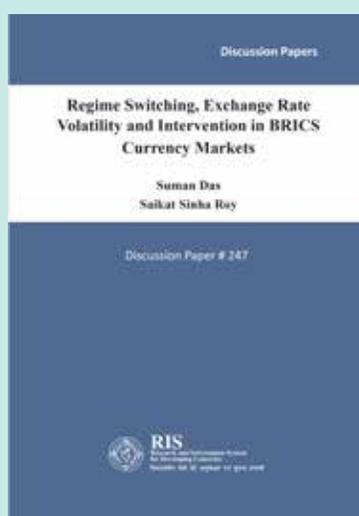


Distinguished Participants at the Consultation.

how to institutionalize BRICS Civil Forum as it has been done in the case of BRICS Academic Forum (by creating BRICS Think-Tank Council, BTTC). Further, he pointed out what should be the broad priority areas of the BRICS Civil; how to consolidate BRICS Civil; how to make Civil Forum a permanent platform; how to enhance P2P for scaling up the participation and; how to make BRICS Civil a much more vibrant forum.

In Chair's remarks, Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS alluded to the inclusion of various important themes and topics into the BRICS agenda over the period of time. One of those was the setting-up of BRICS Civil Forum in 2015 in Russia.

Publication



Discussion Paper

#247: Regime Switching,
Exchange Rate Volatility and
Intervention in BRICS Currency
Markets by Suman Das & Saikat
Sinha Roy

4 IBSA

As part of Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation pillar, RIS is among the early exponents and supporters of IBSA Cooperation. RIS has published its flagship report “Trinity of the South” twice in the past. Apart, from this, RIS has also published other articles, discussion papers and policy briefs to strengthen IBSA partnership from a South-South Cooperation perspective. RIS currently hosts the IBSA Fellowship Programme which was announced by the Government of India in 2016 and has so far conducted two editions of the programme. This year RIS published the second report titled “Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors” based on the research work of IBSA Fellows in the second round. The third Round of the IBSA Fellowship Programme has already been announced. RIS is also strongly networked with partner think-tanks in IBSA, hosts the IBSA Academic Forum and has regularly provided policy inputs to the Ministry of External Affairs on IBSA matters.

IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme

RIS announced the launch of 3rd Round of IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme, with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Under the programme, RIS offers Fellowships to two research scholars/academicians each from Brazil and South Africa for a period of upto six months. The main focus areas are: Development of an effective multilateral institutional framework to coordinate, support and enable sustainable development in coherent and integral manner; Enhancement of micro-macro economic policy coordination for sustainable recovery and continued growth in developing countries; Improvement of oversight and supervision towards a more resilient financial system and coherent management of capital flows; development of an equitable and balanced international system of rules governing intellectual property permitting the protection of indigenous knowledge system against abuse and prevention of misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; Joint research for cooperation and exchange of information in the field of development of sustainable and alternative energy and any other areas as may be found of interest within the IBSA framework.

IBSA Lecture Series

RIS would also launch an IBSA Lecture Series and also bring out an IBSA Newsletter, a quarterly journal to disseminate new initiatives, developments, research insights, activities, news, opinions and information on new IBSA Fund projects in domestic and international policy circles and think-tank community to make the IBSA more visible and action oriented.

Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors

RIS organised launch of the IBSA Report '*Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives From Key Sectors*' on 10 November, 2020. Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS in his opening remarks welcomed all distinguished guests and IBSA Fellows to the Virtual Launch of IBSA Report. Setting the context of the programme, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS warmly welcomed the guests and emphasised on the immense contribution of IBSA. He noted that IBSA partnership is a manifestation of South-South Cooperation (SSC). The rise of plurilateral societies, convergence of democracies, multilateralism towards global development architecture and access to resources to governments are crucial. RIS has been central to IBSA and its efforts, since its inception. RIS launched the IBSA Visiting Fellowship Programme in 2016, with the support from the Ministry of External Affairs to promote academic exchange of young scholars to strengthen research collaboration among India, Brazil and South Africa. The Fellowship programme focuses on diverse issues covering agriculture, Global Production Networks, Trade and Investment. The first batch of IBSA Fellows (2017-2018) contributed interesting research articles to the first report published by RIS. The second batch too had contributed their research articles to the present report, which is recognised as an important academic contribution. Prof Chaturvedi discussed the key points of all the papers by IBSA fellows, reiterated the importance of IBSA for cooperation and learning from each other highlighting the importance of the issuing of the Joint IBSA declaration on South-South

Cooperation and dialogue between think-tanks of these countries.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired the launch session. Dr Kumar noted that IBSA rooted in pluralism and democratic values could play an important role in global alliance or global summit of democracies. He added that the Joint Declaration of IBSA, outlining principles and conditions on SSC could act as a guiding charter. He briefly discussed the main arguments of the research articles written by the fellows.

Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs formally launched the IBSA Report, "*Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors*". Mr Chhabra recognised the significance of IBSA in SSC, a grouping of like-minded countries dedicated to tolerance, strengthening of multiculturalism, participatory democracy, sharing similar views on sustainable development, terrorism, climate change, clean and healthy living, WTO issues, non-proliferation, reforms in UN security council, etc. He underlined the limitation of multilateral institutions in dealing with current issues and challenges and highlighted the importance of IBSA in putting forth the possibilities of reform in multilateralism and multilateral organisations. The inception of the unique IBSA Fund in 2004 and IBSA fellowships was significant steps towards enhancing people participation. He added that the report entails crucial studies which will be referred by policy makers and researchers.

After the remarks by Mr Chhabra, IBSA fellows presented key arguments of their papers. Ms. Alice Viera Dos Santos from Brazil analysed the voting behavior and mutual support between IBSA countries, and argued that there has been a significant level of convergence in their voting behavior and mutual support. She assessed the areas of convergence and divergence of mutual support, and indicated that IBSA has not received high level of mutual support, and there could be improvement in topics of mutual interest especially health, given their higher tendency to consolidate their support on specific issues. She added that since IBSA was based on strong democratic foundation, it could play a key role in strengthening multilateralism.

Ms. Poliana Belisario Zorzal also from Brazil, called for IBSA biodiversity protection using patent as a check point to legally protect their natural genetic resources. She argued for two approaches for IBSA to reinforce their common multilateral institutional framework including, a harmonized guideline between national patent offices, application of similar standard laws for disclosure requirements in convergence of their national regulations. The need for broadening IBSA collaborations between research institutions and a comprehensive analytical data for genetic data misappropriation, access and benefit sharing were crucial for coordination to protect genetic resources.



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



IBSA FELLOWS



VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF IBSA REPORT

**'DEEPENING COOPERATION IN IBSA:
PERSPECTIVES FROM KEY SECTORS'**

WEBINAR 10 November 2020

Ms. Karin Kritzinger from South Africa analysed the synergies, differences and scope for cooperation between IBSA countries on the role of roof-top solar in progressing towards renewable energy. Strong possibilities of research collaborations, technology transfer and tariffs were stressed by the presenter for a way forward in furthering the scope of renewable energy in IBSA countries.

Mr. Kamlesh Goyal, from India underlined the importance of mutually recognising the importance of boosting traditional medicine in healthcare. He highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration in R&D, patent protection of traditional medicine, and joint capacity building programmes. Ms. Rabia Khatun also from India, analysed the challenges that hinder trade in banking services, and provided a set of recommendations that could help in strengthening and furthering its scope in IBSA countries.

Dr Beena Pandey, Research Associate, RIS studied the unique nature and scope of initiatives

undertaken through the IBSA fund, underlining its significance in poverty alleviation in the nations of the South, debt projects, agriculture, employment and livelihood, youth engagement, infrastructure and capacity building to combat AIDS.

H. E. Mr. Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi noted that the report was extremely important and the papers would help enrichment of the agenda of IBSA. He recognised the importance of IBSA in opening new roads or areas which the IBSA countries could traverse together through cooperation and collaboration for which political will of the three countries was also significant. He noted that IBSA was the first plurilateral mechanism that Brazil participated and highlighted the legacy of cooperation between India and Brazil in the UN. He added that the three countries could work together to strengthen the agenda of IBSA, underlining the brilliant results that have been achieved and its future prospects through cooperation. He recognised the efforts and amazing role played by RIS.

H. E. Mr. Sibusiso Ndebel, Ambassador, Embassy of South Africa, New Delhi underlined South Africa's financial commitment to IBSA Fund and the importance it attaches to IBSA and its initiatives. He recognised significant efforts made by IBSA in the past and urged on its role in acknowledging challenges, academic exchange of experiences between the countries and recognised IBSA as a united strong voice of the alliance of the democracies.

The presence of High Commissioner of Tanzania, H. E. Baraka Haran Luvanda was noted and he was requested to give his remarks. He congratulated RIS and acknowledged the efforts of the IBSA. The closing remarks were made by Mr Chhabra. Dr Mohan Kumar and Prof Sachin Chaturvedi who shared their vision on looking forward to future events and strengthening IBSA cooperation further. After the closing remarks of distinguished guests and participants of the virtual launch, vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Sabyasachi Saha.

Publication



Report

Deepening Cooperation In IBSA:
Perspectives From Key Sectors,
RIS, New Delhi, 2020

5 Trade

Trade issues are being discussed, researched, and analysed at bilateral, regional, and multilateral level in RIS. The faculty has been engaged in areas related to India's bilateral trade with South Asian countries like Iran, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. Trade between India and China is examined in the context of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Preparation is underway to bring out flagship reports of RIS – 'World Trade and Development Report' and 'South Asia Development Cooperation Report'. At the regional level, there are ongoing studies on BIMSTEC and Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). At the global level, the structural reforms of the multilateral trading system, new issues relating to trade including e-commerce, trade and environment, special and differential treatment, global and regional value chains and competition policy issues are being researched. For fruitful discussions in these areas, RIS organized webinars on 'Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework' and 'WTO@25 Series.' The following paras highlight some of important aspects of the work programme in area of trade.

Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan

Professor S K Mohanty

The study would focus on India's comprehensive bilateral economic engagement with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan. The objective is to examine the current level of bilateral economic engagement of India with selected South Asian economies and to identify key areas of cooperation in trade and investment. It would explore the possibility of having bilateral comprehensive partnership agreement with them based on India's competitiveness. The possibility of negotiation for EHS, PTA, FTA, CEPA,

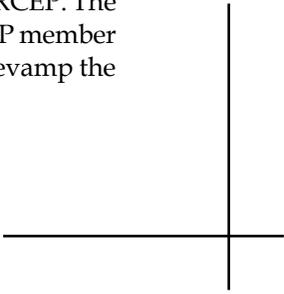
etc. would be examined. The key areas of analysis would include trade performance, trade potential, export competitiveness, long term import interests, tariffs, NTBs, trade diversification, competition from third country, margin of preference, FDI etc. Such a strategy would delineate India's priorities in its trade relations with the South Asian countries under consideration in terms of target products, focus sectors, trade potential, investment opportunities, changes in trade policy, and so on. This is being funded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

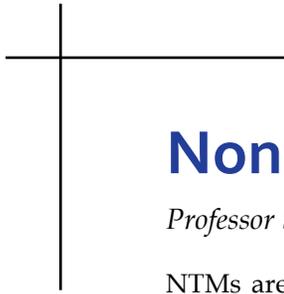


Revisiting India's decision of opting out from RCEP

Dr Pankhuri Gaur

India's exit from the RCEP negotiation was at a time when regional macroeconomic situation was stable amidst persistence of the global recession. The situation changed dramatically in Post-2019 with high-impact episode of the global pandemic and shrinkage of the global volume of imports, disruption of global value chains, lopsided demand pattern of the global trade, interruption in the flow of FDI, turbulent growth scenario, massive migration of labour and large scale death of people due to Covid-19. In this situation, India could have been a vital trading partner of RCEP member countries by opening up its large market for them where other markets were shut for many. India has been important for the grouping given its huge market size and ability to compete with China to supply goods and services to the region. However, the continuous threat of dumping of manufacturing goods, persistence of unsustainable trade imbalance with China and risk of sensitive dairy imports from countries like Australia and New Zealand were some of the apprehensions among others, for India to withdraw from RCEP in 2019. Though the members have opened up the way for India to join the regional caucus at a later date, several differences persist within the grouping. Various member countries are critical India's unjust expectations at the negotiating table for the Special and Differential Treatment, which they have themselves agreed in other regional or bilateral trade agreements. With an amended agreement, India's participation in RCEP would not only bring advantage to India, but also to the RCEP member countries where they would be able to diversify trade portfolios beyond China along with establishing resilient supply chains. This study would analyse the relevance of the reasons that India argued for opting out of RCEP. The new approach could provide a middle-path for both India and the RCEP member countries to have deeper trade integration, which is much needed to revamp the disrupted supply chains of the region due to COVID-19.





Non-Tariff Measures: Databases

Professor S K Mohanty

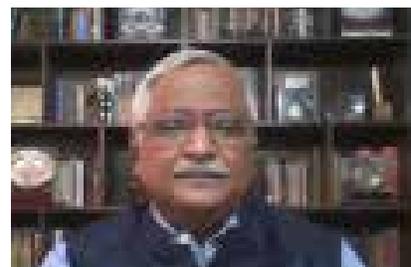
NTMs are the future trade policy instruments for bilateral and regional trade agreements. It is imperative to highlight various aspects of NTMs in a single study which would be handy for the policymakers, students and ordinary users of trade data. Although most part of the study would cover a critical survey of literature, the study aims to avoid unnecessary stretching of inclusive or controversial academic narratives about NTMs. Continuous work on developing a NTM Databases continued in this period. The idea is to have empirical assessment of trade effects of NTM whenever needed.

Trade Integration in Post-AfCFTA Africa: An Assessment

Dr Priyadarshi Dash & Ms Sonal Garg

Africa is undergoing silent transformations in the realm of trade & investment, industrialisation, infrastructure & connectivity, services and digital economy, and so on. FDI flows to Africa have increased significantly over the years, and there is a growing perception that with political stability and predictive macroeconomic policies Africa may witness a gracious turnaround soon. Many envisage AfCFTA a step in that direction. This paper assesses the current state of trade integration in the region and the promise that AfCFTA offers to the people of Africa. By employing a mix of descriptive and econometric techniques the paper attempts to examine the stylised patterns observed in trade in goods and services, and the roadmap evolving for post-AfCFTA era. A joint RIS-CII initiative for next two years on AfCFTA would strengthen research on African trade integration.

Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework



RIS hosted the second webinar in the WTO@25 on “Global Trade Governance and Multilateral Framework: The Way Forward”. The webinar series is part of the process for engaging with stakeholders and experts for the forthcoming World Trade and Development Report 2020 to be published by RIS. This webinar discussed the importance of WTO as the central institutional architecture of global trade governance, given the fact that even FTA rules are largely governed by the WTO disciplines. Acknowledging, the sustained stalemate at the WTO and that the WTO has not been able to function optimally in the last several years, the panel focused on 3 key areas to suggest way forward for revival of the WTO or at best re-engaging various groups of countries with the process to save trade multilateralism.

First, the panelists deliberated upon the conflicts surrounding the reform of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and the appointments to the Appellate body. The ongoing hiccups in the process of appointment of the next WTO Director General were also discussed. The role of the USA on both these instances was analysed, with optimism expressed about the change of leadership in the US. The DSM has been key



to the functioning of the WTO system. But the merit of the reforms proposals have to be weighed in by both developed and developing countries based on the accumulated experience over the years in terms of the contours of the mechanism and the modus operandi. It is of great significance that the US has been extremely emphatic on the necessity of reforms in the DSM and has set it as a precondition to its meaningful engagement with the WTO.

The second key focus area was the centrality of Special and Differential (S&D) Treatment and the stalled Doha Round of negotiations that have grave implications for the future of S&D provisions in the multilateral negotiations. The panelists highlighted the significant erosion of such provisions under the bilateral and plurilateral arrangements. The significantly rigid posturing by some of the developed countries, particularly

the US suggest exclusion of larger developing countries with rising global share of world trade from availing such benefits. There are issues around heterogeneity in income and trading capacities of developing countries; however the persistent developmental needs and challenges cannot be underestimated. It was suggested that developing countries must analyse the issues that are at stake for them and work towards newer coalitions at the WTO, in the backdrop of recent shifts in the positions of select developing countries.

The third set of issues covered inclusion of new issues as part of the WTO reforms process and the position of developing countries. It was suggested that proposals on industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises, digital commerce as well as fisheries subsidies may have far reaching consequences for developing countries and need to be responded from the position of sectoral competitiveness in developing countries. There are also similar considerations about autonomy of supply chains as part of integration with the global trading system.

WTO @25 Series

The Inaugural Webinar on WTO@25 series was held on 22 October 2020 under the circumstances when post pandemic global trade scenario is not encouraging and there are apprehensions about uncertainties over the short and medium term. There is a sudden disruption in production and supply coupled with ongoing crisis in multilateral trade negotiations that predates the pandemic.

The webinar brought together commentators and intellectuals from the North and the South to deliberate on the implications and way forward. It was pointed out that while some developing countries benefitted from the existing institutional mechanisms, large chunks were left out and even gains among developed countries have been asymmetric. The emerging multipolarity as well as the direction of world power contributed to this crisis. The present circumstances are very different from the times of GATT, since the largest trading nation today is a developing country. The existing institutional mechanisms have been unable to deal with strong influence of technology and the associated new issues. Several recommendations were made by the panel to overcome the existential crisis of the WTO system.

Firstly, the multilateral character of the WTO should be preserved. There are fears, that similar to the case of proliferation of the regional

and bilateral trade arrangements, the proposals on plurilateral agreements might contribute to further fragmentation of the WTO system. Secondly, rather than reforms, WTO perhaps needs rebalancing. This is imperative because several reform proposals that are sponsored by the developed countries might harm the development space of the developing countries including in agriculture, industrial subsidies, investment, data etc. The WTO system has been unable to deal with unilateral actions by developed countries. Thirdly, there must be emphasis on enforceable rule making and reviving the dispute settlement mechanism.

The panel also discussed issues about the discomfort surrounding single undertaking mechanisms

pursued by the WTO and the recognition of the complexities with regard to issues like subsidies and IPRs. Members pointed out the centrality of the Special and Differential Treatment provisions as part of the WTO process and considerations for emerging needs of the developing countries keeping in mind the heterogeneity in their per capita incomes and capacities. This may also necessitate a differentiated approach on Special and Differential Treatment and embedding such provisions even under regional agreements. This is particularly true for LDCs in Africa that aspire to integrate more robustly with regional and global value chains. In the African context, the need for Special and Differential Treatment with regard to infant industry protection for diversification of their economies is a key concern. Several of these countries also seek robust dispute settlement mechanism at the WTO to tackle issues like dumping of low quality products, apart from wishing for top leadership in the WTO echelons and decision making.

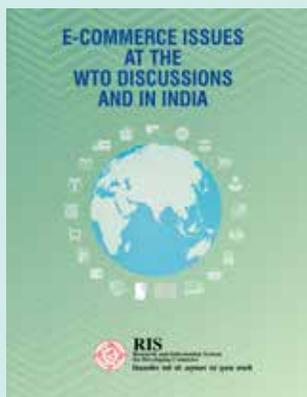
Finally, it was pointed out that G20 could play an important role in facilitating multilateral trade negotiations at this juncture keeping in view the emerging needs of resilient supply chains, diversification of supply chains and access to key products like vaccines and pharmaceuticals.



Publications



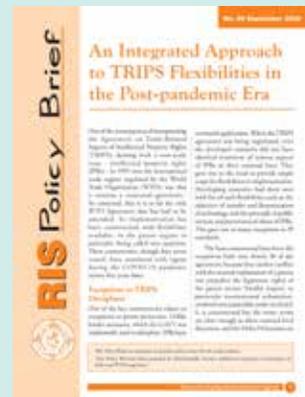
Reports



Discussion Papers

#253: The Indian Manufacturing Sector, Finances and Growth by Manmohan Agarwal, Rumi Azim & Neha Betai

#244: Surmount Challenges, Cash in New Trade Opportunities by Dammu Ravi



Policy Briefs

#95: An Integrated Approach to TRIPS Flexibilities in the Post-pandemic Era by Atul Kaushik

#88: Robotisation of Textile Sector in China: Impact and Imperatives by Amit Kumar

Analytical Support Provided

- Analysis from India-China Report was provided to MEA.
- Inputs on South-South Trade and Investment: A tool for revitalizing the global economy post COVID-19 were provided to MEA.
- Note on '7th Pillar of Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI): Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport - An Outline of India-Japan Cooperation for Strengthening the 7th Pillar of IPO' was provided to MEA.
- A Note on 'EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment: Evolving Trends and Way Forward for Indian Economy' was provided to Economic Diplomacy Division, MEA
- A paper on 'India-US Trade Negotiations-Issues for the Trade Deal' was provided to NAFTA Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Inputs on 'Harmonisation of Trade Issues' for the communiqué of the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' meeting 2021.

New Initiatives

Start-Up Collaborations for New Era of Industrialisation in India

Start-ups have received increased attention in India as well as in other parts of the world in recent years. The numbers of start-ups are rising and are being viewed as important engines of growth and job creation particularly in the developing world. Start-ups can generate impactful solutions through innovation and scalable technology, acting as vehicles for socio-economic development and transformation. India has the world's third largest start-up ecosystem, and is expected to grow by 12 to 15 per cent per annum. Interestingly, women entrepreneurs are coming up in increasing numbers and could be the drivers of new generation start-ups in the country. For orderly growth of start-ups, Government of India has introduced several initiatives including the 'Start-up India' and 'Stand-up India'. The action plan is built around three pillars: simplification and handholding, financial support and incentives, and industry-academia partnership and incubation. Besides national initiatives, there is ample scope for learning and collaboration among countries in nurturing the start-ups and developing the start-up ecosystem. In order to understand the rise of start-ups, scope for collaboration and implications for trade & investment, RIS proposes to undertake a detailed study in collaboration with Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi. The study proposal is currently being finalised.

Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

With substantial lowering of tariffs and non-tariff measures, the prospects of higher trade and investment among countries are much brighter now than before. However, certain areas of reforms are warranted in the trade policy and regulatory space, including customs reforms, border infrastructure, mutual recognition agreements, risk management, etc. In presence of those barriers, exporters and importers face higher trade costs which not only discourage them to engage in international trade but affect their future growth and businesses, especially for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Indo-Pacific region, being home to several major trading nations of the world, cannot afford to live with varying trade policy regimes on above mentioned issues. Although the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) is in force since 2015, there are significant differences in implementation of various commitments of the Agreement. Hence, it requires examining various contours of trade facilitation and connectivity reforms as part of the broader Indo-Pacific initiative. RIS has undertaken several studies in the past on most of these areas in the context of South Asia, BIMSTEC and Asia- Africa cooperation. In continuation of that effort, trade facilitation and connectivity would constitute a crucial pillar of the proposed Indo-Pacific Research Programme.

Digital Economy

Digital Economy is one of the rapidly growing sectors of the economy across the world. Advanced IT technologies like artificial intelligence, block chain, robotics, big data, etc. have revolutionised the way production, sale and distribution happen across economic activities. Some of those sectors which are experiencing a faster wave of digitalization include banking, FinTech, e-commerce, digital health and education. In addition, growing internet penetration and mobile use has improved digital connectivity; the benefits of which are largely reflected in lower cost of transactions, easy digital payment options, etc. Indo-Pacific region can leverage on digital economy to expand the frontiers of economic cooperation within different segments of digital economy and as an enabler to other sectors of the economy. Besides technology development, digital economy often confronts the issues of data piracy, localization and cyber security concerns. Regional policy dialogues and knowledge

New Initiatives

sharing under triangular cooperation could help the developing nations and LDCs of the region to foster growth and development. US-ASEAN digital diplomacy under Indo-Pacific Economic Vision provides one such arena for capacity building and expertise sharing. Such an initiative should be expanded to the rest of the countries, especially the East African countries, under India's Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative with science, technology and academic cooperation as a pillar. FOIP being an ambitious vision should capitalize various aspects of digital economy to seize the emerging opportunities in the near future.

RIS-IFPRI Collaborative Study on Trade in Food and Agri Processing Sector

Data and capacity gaps are often observed in empirical research on agriculture trade in South Asia. RIS and IFPRI are working together to develop comprehensive database on various aspects of trade in agriculture especially on MSMEs in food and agri-processing sectors. The programme aims to build intellectual capacity in South Asia through research and training using the comprehensive database on trade and development and IFPRI Trade Flow Analysis. In 2020, two young researchers from RIS had attended the IFPRI regional training programme and developing their presentation as discussion paper. Given the importance of processing sector from the perspective of Global Value Chains (GVCs), the programme aims to scale it up to BIMSTEC in 2021 onwards. In this regard, RIS is in touch with MEA and Ministry of Agriculture to take it forward. In addition, RIS is in direct contact with BIMSTEC Secretariat as India Focal Point for BNPTT. Both RIS and IFPRI are considering a MoU for formalise the current programme on agriculture and possible extension to other sectors in future.

Returns to Foreign Higher Education in South Asia: An Empirical Analysis

RIS has been approached by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh to join a 5-country research study on a very important theme "Returns to Foreign Higher Education in South Asia: An Empirical Analysis" along with partner think tanks from South Asia. Despite demographic dividend, the education sector in South Asia and the labour market dynamics continue to pose significant challenges to inclusive development in the region. RIS has been steadfast in its contribution to the agenda of regional cooperation in South Asia and nurtures close collaboration and interaction with partner think-tanks from different South Asian countries. The proposal for the study has been floated after intense deliberation among the partners, on the scope and modality taking into account the context of international migration among young population and perceived gains across different professional fields. The outcome of the study should provide important insights into the similarities and divergences in country specific contexts and guide policy making at the national and regional level in order to harness talent and skills emanating from the region, and address persistent challenges. The study is expected to be launched in 2022.

6

Finance

Financial sectors worldwide are evolving rapidly in the form of new products & services, associated risks, business models and regulations. Fintech, digital currency and crypto assets are the new financial innovations which apparently offer huge potential for the banks and financial institutions to unbundle certain segments from traditional model of financial intermediation and package it efficiently at a much lower cost and ease of the customers. This new wave of fast evolving financial domains demands equal attention by the central banks and monetary authorities especially in emerging markets and developing economies in order to assess the emergent risk and vulnerabilities and make necessary regulatory changes. Along with the focus on growing and innovative segments of the financial sector, some traditional issues such infrastructure finance and development finance assume importance in recent years. The critical role of Development Finance Institution (DFI) for bridging the gaps in infrastructure financing and funding development projects has resurfaced in many countries of the world. In order to examine the opportunities, risks and challenges in some of these segments, RIS launched a number of research studies and webinar series in the year 2020-2021 in collaboration with national and international institutions. For further exploring the contours of DFI. The section presents further details.

Digital Currency and Crypto-Currency

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Digital currency and crypto-currency, the study would focus on the new buzzwords in the world of payments and settlements. Many have started perceiving a threat to the fiat currency as growing preference for cashless transactions and ease of payments assumes priority on the part of consumers. While uniform global position on adoption of digital currencies and related technological and regulatory standards are still evolving, many central banks (or policy-makers) have either taken policy measures for its adoption or studying the implications of such instruments for safety, security and reliability for the financial system. While plugging the regulatory loopholes in use of digital and crypto-currencies may be

attempted, it would be wise to make the fiat-currency based payment and settlement systems more attractive, user-friendly and cheaper for the customers which are often viewed as attraction for individuals switching from fiat currency to digital currency. Since digital technologies and e-commerce are pervasive forces which cannot be reversed so easily, central banks may consider moving towards digital currencies rather than allowing the parallel system to function distorting financial stability. Although India chooses to move slowly in a gradualist fashion on the issue of digital currency and crypto-currencies, it may require substantial home work as the captive users of e-commerce and digital modes of payments is growing rapidly in the country.

Development Banks and Policy Choices for India

Development banks offer many institutional opportunities for financing development projects with long gestation period. In order to discuss the important role of development finance institutions in promoting industrialisation and creating necessary infrastructure, RIS has initiated a focused research programme on Finance and Development. In this context RIS organised a Webinar by Mr. G. A. Tadas, formerly Executive Director, IDBI on development banks and policy choices for India in light of a Discussion Paper on 'Need for Setting Up of a New Development Bank' on 14 July 2020. Mrs. Shyamala Gopinath, Former Deputy Governor of RBI and current Chairperson of HDFC, chaired the Webinar.

The presentation by Mr. Tadas was followed by a Panel Discussion. The distinguished panelists were: Professor Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Director, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University and Dr. Janmajeya Sinha, Chairman, India, Boston Consulting Group, Mumbai.



In his presentation Mr. G.A. Tadas emphasized on the development finance institutions (DFIs) like IFCI, IDBI and ICICI formed post-Independence contributed significantly towards India's industrialisation. However, with financial sector reforms since 1991, access to low cost funds for DFIs gradually stopped and the pioneering institutions like IDBI and ICICI had to transform themselves into commercial banks, while IFCI has been undergoing financial strain. Development banks world over, whether in developed or developing countries, were formed in response to failures of the markets to provide the financing necessary for entrepreneurial activity to boost new or existing

companies and in the process promote industrialisation and infrastructure development. When India's development needs are enormous requiring huge financial resources, the closing down of the existing DFIs appears premature, especially in the context of underdeveloped long-term bond market. Time has come to set up a nodal DFI to provide medium- and long-term credit to infrastructure and other long gestation projects, promote innovation and new technologies that are not supported by the banks and financial institutions as a gap-filling or market-creating mechanism. The innovative ways of raising resources may need to be explored by studying various approaches adopted by development banks across developed and developing countries. It is desirable to have periodic reviews of mandates assigned to DFIs and need to factor in changing priorities of the economy to ensure that they remain relevant. The Discussion Paper is available on RIS Website. It has also been circulated widely.

UK-India Bilateral Trade in FinTech and FinTech-Enabled Services

In response to a joint call by ESRC, UK and ICSSR, India on promoting India-UK bilateral trade and investment, RIS in collaboration with University of Essex, UK alongwith other study partners are undertaking a study on

the potential of India-UK bilateral trade in Fintech and Fintech-enabled services. This study aims to identify the specific areas of Fintech that could drive trade in financial services, foster startup growth and promote investment

in the emerging segments. Besides publication of peer-reviewed journal papers the study aims to generate public awareness in both the countries on contribution of Fintech to financial inclusion and growth.

Webinar on Digital Currencies and Crypto-Currencies

The global economic landscape is undergoing a silent transformation enabled by innovations in digital technologies. Financial technologies in particular have assumed tremendous attention in the recent years. Banking and finance fields are witnessing rapid strides in application of digital technologies in advanced economies as well as in emerging and developing economies. In this digital era, countries are exploring whether new forms of money like digital currencies and crypto-currencies would be the game changer. There are many apprehensions with respect to the regulatory and supervisory challenges associated with use of digital and crypto-currencies. Besides central banks of different countries, international forums like G20 are also discussing the opportunities and constraints associated with crypto currencies



and the standards involved.

RIS has been working on digital technologies and Fintech sector in the realm of trade, investment and industrial policy especially in the context of G20. In order to understand the intricacies of digital currencies and crypto-currencies,

RIS organised a webinar on “Future Digital Currencies and Crypto-Currencies: Policy Choices and Way Forward” on May 7, 2020.

The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon’ble G2- Sherpa of India addressed the importance of the theme of the Webinar and shared his perspective insights. Dr Martin Suster, Director (Research), National Bank of Slovakia made the lead presentation and it was followed by a panel discussion. The distinguished panelists were Professor Biswajit Banerjee, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS and Professor of Economics, Ashoka University; Dr Srinivas Yanamandra, Chief-Compliance, New Development Bank, Shanghai, China; Professor Manmohan Agarwal, former Professor, JNU; and Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor, RIS.

Financial Cooperation in BIMSTEC

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Exchange rate volatility causes uncertainty in the value of exports and imports and expensive for traders in terms of the cost of hedging. This aspect has been discussed in the context of financial cooperation which is manifested in the rise of currency swap arrangements among countries. For instance, China alone has signed 31 currency swap arrangements to facilitate trade in local currency. Likewise, Japan is also a party to several currency swap arrangements with its Asian and other trade partners. Besides

a number of currency swap arrangements, India has implemented rupee trade arrangements with Nepal, Iran and Russia in the past. Against this backdrop, BIMSTEC countries can also explore the possibility of trade in local currency as a means to minimize the financial vulnerability arising from random exchange rate fluctuations. Emerging financial technologies like block chain, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, Internet of Things, etc. have transformed not only the financial sectors but also empowered people and the society at large. A policy brief would be brought out.

Development Financial Institution (DFI)

Former Deputy Governor of the RBI, Mr Rakesh Mohan, on Friday suggested that the proposed new Development Financial Institution (DFI) needs to attract 'patient capital' investors as well as leading experts on its board and in top management. Mr Mohan, who was also a former Executive Director at the IMF, made these comments during a webinar organised by RIS and India International Centre (IIC) on 19 February 2021.

It comes in the backdrop of the Union Budget 2021-2022 recognising the long-term debt financing needs of the infrastructure sector and proposing a "professionally managed" DFI "to act as a provider, enabler and catalyst for infrastructure financing". Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech, had also said that a Bill would be introduced to set up a DFI and provided Rs 20,000 crore to capitalise the institution. "The ambition is to have a lending portfolio of at least Rs 5 lakh crore for this DFI in three years-times,"

she had said. Mr Debasish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services had reportedly said India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited could be subsumed into the new DFI - the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development. The proposed DFI would also play a crucial role in realising the National Infrastructure Pipeline, under which around 7,000 projects have been identified with an estimated Rs 111 lakh crore-worth of investment between 2020 and 2025.

Mr Rakesh Mohan also proposed that the new DFI should be headquartered in Mumbai, India's financial capital. The first CEO or CMD of the proposed DFI should be a person with India's best interests in mind. Echoing Mr Mohan, former Deputy Governor of RBI Ms Shyamala Gopinath also said there should be an emphasis on good governance. In addition, there is a need to focus on issues such as contract enforcement and project bankability, she said. Speaking on the occasion, former Executive Director of IDBI, Dr G.

A. Tadas, said the Budget proposal of providing Rs 20,000 crore to capitalise the institution would not be sufficient to finance infrastructure projects to the tune of Rs 111 lakh crore by 2025 and help the country to be a USD 5 trillion economy. The initial capital for the DFI needs to be augmented to at least Rs 50,000-60,000 crore to achieve a portfolio of around Rs 5 lakh crore in the next three years, he added. He said there has to be an emphasis on a robust risk management system.

Professor Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Director, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, said the focus on DFIs now is on helping countries to achieve 'green growth', promote innovation, provide counter-cyclical finance not just to the infrastructure sector but also crucial areas such as health and other social sectors. Larger number of DFIs can have greater impact, she said, adding that post the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the DFIs have seen a renaissance.

Declining Savings Rate in India – New Policy Options

RIS and India International Centre have launched series of webinars in partnership for analysing and taking forward the narrative on banks and the financial sector. The first Panel Discussion in the series was held on 'Declining Savings Rate in India – New Policy Options' on 20 January 2021. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Mr N. N. Vohra, President, India International Centre (IIC) made inaugural remarks. Mr Rajnish

Kumar, former Chairman, State Bank of India chaired the Panel Discussion. The Panelists included: Professor Ananth Narayn, Associate Professor (Adjunct), Head of Public Policy, SPJIMR, Mumbai; Dr Amey Sapre, Assistant Professor, NIPFP, New Delhi; and Professor Manmohan Agarwal, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS.

There was consensus at the webinar that we require new instruments to come up to encourage and incentivize long-term saving. The

interests of small depositors need to be protected. The pension funds are also required to be activated. The data limitations should be worked out. Deposits should be safe with better returns. The authorities have to seriously think of what kind of instruments to make available and what kind of products which would attract savings and add to the corpus of capital available for beneficial investments for better and faster growth.

Digital Payments and QR Code: What Way Forward



The 32nd Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Lecture was delivered by Professor Deepak B. Phatak, Professor Emeritus, IIT-Bombay on 23 January 2021 via online platform on “Digital Payments and QR Code: What way forward?”. Dr Kiran Karnik, Chairman, ReBIT and Former President, NASSCOM chaired the session. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS delivered the welcome remarks, followed by remarks made by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director-General, TERI and Mr Sunit Tandon, Director, IHC. In his opening remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi highlighted significant role of the financial sector connect with the technology and how this has led to a paradigm shift in the financial transactions and payment systems in India.

Professor Deepak B. Phatak began his very insightful lecture by explaining the evolution of payment systems over a period of time, where

he talked about the conversion of barter system to currency and from currency to financial instruments such as cheques. Thereafter, he highlighted the importance of automation in banking systems, which enabled the system of digital payments, that includes smart cards, debit cards, net-banking and mobile banking. He stressed that the Reserve Bank of India is taking all the necessary steps and precautions in order to ensure that the balance between the convenience accorded due to the digital payments and the safety and security (such as cyber theft etc) is achieved.

Professor Phatak then elaborated on the status of digital payments in India, where he stated some successful Indian initiatives such as RTGS, NEFT, SFMS, UPI (BHIM), IMPS, RuPay debit card, Aadhar-based KYC norms. He stressed that the “two-factor authentication (CVV plus OTP)” followed in India

is even more secure process than the processes followed in many developed countries.

The speaker went on further to describe the evolution of QR (Quick Response) Codes. He stated that the QR Code was invented in Japan in 1995 and it has become very popular lately over its predecessor, i.e. Bar Code. He cited the greater availability and usage of mobile phones with camera as a major driver for its wider adoption. Unlike Bar Code, which requires a POS device to be installed at the seller desk to scan it, QR Code can be scanned easily and quickly using the camera of mobile phones of the customers. This has even led to enable digital payments even in the absence of conventional POS infrastructure.

On way forward, Professor Phatak emphasised that there is an imperative to increase the share of digital transactions among all the retail transactions that happen in the country, implying that the cash component of the transactions should ideally reduce to zero. Secondly, he stressed the need to further enhance the Aadhar authentication. In short-term, he expressed that the on-boarding of merchants should continue and there should be a greater usage of QR Codes by the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) and by commodity sellers. At the end, the Chair, Dr Kiran Karnik, in his remarks alluded to the future of digital currencies in light of new technologies such as Blockchain and the robustness of the digital transactions in light of potential cyber threats.

Shaping Development Finance Institutions: New Opportunities and Policy Options



As reported earlier, RIS jointly with India International Centre (IIC) has launched the new series of Webinars on Banking and Finance. The first Webinar as part of this series was on 'Declining Savings Rate in India – New Policy Options' (20 January 2021) and the second on Development Finance Institution (DFI) on 19 February 2021. Third Webinar in the series on "Shaping Development Finance Institutions: New Opportunities and Policy Options" was held on 17 March 2021.

Budget 2021 has announced setting up of Development Finance Institution (DFI). While the details about DFI are still awaited, it gives major opportunity to develop a long term vision about infrastructure

financing and to study several modalities for mobilising of the domestic resources. In order to discuss these issues in the context of the evolving scenario, Panel Discussion focused on this important issue.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome remarks. The Panelists included Mr K.V. Kamath, former President, New Development Bank; Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, former Secretary, Government of India; Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS.

Publications



Discussion Paper

#263: Post-pandemic Social Security Agenda: Universalising Developmental Interventions Over Universal Basic Income by Pramod Kumar Anand & Krishna Kumar

#260: Inflation Targeting: Monetary Policy, Growth and Inflation by Manmohan Agarwal and Ammu Lavanya

#254: Need for Setting Up of a New Development Bank by G. A. Tadas

#248: Exchange Rate Crises: Experience of India, East Asia and Latin America by Manmohan Agarwal & T. R. Vandana

#246: The 2008 Financial Crisis and Shifts in Economic Power by Manmohan Agarwal & Amrita Brahma

#245: Economic Multilateralism in Peril by Manmohan Agarwal



Policy Brief

#91: Crypto Currencies: Three Questions by Prof. Manmohan Agarwal

7

STI

The RIS work programme on science, technology, and innovation (STI) is one of the most dynamic and broad-based research Programme focussing on applications of science, technology, and innovation for serving public goods. Leveraging the centrality of STI for addressing complex societal challenges, the RIS work programme focuses on set on existing and emerging technologies and explores policy pathways for their creation, commercialisation, diffusion towards addressing a range of contemporary developmental challenges. The rapid technological change often brings with it a range of benefits as well as risks that need better appreciation for sound policymaking. Towards promoting applications of STI for fostering equitable growth and development, the STI work programme also works closely with Programme on Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for promoting international S&T-led international cooperation towards fostering transformative developmental pathways. Details of some of the signification work carried in this direction.

New Technologies and Development Issues- Current and Proposed Research

The work on New Technologies and Development Issues is pursued under Science, Technology and Innovation Work Programme by a team led by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi. There are two sub-programmes under this.

Science Policy Programme

Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas with Dr Amit Kumar and Dr Kapil Patil

Science, Technology and Innovation: This encompasses inter alia, Biotechnology, Emerging Technologies, STI for SDGs Road Mapping, International Collaboration, Capacity Building and Contribution to Global Discourse and Policy Making, Innovation, Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and Incentivization for Innovation. Under these themes research and activities are undertaken on our own and in collaboration with other institutions. RIS is part of externally funded/supported research projects under these.

Current research in Emerging Technologies is on AI, Robotics, Digital Technologies and/ for sustainable development. The current research on AI and Robotics involves research on ethics and governance also and RIS is working with UNESCO in this. Another sub-theme in

this is on AI, Health Care and Ethics. RIS is working with ICMR to organize a webinar on this and work on publications. In addition to this focus would be on AI and Robotics.

Current research on other emerging technologies includes governance of quantum technologies, digitization, and data governance. Another prong is on life and biosciences covering inter alia, biotechnology, Synthetic Biology, Digital Sequence Information, Gene Drives and Genome Editing. Publications and events on these are planned.

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR) published for about twenty-five years with Vol 24 beginning this year. ABDR is an open access, international, peer reviewed journal indexed in inter alia, Scopus, EBSCO Host. It is recognized by UGC as a UGC-CARE List Group II of Approved Journals. One issue has been published in February (November 2020 issue).

Project on Science Diplomacy

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr B. Balakrishnan, Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Dr Amit Kumar, Dr Kapil Patil, Ms Sneha Sinha and Dr Debanjana Dey

As part of the RIS and NIAS joint programme on science diplomacy Case Studies were commissioned on science diplomacy to eminent practitioners and scholars in diverse sectors/thematic areas. The outline for the case study on the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) has been finalised. RIS has prepared a database of diaspora S&T professionals working in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM) fields. The database provides details of over 600 Indian-origin scholars researching in a wide array of S&T disciplines and frontier technologies in leading academic and research institutions from as many as 12 developed countries. A discussion with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which has set-up an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to develop a single national Portal titled 'Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark' (PRABHASS) under the chairmanship of Ambassador Dhyaneshwar Mulay was held to discuss coordination and cooperation on Indian STEM diaspora engagement activities. Science Diplomacy News alert is a fortnightly update on Indian and global developments in scientific research, technological advancements, COVID-19 related technological developments, science diplomacy, S&T policy and governance.

Science Diplomacy Review (SDR) is a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal published by RIS. It provides perspectives from Indian Science Diplomacy, in theory and practice, and space for discussions on and contributions to literature on Science Diplomacy. For developing networks the Directory of Institutions present lists 125 institutions involved in science diplomacy, science policy activities/courses, across the globe. Fifteen institutions have been added to the database during the period. Emerging Economies Technology and Innovation (EETI) Paper Series aims to explore, understand and analyze STI ecosystems of countries having strategic relevance to India, will focus on their S&T

policies, STI capacity, incentives to innovate, trade, key and frontier technologies, STI cooperation and science diplomacy. The first paper would be on China.

In addition to the ongoing activities mentioned, RIS is would organize an international conference on science diplomacy to discuss various topics issues in contemporary science diplomacy with leading Indian and international experts. Online consultation meeting with our S&T Counsellors posted abroad on Science Diplomacy would also be held. The aim would be to discuss the COVID-19 response, Global initiatives in S&T, emerging technologies, large international S&T projects and the role of Science Diplomacy in promoting and strengthening S&T cooperation in future. The role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs would also be discussed. FIRD lectures on 'Horizon Europe' and 'Global Health Diplomacy' would be held. Policy briefs on key issues are planned. The topics would include Gender and Science Diplomacy, India's Human Space programme, International S&T Co-operation and Science Diplomacy and Science Diplomacy and South Asia, etc.

STI for SDGs

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Dr P. K. Anand, Mr Krishna Kumar, Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, and Dr Kapil Dhanraj Patil

This is a 3-year project at RIS funded by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India as part of India's participation as a pilot country in the Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps initiated by the UN-IATT. The project was initiated in this financial year. This Project is being executed by an inter-disciplinary research team at RIS led by the Director General.

- a. Creation of Indicative Technology Mapping for STI for SDGs in India - first draft submitted to the Office of PSA
- b. Inputs for India's participation at the STI Forum in May 2021
- c. Inputs for other TFM related meetings hosted by UN where RIS is invited
- d. Two National Level Workshops on STI for SDGs covering SDG 2 and 6 organised in January and March 2021. Line ministries, agencies of GoI and experts participated in these meetings.

Preparations are on for an International Meeting with all pilot countries and relevant UN agencies as well as SDG specific National Workshops

Making of India's STIP Policy 2020

Professor K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India delivered the 29th STIP lecture on 'Making of India's STIP Policy 2020' on 30 September 2020. Mr Sanjay Kirloskar, Chairman and Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited chaired the session.

In lecture, Professor VijayRaghavan expressed his views on current positioning of India in Science, technology and innovation and what more needs to be done in this context in order to better achieve our scientific objectives (coupled with inclusive growth) through STIP, 2020. Professor VijayRaghavan started his lecture by taking up three questions: (i) Where did we come from?; (ii) Where are we going now in

terms of our science, technology and innovation and (iii) Where would we go from here?

Professor VijayRaghavan said that the change in the mindset of the people is of utmost importance in order to fully harness the potentialities of scientific and technological parameters into the growth process of our economy. In this line, some of our industrialists took up the challenge, experimented at ground level and succeeded in achieving success also. Professor VijayRaghavan said that if we take any area in Science and Technology in India, we have qualitative and skilled people mainly owing to two reasons i.e. the ambition of the young people to excel and tools of learning are more widely available now like

computers and advanced equipment designs.

Regarding the proper alignment of STI policy with SDGs goals, he pointed the need towards adoption of wiser approach if India wants to achieve SDGs at a faster pace. Every person wants quality at the lowest cost. By paying artificially lower prices in the current time, we will let our future generations suffer more in the future. The wiser approach calls for the need to price our products rightly which should cover all other costs like environmental and sanitation and hygiene. If we price our products in a right manner which can accommodate all other costs, then the speed of the attainment of SDGs would be much faster in the times to come.

Book Release Webinar on 'Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops: Global Implications'

A Book Release Webinar on 'Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops: Global Implications', was organised on 6 July 2020. The programme began with Welcome Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Professor Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog launched the book entitled "*Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops: Global Implications*".

Findings from the Project was presented by Study Team Members. Professor P.G. Chengappa, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore; Professor E. Haribabu, Adjunct Senior Fellow, and Professor of Sociology (Retd.), University of Hyderabad; Professor N. Lalitha,

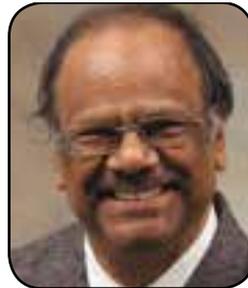
Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad; Professor Rabindra Padaria, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Professor K. Srinivas, National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad; Professor Suresh Patil, Dean, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur; Professor K. R. Ashok, Director, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies (CARDS), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Dr A.V. Manjunatha, Director (Evaluation), Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Bangalore; and Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS.

It was followed by a Panel Discussion. Dr S.R. Rao, Vice President, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth

University, Pondicherry and former Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India Chaired. The main panelists were: Dr Ranjini Warriar, former Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Dr Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convener, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Professor M.K. Ramesh, National Law School University, Bangalore, Shri Harish Damodaran, Editor, Rural Affairs and Agriculture, Indian Express, Professor N. Chandrashekar Rao, Institute of Economic Growth, and Dr Koen Beumer, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr K. Ravi Srinivas.

Consultation on Access, Equity and Inclusion (AEI) and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)

RIS has been working on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) issues and the development implications of STI particularly that of emerging technologies has been major interest to RIS. While, RIS has worked on agricultural biotechnology, nanotechnology and synthetic biology among emerging technologies, there is a need for an alternative paradigm that goes beyond traditional methods of impact assessment to assess the societal implications of STI. In this regard, RIS organized a Consultation on 'Consultation on Access, Equity and Inclusion (AEI) and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)' on 3 September 2020. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave the



Professor Manmohan Agarwal

welcome remarks. The first session on 'Access, Equity and Inclusion and STI : Status and Way Forward for AEI Paradigm' was chaired by Prof. K. J. Joseph, Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram. The speakers were Prof. Manmohan Agarwal, Former Professor, Centre for Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

& currently Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS; Prof. Dinesh Abrol, Professor, The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID); Dr Saradindu Bhaduri, Associate Professor, Center for Studies in Science Policy, JNU and Dr Arul Scaria, Associate Professor, National Law University, Delhi. The second session was on 'Gender, STI and AEI' was chaired by Prof. Karuna Chanana, Former Professor Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU; Prof.V. Sujatha, Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU; and Dr Nimita Pandey, DST-Science Technology Innovation Policy Fellow, DST Center for Policy Research, IISc, Bangalore. Vote of Thanks was given by Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, RIS.

South Asian Cooperation for Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19 and Building Back Better

A Policy Dialogue on South Asian Cooperation for Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19 and Building Back Better was organised jointly by UN ESCAP, UN75 2020 and Beyond and SACEPS in collaboration with RIS, India; SAWTEE, Nepal; SDPI, Pakistan; IPS, Sri Lanka; and Biruni Institute on 9 September 2020. The Policy Dialogue started with opening remarks by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director, UN ESCAP-SSWA and Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor-Emeritus, JNU and Co-chair, SACEPS. It was moderated by Prof. Akmal Hussain, Dean, ITU, Lahore and Co-chair, SACEPS and the distinguished speakers were Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD, Bangladesh;

Mr. Wangchuk Namgay, Chief, Development Cooperation Division, GNHC, Bhutan; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, SAWTEE, Nepal; Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI and Member of PMEAC, Pakistan; and Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, IPS, Sri Lanka.

According to the report issued by the UN ESCAP, the policy dialogue offered important insights, country perspectives and strategies for taking the agenda of South Asian cooperation forward. While proposals were made at the national level for crisis recovery, regional

cooperation strategies and a regional master plan was emphasized upon to create resilience for future outbreaks and assist countries to build back better. • In the open discussion, it was emphasized that South Asian region can make a strong case for debt relief at the regional level, with India positioned to take the lead (given its role as subregional and bilateral lender) in shaping the discourse at the international level in having debt relief and debt waiver measures to assist developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs). • While the diversion of resources to meet COVID19 can impact the achievement of the SDGs, national stimulus packages to meet the crisis

can be aligned with the SDGs and other international commitments such as the Paris Agreement for cleaner, greener recovery and sustainable development. • To come up with a strategy for overcoming gender gaps exacerbated by the crisis, focus should be on education, re-skilling of women and creating opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship through access to digital technologies and platforms. • While the degree of

vulnerability of countries might be different, but South Asia as a region is extremely vulnerable to ecological disasters and future pandemics. Universal provision of health care, social protection and other basic services can provide important safety cushions and enhance the overall preparedness of the region to deal with current crisis and future outbreaks. • More equitable and broad-based growth trajectory, unleashing the potential of all people

including the middle class and the poor, to be active participants in the growth process- has to be at the heart of recovery efforts. • In the current context, international organizations and regional development partners, such as UNESCAP can foster greater regional cooperation among South Asian countries on sectoral basis, through thematic cooperation on sectors and issues.

Webinar on STI for SDGs

India was one of the leading force behind the negotiations for introduction of a UN driven global Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) as part of the SDGs. Concrete operational steps on TFM is currently underway through the Global Pilot Programmes on STI for SDGs Roadmaps launched in 2019. India has joined four others as pilot countries under this initiative. The European Union and Japan have joined the UN Inter-agency Task Team (IATT) on STI for SDGs in this initiative to support the pilot countries in their SDG Roadmaps exercise. STI for SDGs Roadmaps in India, as decided, would focus on 4 SDGs viz. SDG 2 (Agriculture/nutrition); SDG 3 (Health and wellbeing), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). Under the STI for SDGs

Roadmaps exercise in India, suggested key deliverable would be to work towards formulating a decision support system for expenditure review on R&D for greater effectiveness in the Indian context, to be placed with the Office of the PSA. Scoping study in this regard has been initiated. India and Japan have together come on board and are collaborating based on mutual interest in promoting the STI for SDGs Roadmaps in the respective countries, as well as in robustly supporting replication of this initiative in African countries including those who are already part of the exercise as pilot countries.

As part of this exercise, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) and RIS as the knowledge partner with PSA, jointly with the Cabinet Office,

Government of Japan (CAO) and the UN-Interagency Task Team (UN-IATT) on STI for SDGs, organised a virtual workshop on “Developing STI Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Accelerating International Cooperation and Actions through the Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps” on 29 June 2020. This workshop has been recognised as an official work programme of the TFM ahead of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), July 2020. Senior policymakers and experts from the pilot countries, India, Japan and UN/partner agencies, joined the workshop. The bilateral dialogue between India and Japan focusing on leveraging frontier technologies in implementation of the four aforementioned SDGs was hosted on 23 June 2020.

COVID-19-Wakeup Call for Better Cooperation between Science and Policy-Making

While science and policy making have always depended on each other throughout modern history – scientists informing policymaking and policymakers deciding on funding and setting priorities for research – at no time has the relationship between the two spheres been so close and at the same time so complicated as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With scientific insights being merely one input among many that policy makers had to consider when determining economic or social policies in pre COVID-19 times, they are now the main driver behind policy decisions that could either save or cost the lives of millions of people or shatter or maintain whole economies. As global issues such as climate change or environmental degradation – whose solution will equally require intensive collaboration between science and policymakers – become ever more pressing, the question of whether COVID-19 has paved the way for a redefined science-policy-making interface becomes highly relevant.

Organised jointly by UNDP Seoul Policy Centre and RIS on 11 December 2020, the session provided

examples of how countries and institutions facilitated the sharing of knowledge and good practices between scientists and policymakers on curbing the spread of COVID-19. It will consider different models and institutional setups for science-policy interfaces to showcase how different countries have managed the translation of scientific knowledge into policy decisions.

The session aimed to explore how knowledge sharing practitioners can build on the experiences in creating networks and fostering cooperation between policymakers and scientists made during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that crucial insights on other issues that require a functioning science-policy-interface are shared among relevant stakeholders. It further discussed whether experiences from country level could be further consolidated and institutionalized to feed into multilateral frameworks and approaches that deal with global issues.

Key Questions that addressed by the participants were: What modalities and institutional setups have proven to be the most successful

in fostering effective cooperation between science and policymaking on COVID-19 relevant issues? Can institutional setups of science-policy interfaces be scaled up to the multilateral level to drive solutions of global challenges?; if yes, how? and How can knowledge actors ensure that their work helps to sustain working science-policy cooperation beyond the pandemic, focusing on other issues of global relevance such as climate change?

The programme began with Opening Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Mr. Artemy Izmistiev, Policy Specialist UNDP Seoul Policy Centre moderated. The main speakers were: Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Director of Future Africa; Dr. Arbinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India; Dr. Zhang Chuanhong, Secretary of the China International Development Research; Dr. Rathin Roy, Managing Director – Research and Policy at ODI; and Dr. Sanusha Naidu, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Global Dialogue. Mr. Stephan Klingebiel, Director UNDP Seoul Policy Centre gave closing remarks.



Nobel Prize for CRISPR

Given the increasing attention being paid to CRISPR by public and media, on account of the Nobel Prize awarded to two pioneering scientists for their work on CRISPR, on 29 October 2020, RIS organised Webinar on 'Nobel Prize for CRISPR'. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats refers to a family of DNA sequences and is used in genome editing. This year Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier for their pioneering work on CRISPR, which enabled its widespread use.

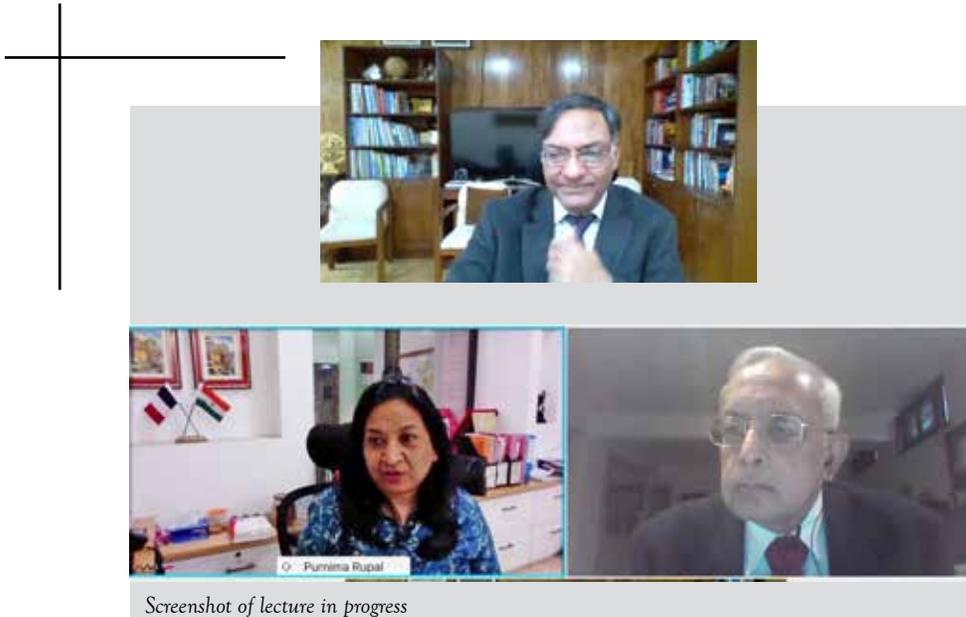
In his welcome address Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi highlighted the importance of CRISPR in research and its applications in multiple sectors. He emphasised that RIS has been working on impacts and implications of biotechnologies under the Science, Technology and Innovation Programme. This lecture was organised to

facilitate an understanding of CRISPR, its applications in health and agriculture, and, issues in governance of this technology. Prof. B. K. Thelm, Department of Genetics, Delhi University and Member of International Commission on Human Germline Genome Editing chaired the panel discussion. He made a presentation based on the recommendations and report of the International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Editing's on Heritable Human Genome Editing.

Dr. Debojyoti Chakraborty, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) highlighted how CRISPR technology evolved and what it could do. He spoke about its practical applications in health in a wide range of therapies and cures, including stem cells. Taking a case study of Sickle Cell Anaemia project of CSIR, he explained how CRISPR

is being used to find a solution to this condition, which is widely prevalent among tribal population. Dr. M. K. Reddy, Group Leader, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) illustrated its application in agriculture with the example of his work with rice and gave a detailed analysis of how CRISPR can help in increasing yields in rice significantly. Dr. Roli Mathur, Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit underscored the need for public understanding and the need for developing guidelines to regulate its application in human health. Drawing upon ICMR's work on developing guidelines for Gene Therapy, she pointed out that trust and public engagement is critical and only then the technology will gain acceptance. The Panel Discussion was followed by question-answer session. Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas extended the vote of thanks.





31st STIP Forum Lecture

The 31st STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST on 17th December 2020 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was "The Art of Science in the Brave New World". The event was chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Dr. Purnima Rupal, Director, CEFIPRA and Dr. R. Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog were also present during the event.

In his very insightful address, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary and problem-centric approach to address the challenges of the future. He added that the future of STI is about the convergence of different technology streams. "COVID-19 has reminded us that the disruptive changes are coming at us at an exponential rate. It is a brave world

that we are living in today because we have to negotiate the change. In order to negotiate the changes of the new world, we need to negotiate the demands of the technology," Prof. Ashutosh Sharma stressed. He also emphasised on the need to strengthen our STI and education ecosystem. "Industry 4.0 is about controlling the flow of data, information, and knowledge. Sharing of information and knowledge is going to define the future for all times to come." he added.

Prof. Sharma expressed the imperative to achieve Atma Nirbharta (Self-Reliance) in the domain of STI and went on to put forward three aspects of Atma Nirbharta viz. Atma Vishwas (Self-Confidence), Atma Samman (Self-Respect) and Atma Chintan (Self-Introspection).

Innovation and Access to Vaccines and Health Impact Fund (HIF)



RIS organised a webinar on Innovation and Access to Vaccines and Health Impact Fund (HIF) on 19 January 2021. HIF is a concept proposed by Professor Thomas Pogge of Yale University as an alternative model to incentivize innovation in drugs and pharmaceuticals and enable better access. The webinar was organized to bring together academics, representatives from industry and researchers on public health to discuss the issues of access, innovation in vaccines.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS in his welcome remarks highlighted the issue of access to vaccines and why innovation often does not result in adequate access and the need for identifying suitable mechanisms to promote both access and innovation. Dr S. R. Rao, Vice President, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth University, Pondicherry and former Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, chaired the session and underscored the need to debate on various options for innovation. In his presentation Professor Pogge highlighted the need for HIF and argued how it could help developing countries in getting access to vaccines and other essential medicines and of drugs for neglected diseases. He pointed out that HIF incentivizes innovators

to enable access as they benefit more when the impact is high. Professor Aidan Hollis in his presentation made a strong case for HIF pointing out that it makes sense to try this out through pilot programs and emphasised on the need to bring affordable vaccines and medicines, given the huge inequities in access in developed and developing countries.

Mr Ashok Madan provided the perspective of the industry and elaborated on the importance of generics and how generics industry has contributed to public health. On HIF he indicated that the industry would not be averse to it. Dr Murali provided the perspective of biopharma industry and stressed the need for incentives for better and more innovation. He also took the stand that HIF deserved more exploration and need support. Dr Y. Madhavi, discussed the growth and achievements in Post-1947 India in vaccine and the key role played by public sector in this. She was of the view that public sector's role in vaccines should have strengthened and supported. Professor Pogge addressed the questions from the audience and panellists on HIF in India. Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas proposed vote of thanks.

Public Policy and Economic Development: Case Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

RIS organised a virtual roundtable discussion on 20 January 2021 on the pharmaceutical study being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce on “Public Policy and Economic Development: Case Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry”. Experts from diverse background were invited to share the findings of the study and elicit their views and suggestions on it so that this study becomes much more useful for the policymakers. The key experts were: Mr Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Dr S. J. S. Flora, Director, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER); Dr Gyanendra Nath Singh, Former Drugs Controller General; Mr V.V. Krishna Reddy, President, Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (BDMA); Mr Ashok Kumar Madan, Executive Director, Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA); Mr Sudarshan Jain, Secretary-General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA); Mr Praveen K. Mittal, Senior Director, FICCI; Mr Lanka Srinivas, Elix Global; Mr Raghu Kochhar, Vice President, Council for Healthcare and Pharma (CHP) and Mr Arun Sawhney, Former CEO, Ranbaxy among others.

In his welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS highlighted the strategic importance of the pharmaceutical industry for a



country like India with such a huge population. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS who chaired the meeting in his opening remarks drew attention to the issues encountered by the industry, especially after 2005, such as Investment in R&D, Biotechnology, educational system and among so on. After that Mr Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, underlined the growing significance, recognition, credibility of Indian generic medicine and vaccines around the world also emphasized on challenges that need to be resolved to remain competitive in the coming years particularly quality standards, regulatory facilitation, etc. A presentation was made by Dr Dinesh Kumar, RIS and Dr Deepika Chawla, RIS. Following this, observations were made by experts on the study, highlighting particularly the recent withdrawal of 352 AB-negative impetus for R&D expenditure,

financial constraints encountered by fermentation-based bulk drugs industry in which is capital-intensive and also time-lag huge, inter alia, were worth noticing. It was also suggested to further broaden the scope of the study particularly identifying the patented medicine going to off-patent soon, agreement or Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) required with countries, particular Euro, to further increase exports, steps required to improve the recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia around the world, regulatory push/facilitation needed to perform well in the area of Bio-similar & biologics, how quality and standards of domestic pharmaceutical products can be upgraded to international level. Professor T. C. James of RIS made concluding remarks and thanked all the participants for providing important observations and suggestions for finalising the report. ■

Formulating STI Roadmaps for SDG 2

RIS, jointly with the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India (PSA) hosted the first national level Virtual Roundtable Discussion on Formulating STI Roadmaps for SDG 2: Indicator Based Assessment of Technology Surplus and Deficits for India on 27 January 2021. The workshop was part of India's national initiative in formulating STI for SDGs roadmap. The roundtable consisted of two sessions. The first was on nutrition security which covered issues of nutrition and the enabling food processing and digital technologies. The second session covered productivity and sustainability issues in agriculture and relevant innovations emerging in sustainable food systems and ICT technologies.

Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS made the welcome remarks which was followed by special remarks by Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of PSA. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. He stressed that STI interventions are necessary in agriculture since the industrial scale production and distribution systems conceived in the twentieth century were inadequate to cater to the needs of today's times. Further, he laid out a few areas in which STI could play a key role in offering solutions to the problems of agriculture in India. These were: a) increasing access to electricity & water b) intervention through biotechnology c) discovering decentralized local solutions specific to geographical context and d) data availability and connectivity to supply chains.

The first session on Towards Nutrition Security was moderated



by Dr Ayesha Chaudhary, OSD, Office of the PSA. The session began with a presentation by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS who highlighted the ongoing work of developing the STI for SDGs Roadmap at RIS. This was followed by presentations from the speakers of the session. The speakers included Ms. Aditi Das Rout, Joint Secretary (POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Dr C. Vasudevappa, Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Food Technology & Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM), Dr Praveen Malik, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries and Dr B. Dayakar Rao, Principal Scientist & CEO, Nutrihub, TBI, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research.

The key issues identified in this session were: 1) lack of nutritional value (micronutrients & vitamins) and high calorie intake in Indian dietary system, especially in food distributed through PDS 2) lack of support infrastructure to maintain/enhance quality of food (e.g. cold storages, new food processing techniques like bio-fortification, etc.) 3) unorganised supply chain networks 4) poor standards system which restricts exports and 5) lack of financing in R&D. Several successful

STI interventions in public service delivery like the POSHAN Atlas, National Monsoon Mission, etc. and encouraging research work on processing of millets were also highlighted in this session.

The second session on Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture was moderated by Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS. The speakers in this session included Ms. Joanna Kane-Potaka, ADG (External Relations), ICRISAT, Dr Srikanth Rupavatharam, Scientist, Digital Agriculture, ICRISAT (AI & Agriculture), Mr Roshan Lal Tamak, Executive Director and CEO- Sugar business, DCM Shriram Limited and Dr Pravir Deshmukh, Counsellor, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.

The key issues that came up in this session were: 1) affordability of emerging technologies 2) providing scientific support across the whole value chain 3) access to quality inputs/mechanization 4) training and capacity building 4) depleting soil health and water conservation 5) diversification from 'staples'. Some of the ongoing initiatives in this area, especially in artificial intelligence were also highlighted in this session. Both sessions ended with a brief discussion among the speakers.

Formulating STI Roadmaps for SDG 6: Indicator Based Assessment of Technology Surplus and Deficits for India

RIS jointly with the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India (PSA) hosted the Consultation Meeting on Formulating STI Roadmaps for SDG 6: Indicator Based Assessment of Technology Surplus and Deficits for India on 25 March 2021. The discussion focused on three key areas within SDG-6 viz. drinking water, overexploitation of water sources and water pollution. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the Welcome Remarks which was followed by Special Remarks by Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of PSA.

He stressed that collaboration among different stakeholders that includes the industry, academia, start-ups and government is the key to make an effective STI roadmap. Further, he added that the efforts of such partnerships in India have massive potential to develop technologies that would contribute

significantly to global good as well. The discussion that followed Dr Mitra's remarks was moderated by Dr P. K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS. It began with a brief presentation by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS who highlighted the ongoing work of developing the STI for SDGs Roadmap at RIS. After this, each of the speakers made presentations/remarks. The speakers included Dr Sanjay Bajpai, Head, Technology Mission Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Dr M. Dhinadhayan, Adviser (PHeE), Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Dr Pawan Labhasetwar, Chief Scientist and Head, Water Technology and Management Division, CSIR-NEERI, Dr D. Gnanasundar, Director, National Hydrology Project, Mr Sunil Kumar, Director (Basin Planning-I), Central Water Commission, Mr V. K. Madhavan, Chief Executive, Water

Aid India and Mr K Sri Harsha, Founder, Kritsnam Technologies Private Limited.

The key issues identified in the meeting were: social acceptability & environmental considerations for devising technology solutions; evolution of water augmentation/purification technologies given the dynamic nature of water quality; high non-revenue water (NRW) (~30-60%); use of newer technologies in water distribution network like sensors, AI, etc.; benchmarking of technologies against a common standard; mapping of water sources to have a strong, common water sources information system; development of water infrastructure with focus on storage of surface water; lack of support infrastructure for rain-water harvesting and planning for grey water management, especially in rural areas.

Building Innovation Ecosystem in Educational Institutions

The 34th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Abhay Jere, Chief Innovation Officer, Ministry of Education, Government of India on 24 March 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was "Building Innovation Ecosystem in Educational Institutions". The event was convened by Dr Nakul Parashar, Director, Vigyan Prasar. Dr Kinkini Dasgupta Misra, Scientist-F, Vigyan Prasar delivered the welcome remarks.

In his very insightful address, Dr Abhay Jere highlighted the importance of a vibrant and sound ecosystem in the educational institutions to foster the culture of innovation in India. He argued that there is a serious lack of systematic ecosystem in the educational institutions, which could promote critical thinking in the students and encourage them to be more creative. He strongly pitched for the need to think out-of-box and create and owe innovative ideas. Students should

either try to convert their innovative ideas into technology or they should get the IPR/patent for their ideas.

Dr Jere stressed for building an ecosystem which rewards and incentivises student or researcher for their innovative ideas and creations. He elaborated on his initiative on conducting an annual 'Smart India Hackathon', which has now evolved as 'World's Biggest Hackathon and largest Open Innovation Model'. Dr Jere talked about the first-of-its'

kind 'Atal Innovation Ranking framework (ARIIA)' for ranking all education institutions in India on their innovation achievements.

He also explained how the 'National Innovation and Start-up Policy for Faculty and Students 2019', which was designed by him to promote the Start-Up culture

and entrepreneurship, is enabling students and faculty of higher education institutions to work on their innovation, Start-up and enterprises. Recently, a unique MBA program in 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship', conceived by Dr Jere, has also been announced by All India Council for Technical education (AICTE).

In his final remarks, the speaker Jere clearly articulated the imperative to revamp the existing ecosystem in the educational institutions in India and the need to promote 'innovation-culture' in the country.

Promoting India-Taiwan Cooperation in Science, Technology, & Innovation

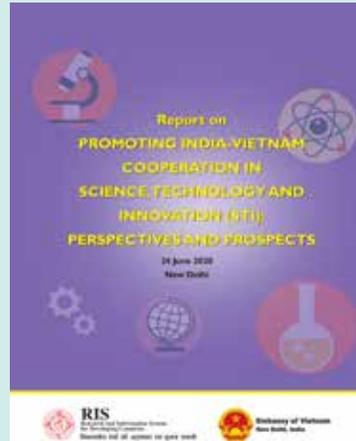
The workshop organised jointly by RIS and Prospect Foundation, Taipei on 25 February 2021 brought together key stakeholders from India and Taiwan to boost multi-sectoral economic cooperation. The opening remarks delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr I-Chung Lai, President, Prospect Foundation stressed on the need for greater collaboration of India and Taiwan in S&T with focus on electronics and high technology areas. Professor Chaturvedi underlined the need for further partnership between RIS and Prospect Foundation to deliver policy roadmaps to materialise these collaborations and present to the policy makers, for which the webinar could be a way forward. The programme covered four broad themes - Science, Technology and Global

Economic Order, ICT and Semiconductor Industry, Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0, and Science Parks in India and Taiwan- Experiences and Scope for Mutual Learning.

The first session focused on the key trends in global economic environment and contextualised the role of science and technology in shaping the international cooperation. The second session presented an overview of policy approaches of both Indian and Taiwanese in the ICTs and semiconductors. Focus of the third session was on the development of smart manufacturing and machine tools in India and Taiwan and scope for mutual learning and collaboration. The fourth and final session discussed on the development of Science parks and clusters in India

From India the prominent speakers were: Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS; Professor V. Kamakoti, IIT-Madras; Mr Kalyan Ram, CEO, Electrono Solutions Pvt. Ltd & Dy. Director, Automation Industry Association; and Dr Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Chairman and CEO, IKP Knowledge Park. From Taiwan the main speakers were: Dr Roy Lee, Senior Deputy Director, Taiwan WTO & RTA Center, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER); Mr Stanley Wang, Deputy Director General, International Division, Institute for Information Industry; Dr Yau-Jr Liu, Vice President, Taipei University of Marine Technology; and Ms. Vivian Huang, Director General, International Division, Institute for Information Industry.

Publications



Report

Report on Promoting India-Vietnam Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI): Perspectives and Prospects, RIS, Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi, 2021

Southern Perspectives on Science Diplomacy, RIS, New Delhi, 2020



Policy Brief

#96: Public Goods and STI Policy by Ravi K Srinivas

#94: Access, Equity and Inclusion and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy by Ravi K Srinivas

New Initiatives

Science, Technology and Innovation

As countries in the Indo-Pacific region aims to make a transition to Industry 4.0, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) constitutes the backbone of this industrial transformation. Besides the role of STI for industrial development, it plays an important role in achieving SDGs. Promoting R&D and local innovations through the eco-system approach – synergistic collaboration between university and industry – should assume importance. Cooperation in STI covers areas like Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) reforms, enhancing R&D expenditure, exchange of scholars between scientific institutions, and introduction of rewards and incentives for promoting research by the young scholars. Technology Facilitation mechanism (TFM) should be an important component of STI. Regional cooperation in STI can be particularly valuable for not only boosting Indo-Pacific-oriented value chains but also to enable these countries to strengthen trade and economic ties. Similarly, STI for SDGs can be an important binding factor for Indo-Pacific architecture and cooperation in this domain to promote innovation, techno-entrepreneurship, and to achieve progress on SDGs. A strong STI cooperation can meaningfully complement the overarching strategic logic underpinning the Indo-Pacific framework and enable the participating countries to progress towards building collective security.

International Agreements in Science and Technology – Special Report for Ministry of Science and Technology

An Experts Committee was constituted by the Hon'ble Minister of S & T and ES under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, to examine and review the international cooperation (IC) activities being implemented by our Science & Technology departments (DST, DBT, DSIR/CSIR and MoES) with other countries through various agreements that have been entered into and as well as by their institutions such as IUSTF, IFCPAR and IGSTC. The Committee eventually directed the International Cooperation divisions of these departments/ministries to submit detailed information about their IC initiatives and agreements undertaken in the last five years through a questionnaire.

The Chairman entrusted one of the Committee Member, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS to finalise the draft report for submission before the Committee and subsequently to the Hon'ble Minister. Based on the inputs provided by the departments and its own extensive analysis, RIS has completed the draft report. Special efforts were made by RIS to shape this document in order to arrive at a coherent assessment of the current scenario, challenges, opportunities and the way forward. A key contribution has been in terms of defining the contours of an indicative assessment framework for India's S&T international cooperation efforts for effective strategies, robust partnerships, sustainable engagement and tangible outcomes to leverage India's external connects for domestic economic growth; innovation and competitiveness; and most importantly inclusive and sustainable development. It is expected that the recommendations and ideas expressed in the report would have a wider relevance and contribute to enhancing India's international engagement in S&T and its effectiveness/impact.

8

Major Research Programmes

Health

The health programme of RIS covers broad aspects of health and wellbeing that are directly relevant to present scenario and appeal to policymakers. The programme relies on an integrative approach to healthcare delivery and cooperation. Therefore, the focus of the programme ranges from, but not limited to, Pharmaceutical Policy, Traditional Medicine, Healthcare Diplomacy, SDG-3 Health and Wellbeing for all, and concepts of wellness and wellbeing. The team collaborates regularly with domain experts, academia, CSOs and policymakers via consultations, seminars/webinars and conferences. The proceedings, major findings and important themes are published in the form of policy briefs, reports and discussion papers. The section provides some of the details.

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM)

Professor T.C. James, Dr Namrata Pathak, and Mr Apurva Bhatnagar

The FITM, established at the RIS by the Ministry of AYUSH aims to contribute towards pragmatic policymaking in the area of Traditional Medicine (TM). The Forum successfully completed first term of three years and has been extended for another three years by the Ministry of Ayush with a new Governing Board consisting of representatives of the Ministry of AYUSH, RIS, industry and academia. It has taken several initiatives as discussed below:

FITM Research Fellowships

The objective of the Fellowships is to encourage young scholars to conduct in-depth inquiry and research on subjects related to Indian Traditional Medicine (ITM) and challenges and prospects of the sector. The publications including books as a result of this enquiry aim to provide policy-related research inputs on the promotion of ITM. Invited Talks by domain experts on varying subjects related to ITMs also form a part of this project. RIS would manage grant of Fellowships and further publications. Two research studies on medicinal plants in Punjab and Uttarakhand have been completed.

Study on AYUSH MSMEs: Challenges and Prospects in Domestic and International Growth

The AYUSH sector is numerically dominated by MSMEs. Strategies for national and global promotion have resulted in understanding the need for stringent standards subscriptions. Consequently, implementation of stronger regulations is being witnessed. MSMEs are challenged in efforts to match up to these standards due to several reasons. These include the relative low scale of operations and technology. Lack of integration with mainstream markets, lack of branding and entrepreneurial aggressiveness are other challenges associated with the sector. Irregular supply of quality raw materials is also a bottleneck often leading to inability of standards subscriptions by this sector. The in-depth study would explore mechanism for effective capacity building of the AYUSH MSME sector towards evolution of sustainable growth strategies including promotion of exports.

Major Research Programmes: Health

Study on Traditional Medicine System in select African countries: Review of Legal Instruments and Opportunities for Cooperation

TM is witnessing renewed attention across countries. With WHO emerging as a significant platform for ensuring recognition to the role of TM in primary, secondary and tertiary health care and as a complementary therapy for non-communicable diseases, it is important to understand how TM is being used, regulated and promoted in select countries and regions. This would enable an understanding of the scope for enhancing trade in goods and services related to AYUSH in these markets. It is proposed to study relevant countries in Africa to begin with. Later neighbouring countries, West Asian countries and South America would be taken up

Structuring, Analysis and Research Studies of Medicinal Plants Data submitted under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945: Schedule T(a)

The Medicinal plant sector is progressively becoming more relevant as a primary component in a growing herbal products industry. The increasing supply gap as a result of this growth has generated a need to assess alternative and sustainable supply routes. The twin objectives of the study are (i) preparation of a digital database on the medicinal plants' sector in India and maintaining the same, and (ii) conducting research and analytical studies based on the data. An MoU on the issue has already been signed with the National Medicinal Plant Board.

Traditional Medicine Review

At present there are no devoted journal for publication of social and economic sector studies on traditional medicine in India. Hence it is proposed to launch a Traditional Medicine Review. This would be a periodic journal of FITM with peer-reviewed articles and papers on traditional medicine.

Health Sector Cooperation across BIMSTEC

As part of India's strategy of "Look East, Act East", a study on development cooperation in the health sector between India and other BIMSTEC countries is planned. This study will also explore how the border districts development and India's cooperation with neighbouring countries will intertwine. As part of this a 'Factual Analysis of the Status of Universalisation of Health Care in Tripura' has been prepared and shared with NITI AAYOG. A factual position paper on Health care in Bhutan has been prepared and based on that in the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks a proposal for a Study on Comparative Analysis of Health Sector Financing across BIMSTEC was mooted which has been well received. The study will explore the following issues: (i) What are the public policy challenges in providing adequate public expenditure for health? (ii) Can there be similar financing patterns? (iii) What policy and strategy interventions can be made to ensure cost-effective mechanisms for the achievement of UHC by 2030? (iv) What are the best practices in health which can be shared among the countries? and (v) How external assistance in health sector financing can be optimally used for the national health agenda that RIS proposes to pilot as part of this study. A preliminary paper on Financing of Comparative Analysis of Health Sector Financing Across BIMSTEC was being finalised. Another paper on 'Healthcare cooperation in BIMSTEC: Challenges and Prospects' would also be brought out.

Policy Brief on "Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Technologies in the G20 Framework" was published.

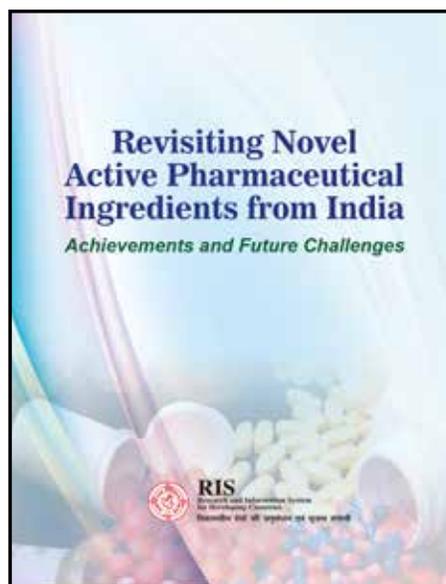
Forthcoming study on Public Policy and Economic Development Case Study of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

The Report aims to discuss and document all major policy developments in the past that have impacted the development the pharmaceutical sector in India. It will make a critical evaluation of the policies and programmes and identifies areas wherever there are fault lines. It will also examine, in detail, the trade data and identify the products where the industry will have to lay focus in the future. The challenges and prospects in the field of the AYUSH industry will also be discussed.

Revisiting Novel Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from India: Achievement and Future Challenges

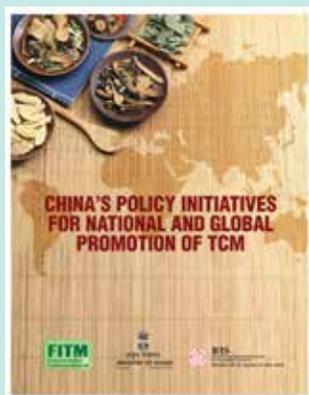
Dr Prasant Kumar Ghosh

As part of its work programme on health issues, RIS has actively been engaged in conducting research studies in the sphere of pharmaceuticals and health care sector. Earlier RIS brought out a number of publications in this regard and also organized a number of policy dialogues with participation of large number of stakeholders. In this regard, the Report “Revisiting Novel Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from India: Achievement and Future Challenges” by Dr Prasant Kumar Ghosh would also be brought out. It would focus on issues related to new drugs discovery; New Chemical Entities (NCEs) and Novel APIs discovered in India; efforts made on Novel APIs by various actors since 1947 and also explore major generic drugs manufactured and exported from India and initiatives by the Indian Government for promoting R&D on novel APIs.

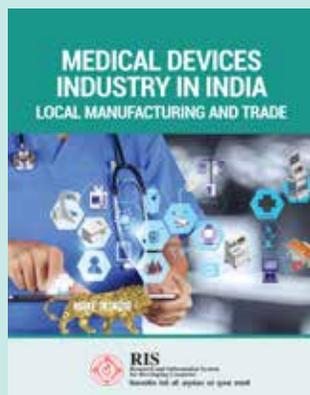


Publications

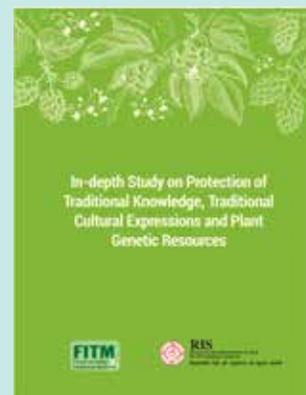
Report



China's Policy Initiatives For National And Global Promotion of TCM, RIS, FITM, Ministry of Aayush, New Delhi, 2021



Medical Devices Industry in India Local Manufacturing and Trade, RIS, New Delhi, 2020



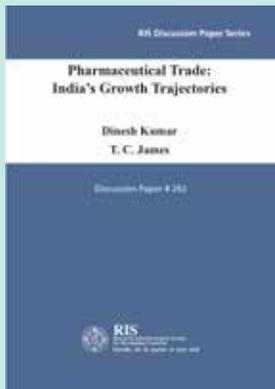
In-depth Study on Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Plant Genetic Resources, RIS, FITM, New Delhi, 2021

Analytical Support Provided

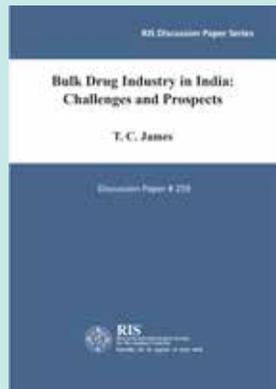
- Inputs on 'India's Healthcare Diplomacy Initiatives' were provided to MEA.
- Report of Task Force for Expanding Trade Classification, Quality Control and Standardization of ISM and Herbal products submitted to Ministry of AYUSH.
- Note on 'Viability Gap Funding and Venture Capital Funding for Agro-Businesses and cultivation of Medicinal Plant in India' submitted to National Medicinal Plants Board
- FITM Briefing paper on "Trade and Tariffs Analysis of Pharmaceutical Products of Seven Identified Countries of SSA" prepared for Ministry of AYUSH.
- Inputs on 'India-Africa Dialogue: Prospects in Healthcare' were provided to MEA.
- Inputs on 'Impact on Indian Economy of COVID-19 Pandemic & other inhibitors to the growth and options for India" were provided to NITI Aayog.

Publications

Discussion Paper



#261: Pharmaceutical Trade: India's Growth Trajectories by Dinesh Kumar & T. C. James



#259: Bulk Drug Industry in India: Challenges and Prospects by T. C. James



#257: Development of 'TrueNat' Innovation System in India for Detection of Tuberculosis and COVID-19: A System Based Perspective by Nidhi Singh and Kirti Tyagi



#252: The Case for a Global Healthcare Partnership by Rajeev Kher and Arun S. Nair

Policy Brief



#102: Accelerating Universal Health Coverage through Technologies by T. C. James



#90: COVID-19 Pandemic and Health System Preparedness: Pathways to Reform by Jaideep C Menon & Denny John

FITM Policy Brief

- #7: SDG-3 and COVID-19 Mainstreaming Traditional Medicine
- #6: AYUSH Systems and Corona Virus: Assessing R&D in Viral Diseases
- #5: AYUSH Systems and COVID-19 Epidemic

9

Blue Economy

Blue Economy (BE) encompasses activities, stakeholders and policies beyond seas and oceans to target high economic growth with environment sustainability. For estimating contribution of BE to GDP, there has been no commonly agreed global framework, and RIS is presently working on evolving a framework for the estimation of BE in India and its neighbours. Besides, Blue Trade, different from maritime trade, is emerging as a novel concept in the global trade literature. RIS has developed a framework for the estimation of Blue Trade. In India, Blue trade is growing faster than GDP and also overall trade of the country. As an important issue of BE, fishery subsidy negotiation in the WTO is critical for the small and marginal fishermen in India and other resource poor littoral countries for reducing/eliminating fisheries subsidies. RIS is analysing the issue of fishery subsidy negotiations in the WTO. For fostering debate on various dimensions of BE, RIS has formed a platform as Blue Economy Forum (BEF) to share perceptions of various domestic and International experts/policy makers. Under BEF, a quarterly newsletter - *Blue Economy Insights*, is published from RIS which provides regular features on Blue Technologies, sectoral insights, exposure of regional countries to BE activities, etc. Under the MoU between RIS and IORA Secretariat, a webinar on '*Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation: Way Forward*', was organized under the track-two process. Details are as follows.

Blue Economy Forum

The Blue Economy has steadily progressed as an important development paradigm in the world economy. Several countries have adopted it as their main plank of development policy to meet their twin objectives of high growth and economic sustainability. RIS initiated a major work programme in 2015 and has put its global footprint by making substantial contributions in evolving methodological developments in specific areas like estimation of the contribution of Blue Economy to overall economy, Blue trade, marine trade in services, etc. RIS has played an important role in arousing development debate in various international forums like IORA, ASEAN, EAS, Indo-Pacific, BIMSTEC, etc. RIS has also contributed substantially to the policy making process in India. In the recently evolved policies on National Blue Economy and National Maritime Policy in India, RIS has made substantial contribution in the preparation of draft documents. In the drafting of seven volume documents on National Blue Economy Policy and eight volume National Maritime Policy, RIS contributed

substantively in working with Niti Aayog and PM-EAC in the preparation of these documents.

In the Work Programme on Blue Economy, RIS has been bringing out several publications regularly in the form of reports, books, newsletters, discussion papers, policy briefs, etc. RIS is also contributing to other forums outside RIS. For dissemination of ideas and initiating debate on the subject, RIS has evolved a platform known as Blue Economy Forum. Recently, RIS organised an international Webinar on the subject along with IORA secretariat and involved several IORA member states. There is a dedicated website on Blue Economy in RIS, presenting various publications of the institute and is keeping track of recent developments in the Indian Ocean region. RIS has a dedicated Twitter handle for Blue Economy. Recently, RIS is bringing out a quarterly Newsletter on the subject as *Blue Economy Insights*. AIC is also regularly conducting Blue Economy Conferences with ASEAN and EAS.

Blue Economy Insight

Professor S K Mohanty, Priyadarshi Dash, Pankhuri Gaur, Chandni Dawani and Sunanda Mahajan

RIS has signed an MoU with the IORA secretariat for effective engagement with the region in academic and policy coordination. Blue economy has been a focus area of IORA and is also a major work pillar of RIS. For fostering dialogue between various stakeholders of the Blue Economy, RIS has an open dialogue platform which is known as 'Blue Economy Forum (BEF)'. For disseminating of research inputs and deep understanding about the Blue Economy, primarily in the IORA region, RIS is bringing out a newsletter periodically, known as 'Blue Economy Insights'. The newsletter is a quarterly publication from RIS and is managed by a team of in-house researchers. The newsletter has a set of features which are becoming attractive for the policy makers, academic and practitioners of business. On a regular basis, the newsletter has a feature on blue technology, which is emerging important for the IORA region. In each issue, Blue Economy of an IORA member country is discussed based on RIS in-house research and also the existing literature on the economy. Reporting of a sector in the Blue Economy in the IORA region is another feature of the newsletter. Besides these issues, it covers other features such as book reviews, important developments in the region on Blue Economy, viewpoints of regional experts on the Blue Economy, among others. RIS has already brought out two issues of the newsletter and the third issue is in the process.

Framework for Estimating Blue Economy in IORA

Professor S K Mohanty and Pankhuri Gaur

IORA is a dynamic economy with \$8.7 trillion GDP in 2019, growing at the rate of 6.7 per cent during buoyancy and 3.1 per cent during recession. In the last two ministerials on Blue Economy and a Summit meeting, the regional economies have reiterated their conviction about the efficacy of BE as an alternative development paradigm which can take the region on a high growth path though regional countries differ in their marine resource endowments. Some member countries have already estimated their contribution of BE to their GDP, and others are yet to complete the process of estimation. Even some of member countries have planned their development strategy based on the framework of BE. However, there has been no efforts so far to estimate the BE GDP of the IORA region comprehensively, using a commonly agreed framework. In this regard, a comprehensive estimate of BE for IORA and its sectors may present a template for the region to plan for production, investment and sectoral cooperation in BE for augmenting output and employment in the region. Blue economy is mostly driven by technology in specific sectors. Member countries and dialogue partners of the regional are not only in the club of littoral economies but are also endowed with varieties of blue technologies. A comprehensive planning of blue technologies in the region may support the idea of forming a breeding ground of evolving state of the art blue technologies in the world. The region has thrown open ample of opportunities for building grounds for blue high-tech SMEs. Dialogue partners from the Europe have already experimented with such ventures in the past. Estimation of BE in IORA would open up new vista of opportunities in the region for cooperation in varieties of sectors.

Can Blue Trade Spur Growth in an Economy?: An Exploratory Study for India

Professor S K Mohanty

Blue trade is an emerging concept in the Blue Economy literature and is significantly different from maritime trade. Blue trade could be goods and services embedded with inputs which are either coming or going into the oceans. Blue trade comprises of trade in goods and trade in services. It has high potential to grow and is resilient to external shocks. In a normal situation, BE grows faster than overall economy of a littoral country, but Blue trade grows faster than overall trade and BE. Contribution of BE is based on activities which is derived from the blue industrial classification, but Blue trade is derived from further disaggregation of blue industrial sector to focus at the product level. The global experiment so far has been up to classification of activities from blue industries and it can be further dissected up to the product level to generate new data series for Blue Trade. The study would analyse the Blue trade in the world and India, which is based on Harmonised System (HS) and could open up new vista or research in the domestic and international production and trade. For countries like India which is perennially a trade deficit economy, Blue Trade can get cushion from the sector to minimise its overall trade imbalance situation. Since Blue Trade has tendency for attaining high growth and resilience, it can lend comfort to India in moving out of the present impasse that is caused due to prolonged recession and spread of pandemic in the country.

Fishery Subsidy and S&DT Issues: Nature of Protection to Resource Poor Fishermen

Professor S K Mohanty, Pankhuri Gaur and Chandni Dawani

During the last two decades of negotiations on fishery subsidy, core concern of developing countries has been to find an amicable resolution to extend cushion to small and resource poor fishermen in developing countries. The dominant perception in the WTO negotiation has been in favour of resource-poor fishermen. In the recently released draft fishery subsidy 'Draft Texts' on 11th May and 30th June; and meeting of the trade ministers on 15-16 July 2021, there was no significant headway in finding a lasting solution to fishery subsidy issue for small farmers in developing countries. Though fishery subsidy issue is critical for LDCs and SIDS, there has been no special provisions for the latter set of economies. Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions in both the texts are reported in Article 3.8, Article 4.4, and Article 5.5 for resource-poor small fishermen in developing countries, but expectations of these countries are not adequately reflected in the draft agreement. On the contrary, reverse S&DT is presented in Article 4.3 and Article 5.1.1. for resource-rich fishermen. The arguments for continuation of fishery subsidy by resource-rich countries are well articulated in the text but compliance mechanism through a set of selected indicators in the draft text is not robust. Moreover, present negotiations on fishery subsidy overlooked the underlined spirit of the SDGs. Unequal treatment to resource-poor fishermen in developing countries has the down side risk of failure of the fishery subsidy negotiations in MC12. The study is to focus on critical examination of the articles in the 'draft text' and is also to highlight the negotiating points which are of critical importance for developing countries.

Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation

IORA is a very large dynamic economic grouping. It has got tremendous potential in the region to grow and it is one of the fastest growing regions in the world today with very sound macroeconomic fundamentals in terms of growth, inflation and other macro parameters. IORA has a very strong commitment to the blue economy programme as well. And because of its strong engagement with the blue economy process, there is a strong blue voice emanating from the region showing the relevance of the new development paradigm in the region. Many countries from the region such as Malaysia, Mauritius, Seychelles, etc are becoming the role model for the world economy while implementing blue economy policies in their respective countries.

Against this backdrop, RIS in collaboration with the IORA Secretariat had organised a day-long Webinar on 'Post-Pandemic Indian Ocean Regional Economic Cooperation: Way Forward' on 25 November 2020. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan delivered the Inaugural Address. He emphasized India's strong commitment to strengthening IORA by intensifying cooperation within its member states and with the other groupings in the region to promote security, peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. During its chairmanship of IORA in 2011, India had worked for its revitalization and strengthening in keeping with the emerging geostrategic challenges

that confronted the Indian Ocean region. In the past few years, we have come further on the path of strengthening IORA through regular meetings, creation of new structures, increased efficiency for the secretariat, enhancing greater cooperation with dialogue partners, and taking concrete initiatives in various IORA priority and cross cutting areas. Although there are several areas of cooperation, Minister underscored the need to revive the tourism industry, promoting Ayurveda and wellness tourism as a step to revive tourism in the region. India also sees values in greater intra IORA work on the blue economy, and on science and technology. The threat of pollution, especially plastic waste, oil spills, unregulated exploitation of resources like illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing needs to be tackled with creative solutions and people's participation. Moreover, he underlined the centrality of multilateralism in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in our interconnected world for not only matters of international security, but also international governance for strengthening our regional architecture for a diversified and resilient Indo-Pacific. He also launched the publication Blue Economy Insight. Her Excellency Dr. Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General, IORA Secretariat delivered the Special Address; Ambassador Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director General, South Africa; Ambassador Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs, Bangladesh and Ms. Reenat Sandhu,



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan delivering the Inaugural Address.

Additional Secretary (IP, South & Oceania), Ministry of External Affairs and 13 technical experts from various IORA countries participated in the webinar. From RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General and Professor S.K. Mohanty addressed the participants.

Her Excellency Dr. Nokwe stressed on the importance IORA Secretariat has assigned to blue economy in the past five years including three high level blue economy ministerial meetings in Mauritius, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Key areas have been identified to harness oceans, and maritime resources, drive economic growth, job creation, innovation, while safeguarding sustainability of all these areas. The first meeting also witnessed the adoption of the Jakarta concord that reiterates IORA's commitment to promote the blue economy development in the Indian Ocean region as a key source of inclusive economic growth, job creation and education. In addition, she stressed on plastic pollution, SDGs and other sectors in the context of blue economy development.

RIS Annual Report 2020-21
 Fostering Policy Dialogue:
 Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: Blue Economy



Further cooperation among IORA member states and between dialogue partners both human and financial resources are most crucial for an effective and to combat Covid-19 induced challenges. Both human and financial to address challenges of adaptation, and mitigation and navigate safely the perfect storm.

Ms Sandhu highlighted some of the recent initiatives undertaken by Govt. of India for the IORA. More specifically, during India's chairmanship in 2011 major revitalization and reformulation of IORA priorities assumed centre stage. At the 11th Council of Ministers Meeting in 2011 six priority areas were identified on the basis of an Indian proposal to focus on cooperation amongst member states of IORA in the years to come.



India as the lead country on the IORA priority areas of disaster risk management, and academic, science and technology cooperation has worked to strengthen the capacities

of IORA member states, and to encourage research and innovation in the Indian Ocean region. India has contributed US\$1 million to the IORA special fund, deputed an IT expert from India for strengthening the IORA Secretariat in September this year, taken a lead on structuring IORA's engagement with dialogue partners, for strengthening IORA's institutional frameworks, promoting IORA's engagements with other regional organizations, such as cooperation on renewable energy through the international solar Alliance and maritime information sharing with the information fusion centre, IFC-IOR and finally developing of HADR guidelines for the IORA region.

Panelists in the two technical sessions covered a wide range of issues and priorities for IORA regional cooperation and developing blue economy. Maritime security, fisheries, blue economy, renewable ocean energy, marine technologies, historical and maritime linkages, etc were comprehensively covered in the deliberations. A number of recommendations are drawn from the deliberations in the sessions for further action and regional cooperation.



Publications

IORA



Blue Economy Insight, March, 2021



Blue Economy Insight, November, 2020

Analytical Support Provided

- A Vision Paper on 'Center for Maritime and Blue Economy Research' was prepared and submitted to Indian Maritime University (IMU).

10

Energy

The South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) is a unique initiative launched by RIS for promoting energy cooperation between India and its neighbours. Led by eminent experts, practitioners, and industry representatives, the group is exploring policy pathways and addressing hurdles in the way of building electricity interconnections between India's neighbourhoods. Recognising the mutual gains of regional electricity trade, the SAGE is also forging regional cooperation networks and facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders for creating a region-wide electricity trading network. Such networks are vital for harnessing clean energy resources and promote regional cooperation and technological innovation in clean energy sources. The following section highlights further details.

South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE)

South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) set-up at RIS in 2020 is mandated to work towards achieving a balanced and optimal development of energy infrastructure in the region through mutual understanding and cooperation. Formally inaugurated by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India, on March 10, 2021, the group took up the issue of power trade with Myanmar on priority, considering their serious power demand and supply mismatch and the strategic value of bilateral relations. In its first meeting held on March 24, a small sub-group led by Sri K Sreekant, CMD, Power Grid and Sri Anil Sardana, MD & CEO, Adani Power explored the subject of power cooperation with Myanmar in detail.

The Team developed a very comprehensive paper and provides various options. In the second meeting of the SAGE held on May 8, 2021, the group members had a detailed deliberation on the Draft Approach Paper and members present made a number of suggestions to further evaluate some of the options for setting-up high-voltage power inter-connection between India and Myanmar. In this meeting, a general decision was also taken to set up five Sub Groups - one each on Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to focus on each country, and prepare respective Approach Papers, for furthering regional energy cooperation.

The Sub Group for Myanmar revised the Approach Report based on discussions held in the meeting of SAGE. This Group has successfully developed the Approach Paper in a manner, and with required degree of details, including the way forward, and the report was submitted to the MEA. Report will facilitate decision making at the levels of appropriate authorities, followed by implementation. The group would come out with approach papers for other countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.



Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressing the participants.

Foreign Secretary Inaugurates the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) at RIS

Policy recommendations by SAGE members can be 'game-changers' in addressing gaps in regulatory frameworks and guidelines in the region.

-Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Foreign Secretary,
Government of India



South Asia needs 'integrated grid' for achieving cost-reduction in transmissions, harnessing potential for power trade by bringing together buyers and sellers, harmonising regulatory framework, and to promote regional economic development, said Foreign Secretary of India, Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla while inaugurating the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) at RIS on 10 March 2021.

Mr Shringla in his address highlighted various initiatives undertaken by government of India as part of India's 'Neighborhood First' policy including gas pipelines and cross-border interconnections with countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Noting the vast potential for regional energy cooperation, Mr Shringla identified the need to harness regional energy sources,

and to attract investments in regional electricity infrastructure development. He called for furthering engagement and identifying possibilities especially in the clean energy sources which will enable the region to collectively bring down carbon emissions.

He also emphasised that policy recommendations by SAGE members can be 'game-changers' in addressing gaps in regulatory frameworks and guidelines in the region.

The key terms of reference for SAGE include identification of infrastructural constraints in power transmission connectivity and suggesting an appropriate strategy to address these constraints. The panel would also identify potential in energy trade and investment and suggest measures to address gaps in regulatory policies in the sector across the region.

Moreover, it would identify regional solutions to technology in the power sector, both in generation and transmission of power, and suggest financing options of the regional project as well as a source of funding for this initiative. In addition, it would suggest an institutional framework for planning and monitoring of project implementation and propose possible areas of cooperation between regional economies.

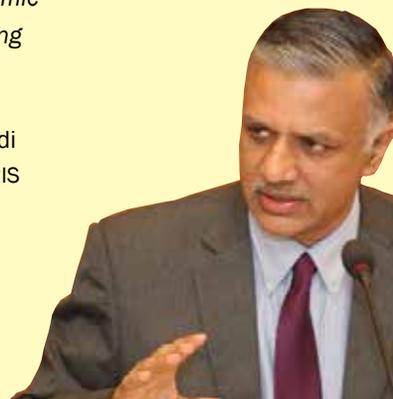
At present, approximately 3,000 MW of electricity is being traded among four countries in the region namely, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. India sources hydropower from Bhutan and also supplies both thermal and hydropower to Bangladesh and Nepal. Bhutan, among others, has emerged as an important exporter of hydropower to India for the past two decades. Selling surplus

hydropower (about 1400 MW) to India has proven immensely beneficial to Bhutan. The revenues earned through power trade account for about 25 per cent of its GDP and enabled it to invest in capital-intensive sectors like cement and steel, etc. Consequently, cross-border energy trade is perceived to be a win-win for all the regional players which can improve overall access to electricity, optimize energy generation resources, and foster economic growth and development.

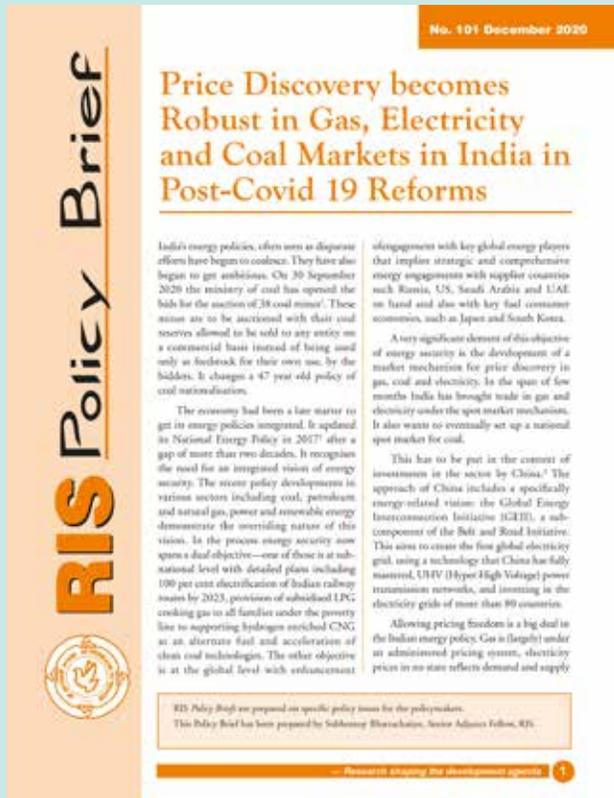
Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS in his remarks noted that, “energy is central to region’s economic development and we need to fashion external economic engagements towards promoting regional energy cooperation.” Detailed programme is available of RIS Website.

Energy is central to region’s economic development and we need to fashion external economic engagements towards promoting regional energy cooperation.

-Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, RIS



Publication



Policy Brief

#101: Price Discovery becomes Robust in Gas, Electricity and Coal Markets in India in Post-Covid 19 Reforms by Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

Analytical Support Provided

- Provided inputs to MEA for the Energy Security.

11

Major Research Programmes

GDC



RIS has launched the Global Development Centre (GDC) to take the Indian development experience to other countries. It strives to promote and showcase some of India's globally acclaimed experience and practices across countries through India's indigenously evolved development cooperation norms which are widely accepted in Global South and boost universal resilience and sustainability. GDC encourages engaging with partner institutions like government agencies, think-tanks and Civil Society Organisations having footprints in the national and international domains to scale up cross-learning and innovation. Highlights of the work undertaken by GDC at RIS are as follows.

COVID 19 pandemic superimposed a global crisis and hit hard on human development's entire constitutive element. The pandemic paralyzed the well thought out plan of action of GDC, including physical interactions, consultations, dialogues, evidence based research on developmental issues, proactive outreach in Asia and Africa and a wide range of activities. However undeterred by the unprecedented unforeseen, GDC adopted the digital pathway as well as hybrid approach to reach out to its identified target countries and partners in India and abroad to the maximum possible extent and the results of its efforts are self-evident in this report. Meanwhile, the Development Cooperation Report was brought out regularly and focussed on key emerging issues of vital importance to its partner countries in Asia and Africa.

GDC relentlessly pursued its mandate of sharing some of the best practices reflecting India's flagship programmes worked towards promoting greater vertical integration between India and the GDC partner countries in Africa and Asia through virtual mode:

GDC Initiatives on Pandemic Mitigation



Responding to the urgent need to guide its partners on how to deal with the unprecedented COVID crisis afflicting the developing countries the most, GDC, in association with prestigious Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) conducted 4 e-Workshops on COVID-19 and reached out to over 800 participants from more than 40 countries. Around 565 of the participants were affiliated to various government institutions and 41 of them represented various Ministries in their respective countries thereby GDC was able to share India's knowledge, experience and expertise in these field with such a large number of government and non-government health experts many of whom were substantially influence and connected to policy makers and shapers in their countries. The e-Workshops were held as follows:

Management of COVID-19, 15-18 April 2020

The primary focus was on the capacity enhancement of healthcare professionals of participating delegates from abroad and helps them in updating their knowledge and understanding of evolving facets of COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses by India. The themes focussed on critical areas such as epidemiology, prevention, testing, management, co-morbidity condition management, preparing health facilities for COVID response and effective communication.

Fostering Policy Dialogue:
Conferences, Symposia and Workshops: [GDC](#)

Management of COVID-19, 25-28 April 2020

In continuation of the first webinar, it included additional areas of intervention that were relevant to combat the epidemic which was appearing in several manifestations. The topics included epidemiology and prevention, surveillance and containment; promoting social distancing norms; routine vaccination, disaster action plan etc. In addition, management of COVID cases, protection of healthcare workers, ambulance operation, mortality management and developing better interpersonal communication skills in handling patients and their near and dear ones were the highlights of the programme.

Occupational Health & Safety in the context of COVID-19, 9-13 May 2020

It was meant to raise knowledge and awareness on how to effectively address issues pertaining to emergency response and the essential health services while tackling new and emergent health needs. The workshop successfully delivered the knowledge to its wide range of participants on how to tackle the urgent need of the pandemic and preparing for opening of workplace specially industries and healthcare facilities.

Post-Lockdown: Health Care Facility & Systems Preparedness and Response for COVID-19, 6-9 June 2020

It focussed on protocols for COVID Screening, Diagnosis and Management, preparing healthcare facilities & protecting healthcare personnel, resumption of hospital services including gender implications of the pandemic. The timely initiative was immensely appreciated by participating health professionals grappling with a new challenge. This was a sought after initiative leveraging GDC to forge further links with key public and private sector players as well as civil society representatives in this critical sector of health.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Special Issue of Development Cooperation Review on Disaster Risk Management

A Special Issue on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) of the Development Cooperation Review (DCR) was launched on February 5, 2021 in a webinar under the GDC initiative. Its main contributors included a band of highly distinguished personalities well known for their expertise on issues concerning Global South. They came out with the strong message that unified approach has to be adopted on a regional basis for coordinated assessment on extreme weather patterns and forecast services for effective response. India's role as the first responder for its neighbouring in dealing with such emergency situations was hugely appreciated and participating countries expressed their readiness to benefit from India's experience and expertise in disaster management and recovery process. GDC assured participating countries that it would extend full possible assistance to them in facilitating their connect with CDRI for experience sharing and capacity building for their disaster preparedness.

Financial Inclusion-Digital Innovations, Fintech Solutions/Products

Collaborating with NPCI-International Payments Limited (NIPL) for building partnership in area of digital payments system in GDC partner countries

As part of its efforts to forge links with India's institutions that have successfully initiated their innovative programmes, including digital financial services, in the country, GDC organized a webinar on 3 March 2021 with NIPL to elicit their readiness to forge links with it for possible replication of their institutional ecosystem and services in Africa. Both sides agreed on developing a partnership and prepare engagement modalities between NIPL and GDC in order to take forward the experiences of NPCI through GDCs platform to the partner countries. Alignment of GDC with NIPL would pave the way for extension of their services for digital empowerment of its partner countries.

Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d'Ivoire, 17 September 2020

RIS-GDC in partnership with the Indian Embassy in Abidjan and the office of the Presidency, Government of Ivory Coast, organized a Webinar on Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d'Ivoire.

It was aimed at providing Côte d'Ivoire leadership with comprehensive orientation on the development related policies, structures, organizations, reforms and ideas and forge their linkages with GDC. Critical knowledge on some of India's key flagship programmes, notably Government's initiatives on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI), National Horticultural Mission (NHM), Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and the "Housing for All" by the year 2022 scheme. The Office of the Presidency, including their Hon'ble Minister, profoundly appreciated the GDC initiative and according to the Indian Mission in Abidjan their Government would be using the inputs provided by GDC in their planning processes.

Collaboration with Paris Peace Forum

GDC has established a working partnership with Paris Peace Forum (PPF) to take some of India's best practices among their partner countries in West Africa and Asia. PPF has agreed to devote a session on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which would be curated by RIS with the support of GDC, for its 2021 edition. It would enable GDC to expand its reach substantially among PPF partners and build mutually gainful opportunities for further cooperation and collaboration on issues impacting the Global South.

Strengthening India-UK partnership: Global Innovation Programme under UK-India collaboration

An initiative would be on Indo-UK collaboration as Global Innovation Programme (GIP) on transferring of India's successful inclusive, low- cost/frugal/grass root innovations to select African, Asian & Indo-Pacific Countries. GDC has made some preliminarily moves, which have been retarded by the unprecedented impact of COVID, to forge closer links with institutions of high learning in the United Kingdom, including Universities, for knowledge gathering and specialized research programmes to further consolidate the links of GDC partner institutions with the United Kingdom as part of mutual learning and to benefit from the expertise of UK in the field of international development cooperation. With freedom from the ongoing threat of COVID, GDC would accord its highest priority to this area to forge links with experts from the United Kingdom by organizing exchange of visits.

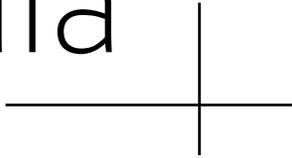
Study Programme on “Plant Variety Protection, Seed Testing and Certification

GDC had hosted a 5-member official delegation from Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to India for a study programme on “Plant Variety Protection, Seed Testing and Certification” organised by GDC at the Division of Seed Science and Technology, ICAR-IARI in Delhi from 17 to 28 January 2020. The included Mr. Jacob Kipchirchir Cheptaiwa, Principal Inspector- KEPHIS Headquarters, Mr. Geoffrey Muinde Malemba, Regional Manager- KEPHIS Kisumu; Mr. Ephraim Njoroge Wachira, Officer-In-Charge, KEPHIS Embu; Mr. James Gakuu Muthee, Plant Examiner - KEPHIS Headquarters and Mr. Jonah Maina Kahwai, Inspector II, KEPHIS Nakuru. During this programme, GDC utilised the opportunity to give them a presentation on Aquifer Storage and Recovery process for Storm Water Management solution by Bhungroo, who are recognised by the World Bank Development Marketplace & the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) as one of the best social innovations from India specialising in Rainwater Management, Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation.

GDC would also pursue with University of Kenya to sign an MoU to take forward the best practices under different verticals. A draft MoU is under their active consideration.

12

ASEAN-India



Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated at RIS by the External Affairs Minister of India on 21 June 2013. AIC serves as a resource center for the ASEAN countries and India aiming at strengthening cooperation and nurturing ties between them. AIC works under the enabling leadership of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in providing valuable and feasible directions to the ASEAN-India relations. In 2020-21, AIC undertook virtual conferences and studies to look at the following issues: (i) Trade, connectivity and maritime transport in the Indo-Pacific; (ii) production networks between ASEAN and India- sectoral analysis; (iii) energy cooperation between ASEAN and India; (iv) ACMECS-India cooperation; and (v) Trilateral Highway and Implications on India's Northeast. The details are provided in the following paras.

Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport in Indo-Pacific

In the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Bangkok on 4 November 2019, Indian Prime Minister announced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiatives (IPOI) for promoting maritime cooperation in the wider Indo-Pacific region. The seven pillars for cooperation on the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) are (i) Maritime Ecology, (ii) Maritime Security, (iii) Maritime Resources, (iv) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, (v) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, (vi) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, (viii) Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport. Out of which, Ministry of External Affairs has asked AIC, RIS to initiate research work and also has a knowledge partner towards effective promotion and implementation of Trade/Connectivity and Maritime Transport (7th pillar) of the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiatives (IPOI). The aim of this study is to assess trade opportunities in Indo-Pacific, identify the challenges and opportunities in trade, connectivity and maritime transportation and draw the way forward.

Assessing the Production Networks between ASEAN and India: Sectoral Analysis

This study aims to explore India's emerging (or potential) GVC/RVC with ASEAN, especially in manufacturing sector, viz. machinery, electrical and automobile industries. This study will also examine the possibilities of strengthening cross-border networks within those industries on which the India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. Besides, it will also identify the challenges in building the production networks and the mitigation strategy. In particular, the study will attempt to identify the gaps in business facilitation in promoting the production networks between ASEAN and India, and provide the possible remedies. Outcome of the study will help the ongoing review process of ASEAN-India FTA in goods.

Implications of ASEAN Economic Community 2025

The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN, offering opportunities in the form of a huge market of US\$ 2.6 trillion and over 622 million people. The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, provides broad directions through strategic measures for the AEC from 2016 to 2025. The AEC Blueprint 2025 is aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy. ASEAN member states aim to complete the AEC by 2025. The implementation of AEC carries economic and strategic implications for India. This study is being carried out with aim to analyse the economic implications of AEC for India with particular reference to regional connectivity.

ASEAN-India FTA Evaluation

ASEAN is one of India's most important trading partners. ASEAN-India FTA became effective from 1 January, 2010. Since then the bilateral trade between the two sides has surged from about US\$ 43 billion in 2009-10 to US\$ 97 billion in 2018-19. Bilateral trade is expected to cross US\$ 100 billion in 2019-20 FY. India's import from ASEAN has increased at a significantly higher rate than Indian exports to ASEAN. The ex-post effects of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) shows that India's balance of trade with ASEAN has deteriorated and there is a weak correspondence between tariff reforms and trade expansion. The faster growth in imports has resulted in a significant increase in India's trade deficit with ASEAN. India has decided to be out of RCEP, and there is a need of promoting the bilateral FTAs with ASEAN dialogue partners in order to facilitate Indian exports and value chains. At the same time, ASEAN-India FTA in goods has completed a decade since 2010. ASEAN-India services and investment agreement is yet to be implemented. Given the global trade and geo-political scenario, a study is indeed needed to identify future course of the ASEAN-India FTA in goods. In this background, this study aims to evaluate the ASEAN-India FTA and to investigate India's trade prospect with ASEAN countries for 2030. The study will also explore the impact of AIFTA on value chain linkages between ASEAN and India and provide policy recommendations to enhance India's export to ASEAN.

Energy Cooperation between ASEAN and India

ASEAN and India have huge potentials and complementarities in terms of access to the conventional and renewable energy resources. ASEAN and India are also committed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 and moving towards low-carbon growth path through promoting different means of renewable energy source. The energy cooperation between ASEAN and India appears to be more promising if we consider the countries commitments under the ASEAN-India POA (2021-2025). Joint research and development in energy sector has given a renewed thrust. The Grid stability, cleaner deeper management and green management are the potential areas for cooperation. Engaging private sector in both conventional and renewable energy is also encouraged. This study aims to examine current status of energy cooperation between ASEAN and India and also discuss the future scope in energy cooperation. It will also present a set of policy recommendations in order to achieve energy security between ASEAN and India. An earlier version of the research outcomes was already published as AIC working paper and the chapter of the AIDCR 2021. This research project will take up the next phase in line with the POA (2021-2025).

Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience

One of the key recommendations of ASEAN-India POA (2021-2025) is continuing to undertake consultations and dialogue between ASEAN and India on connectivity issues. ASEAN and India have also agreed to work closely to promote physical connectivity in the region by completing the missing links between South and Southeast Asia, including, but not limited to, expediting the completion of relevant sections of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and supporting steps to build an economic corridor along it and its extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam; and encouraging private sector participation in the development of roads and railways and relevant logistics networks. Both of them have also decided to promote quality, sustainable and transparent infrastructure development of robust standards to achieve a seamlessly connected and integrated ASEAN and to ensure sustainable socio-economic growth and development. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us the importance of supply chain resilience. A strong resilience in supply chain is needed to avoid disruptions in terms of both costs and time. At the same time, supply chain resilience would help attract investments in value chains or strengthen the scale of value chains across borders. India, Japan and Australia have shown interests to launch the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI). ASEAN is likely to join in SCRI. In view of above, this study aims to assess the implications of SCRI, and the ways it can strengthen the trade linkages.

Public Health Cooperation

The public health cooperation has gained high importance in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. India and ASEAN have agreed to collaborate in public health issues including exchange of scientists, vaccines, technology, etc. The ASEAN-India POA (2021-2025) has agreed to promote sharing of information in the field of public health, medicine, health education and health promotion relevant to the health priorities of the ASEAN Health Sector under the clusters of promoting healthy lifestyles; responding to all hazards and emerging threats; strengthening health systems and access to care; and ensuring food safety. This study in collaboration with ASEAN Think-Tanks will prepare a scoping paper to identify the areas of collaboration between ASEAN and India in public health.

IMT-GT Cooperation and India's Development Partnership

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are strategically located in the heart of the Indo-Pacific and have created a triangular formation. The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) initiative is aimed towards invigorating economic development in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. IMT-GT provides a sub-regional framework to promote economic cooperation and integration. IMT-GT owns substantial controlling assets in ASEAN. The biggest location advantage for IMT-GT countries is access to a comprehensive trade network globally. India is IMT-GT's civilizational partner. India's development partnership with Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand under the framework of IMT-GT could see a rejuvenation from the partnership relished within the ASEAN framework. This study aims to discuss the aspects of the IMT-GT, their line of activities and projects and programmes. It will also look into the opportunities arising from India's cooperation with the IMT-GT.

ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era

A Video-Conference of 6th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) was held on 20-21 August 2020. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India delivered the opening remarks and underlined that AINTT was established to provide policy inputs to our government on future directions for our cooperation. We have seen some success in this regard but he urged think tanks today especially ours to push the envelop even more in the present world situation. Even in the normal times, there is need and space for new ideas because obviously not everything cannot be generated within government alone and we have seen fresh thinking in the past coming from scholars, media, business and civil societies.

The world faces an unprecedented challenge. None of us have seen a crisis of this proportion before or indeed uncertainty of this level. The contraction of the world economy being predicted would surely be the largest since the great depression. The contemporary relationship between India and ASEAN was founded very much on our shared interests in globalization. Globalization may be reflected as trade, travel and financial flows but in reality it is something very much larger. In fact, what the pandemic has brought up is the indivisible aspect of human existence that underpins globalization. Whether it is climate change, terrorism or indeed pandemics, these are not challenges where those affected have a choice. The limitations of purely national responses or sometimes living in denial have become evident. Therefore the need for the international community is to work together much



more sincerely in search of collective solutions.

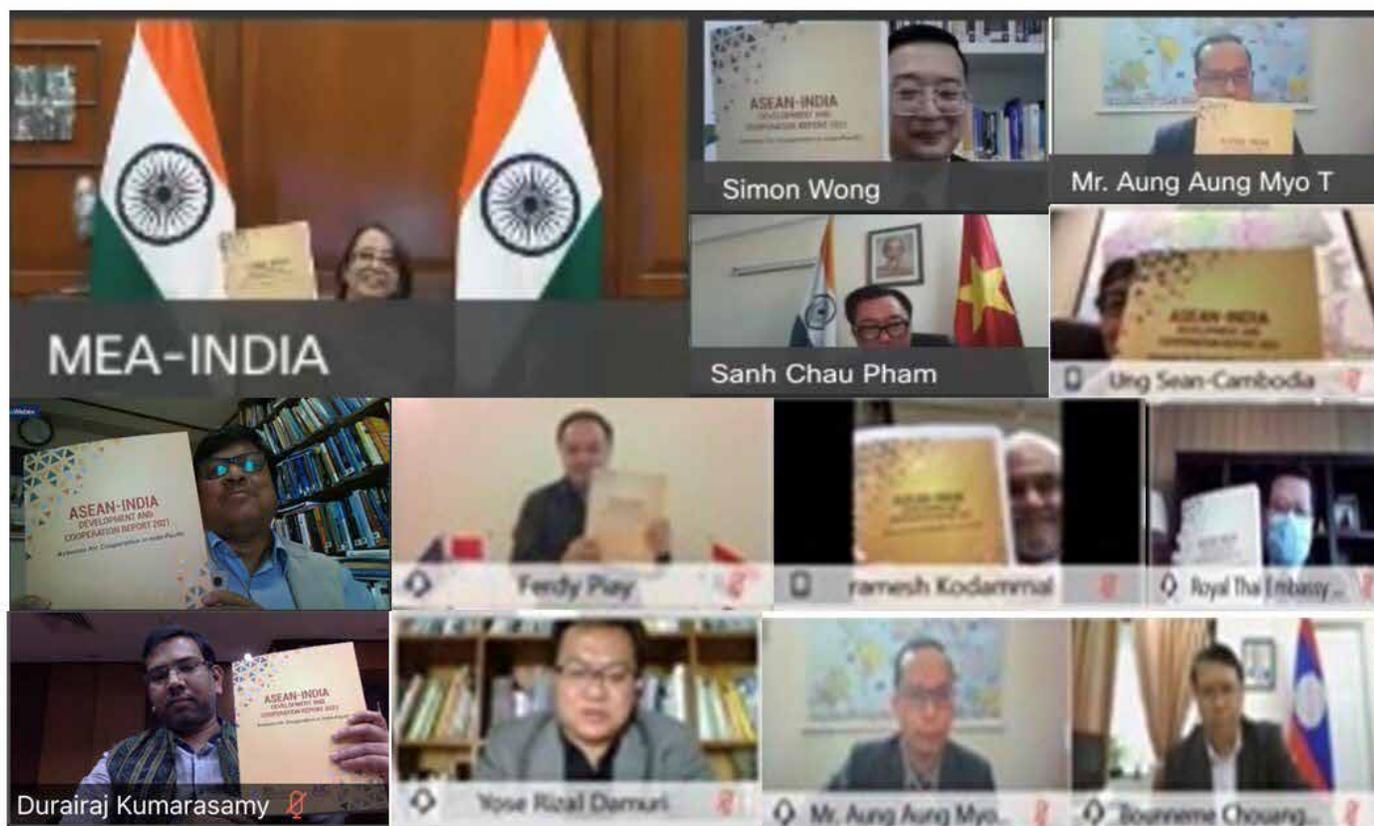
The big issue that confronts the thinking world is not simply the state of the economy, the damage to societies or the challenges to governance. It is actually a debate on the future directions of the global affairs and what kind of world order or disorder we are going to live in. As a result, the commodity that is perhaps the most valued in international relations today is that of trust.

The actions of nations during times of crisis determines how the world really perceives them and they did bring out many of the risks inherent in the current global economy. Consequently, concerns about supply change are today sort to be mitigated at the very least through greater emphasis on diversification and resilience. For exactly these reasons it is incumbent on all of us to think through these challenges and come up with a more positive and practical model of cooperation. It is not as though the world lacks good examples even during the times of crisis, after all there were many who also shared what they could at this time whether it was in terms of medicines, supplies or resources. In fact, through their

actions what they demonstrated was the need for a broader rebalancing as well as of a more generous and equitable worldview. For India today this means, among other things, the urgent requirement to strengthen its national capacities. It also underlines the importance of be risking critical aspects of societal existence especially health and at the same time complementing the domestic priority of building an employment generating economy and not just a profit generating one, we call it Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India).

ASEAN is one of the crossroads to the global economy. India is the 5th largest economy in the world. We are not only proximate to each other but together helped shape Asia and the world. It is important that at this junction we put our heads together. There are conceptual issues to debate including the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific ocean initiatives that we have tabled needs elaboration as global relationships alter we too need to take stock. As we come out of this pandemic let us be clear on one fact the world would never be the same again that mean new thinking, fresh ideas, more imagination and greater openness. We need to go beyond orthodoxies whether of trade, security or politics.

ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19



Screenshot of webinar in progress

A webinar on ASEAN-India Partnership in the Post-Covid-19 Run up to the 17th ASEAN-India Summit 2020 and Release of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2021 was organized on 10 November 2020. Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made welcome remarks. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, chaired the session and made special remarks. Mr. Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New

Delhi; H.E. Mr. Simon Wong, High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore, New Delhi and Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi made special remarks.

Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, delivered the Keynote Address. It was followed by release of the *ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2021: Avenues for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific* brought out by AIC at RIS. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS also chaired

the panel discussion that was also took place on this occasion. The main speakers were Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri, Head of Department of Economics, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; Prof. Arpita Mukherjee, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi; Dato' Ramesh Kodamal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Kuala Lumpur and Dr. Huy Hoang Nguyen, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hano. From AIC at RIS, Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy extended the vote of thanks in the closing session.

Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021

The ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with SANEM, Bangladesh, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society (CRBS), Bhutan; South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka, and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand organised the Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021- “Post-COVID-19 Challenges in the Bay of Bengal Region” on 8-11 February 2021.

The programme had the following sessions: Digital Connectivity and E-Commerce; Trade and Regional Value Chains; Paper presentation sessions on trade, regional cooperation, health and education, employment challenges and cross-cutting issues; Regional connectivity in Bay of Bengal Region; Institutional Challenges for post-COVID-19 Recovery; Deepening Health Sector Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Region; Tackling post-COVID Challenges in the Bay of Bengal Region; and Strengthening People to People contacts.

Webinar on COVID-19 Challenges and Way Forward, 12 May 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized a webinar on ASEAN-India: Coping with COVID-19 Challenges and Way Forward on 12 May 2020. The panelists of the ASEAN countries presented their country responses towards COVID-19 and recommendations for India-ASEAN collaboration to tackle the pandemic.

Webinar on ASEAN-India Trade and Value Chains in Post COVID-19, 22 May 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organized the webinar on ASEAN-India Trade and Value Chains in Post COVID-19 on 22 May 2020. Panelists argued that MSME, manufacturing, tourism and service sectors faced the hardest hit of COVID-19. Stronger regional cooperation is much need post COVID situation to enhance trade and regional value chain between India and ASEAN. Important recommendations and way forward were also shared by the panelists.

Webinar on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, 28 May 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) jointly organized the webinar on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation on 28th May 2020. Panelists argued that more active cooperation among MGC countries is required to deal with current and post COVID situation.



Webinar on Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the World Order and the Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific, 12 June 2020

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) jointly organised a webinar on Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the World Order and the Security Situation in the Indo-Pacific on 12 June 2020. Ambassador. P.S. Raghavan delivered the Keynote Address and Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan moderated the session. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS shared his perspective on newer opportunities in the Indo-Pacific.

Webinar on One Decade of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Achievements and Way Forward, 29 June 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) at Chulalongkorn University and Asian Confluence organized the webinar on One Decade of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Achievements and Way Forward on 29 June 2020. Speakers shared constructive ideas and way forward to strengthen trade, investment and regional value chain between India and ASEAN.

Webinar on Challenges and Prospects for Energy Connectivity in the Covid-19 Era, 24 July 2020

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore; and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a webinar on “Challenges and Prospects for Energy Connectivity in the Covid-19 Era” on 24 July 2020. Panelists were from prominent think-tanks and universities of South Asia and Southeast Asian countries. About 40 participants attended, viewed the webinar discussion and took part in the Q&A session. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS made the Opening Remarks.

Publication

AIC



Asean-India Development and Cooperation Report 2021



Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief, Special Issue on 20 Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), December 2020

Analytical Support Provided

- A draft Talking Points for Hon'ble Minister of State of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State of Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry for the '1st Indo-ASEAN Oceanic Business Summit and Expo' Collaborating for Regional Economic Development
- AIC at RIS has provided policy inputs to the MEA on maritime security cooperation in Indo-Pacific, ASEAN-India blue economy, connectivity agenda in Indo-Pacific, cooperation between think-tanks in ASEAN and India, Delhi Dialogue, IPOI, energy cooperation, etc.

Capacity Building Programme

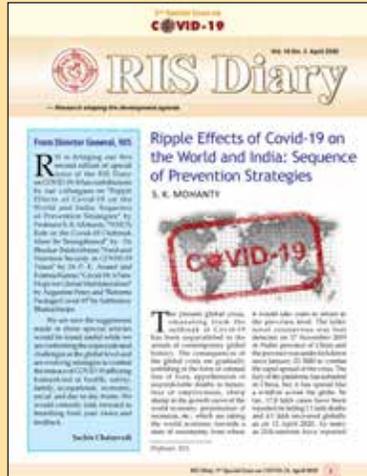
Internship Programme at RIS

As part of initiative on University Think Tank Connect, internship programme at RIS serves as a young scholar forum. As part of this RIS has been offering internship to students of various Indian universities and institutes pursuing Masters in Economics or in related disciplines. Over the years, the demand for the internship programme has grown significantly which resulted in radical restructuring of the content, supervision and learning components of the programme. In 2020, in view of the prolonged lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, RIS has come up with the Online Internship programme with innovative modes of interactions with faculty and peers, and facilitating interns' participation in different RIS webinars and web-based conferences. About 22 students joined and completed their internship. Upon completion these interns made the presentation under the University Think-Tank Initiative – Young Scholars Forum Webinar Series.

The first Webinar was held on 15 September 2020. Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor, RIS made an overview about RIS Summer 2020 Internship. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS spoke about the 'Research Priorities and RIS University-Think Tank Initiative'. After that remarks were made by Prof. Jyoti Chandiramani, Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International University, Pune and Dr Bibek Ray Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, IIFT Kolkata. The following presentations were made by the interns. 'India-China Trade Relations: India's Dependence on China' by Mr Arunabh Saha; 'Regulatory and Policy Issues in Use of Digital Currencies' by Ms Pragati Sharma; 'FinTech: Threats and Opportunities' by Ms Firdosh Khan; 'Review of Game Theory Applications in Trade' by Mr Chaitanya Khurana; and 'Skill Development in the Mining Sector: Empirical Analysis of South Africa' by Ms Barnalika Pradhan.

The second Webinar held on 19 September 2020 was chaired by Professor S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS. Dr. Ranjan Kumar Dash, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis International University Pune gave special remarks. A Brief on Internship Papers was made by Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor, RIS. The following presentations were made: Financial Inclusion in North-Eastern Aspirational Districts by Ms. Purnima Choudhury; Financial Inclusion in Kerala and Tamil Nadu: A Comparative Study by Ms. Shilsha Mary Augustine; Impact of COVID-19 on Development in North Eastern States by Ms. Sakshi Nigam & Ms. Lavanya Sayal; India's Competitiveness in Pharmaceutical Industry within Sub-Saharan African Region by Ms. Swati Verma; Production and Import Linkage of Natural Rubber in India by Ms. Amala V.L; Complementarity of Indian Agriculture exports in South Asia by Ms. Anuja Mathur; A Study of India's Tea Exports & A Brief Study on the Horticulture Sector in North East India by Mr. Soumyadip Pal; and Healthcare Cooperation among BIMSTEC: New Avenues by Ms. Aditi Sengupta.

Special issues of RIS Diary on COVID-19



RIS Diary



April, 2021



January, 2021



October, 2020

14

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Video Message on Sustainable Development Goals at the Kumbh Conclave 2021 organised jointly with Dev Sanskriti, India Think Council and University of Patanjali, on 24 March 2021.
- Made a presentation on India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative at the RBI Board Meeting, 19 March 2021.
- Made a presentation on Trends, Opportunities and Challenges posed by the COVID-19 Crisis for SSC and Triangular Cooperation at the High Level Forum on Directors General for Development Cooperation organised by UNOSSC on 17 March 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Economic Commitments for better Mental Health Outcomes and Insurance Coverage of Mental Disorders: Reasons for resistance and solutions' at the National Health Conclave-2021: Mental Health-"From Distress to Wellness" organised jointly by The Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI) and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) on 13 March 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'RCEP and the consequences for Asia and Europe' at the new online series on "China and India in Focus of World Affairs", organised by Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) on 9 March 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'BRICS Civil Forum 2021' at the First BRICS and Sous Sherpa meeting organised by Ministry of External Affairs on 26 February 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'South-South Cooperation' at the IFS Officer Trainees of 2020 Batch organised by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, 17 February 2021, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Third Brainstorming Session of the Experts' Working Group on 'The Future of International Co-operation' organised by OECD, 9 February 2021.
- Presentation made on India-Bangladesh at the panel discussion on 50th Anniversary of the establishment of India-Bangladesh Diplomatic Relations organised by Doordarsan, 2 February 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Economic relations of India and China with a focus on the RCEP and its geo-economic implications for India', at the online series on "China and India in Focus of World Affairs", organised by Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) on 28 January 2021.
- Panellist at the Indo-German Dialogue: Science diplomacy for International Cooperation organised jointly by the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on 21 January 2021.
- Participated in the "Inception Meeting" of the proposed collaborative research project on Returns to Foreign Higher Education in South Asia organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka on 20 January 2021.
- Made a presentation on Ownership Guidelines and Corporate Structure for Indian Private Sector Banks at the Virtual Panel discussion on Ownership Guidelines and Corporate Structure for Indian Private Sector Banks, organised by Centre for Development Studies (CDS) on 12 January 2021.
- Delivered a special address at the Inaugural Session of the 103rd Annual Conference of IEA (Online) organized by Indian Economic Association on 27 December 2020.
- Panelist in the session on Setting Science Agenda for diplomacy during India's Presidency of G20, BRICS & SCO at the 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) organized by jointly by Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on 23 December 2020.
- Participated in the Meeting on India's FTAs (Performance, Status of Negotiations and Way Forward) organized by NITI Aayog on 23 December 2020.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Participated in the Pre-Budget Consultations Meeting of Economists with Hon'ble Finance Minister on virtual mode on 19 December 2020.
- Addressed at the virtual panel on Accelerating SDGs Achievement and Building Back Better from COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia, at the Twenty-third Sustainable Development Conference titled Sustainable Development in the Times of COVID-19 organised by SDPI, UNESCAP and South Asia Network on SDGs on 15 December 2020.
- Participated in the 4th Steering Committee Meeting for the South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Network for SSC and addressed on Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) on 8 December 2020, organised by the UNOSSC.
- Participated in the Virtual meeting with Stakeholders of AYUSH Ministry, chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH held on 4 December 2020.
- Addressed the Session on 'Regional Economic Integration' at the Asia-Pacific Forum - Navigating Disruption: Rethinking Economic Development in a COVID Era on 4 December 2020.
- Lead Speaker at the 'Solutions Session - Building forward better: the infrastructure of a new sustainable economy, cities in a changing multilateral order' at the Global Solutions Initiative - Urbanization (and infrastructure): Sustainable Responses to the Covid-19 on 3 December 2020.
- Participated in the Virtual Meeting of Fourth South Asia Forum on the SDGs on Fostering Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 in South Asia and addressed the Roundtable on Harnessing Global, Regional and Sub-Regional Partnerships and Means of Implementation for Accelerating SDGs Achievement in South Asia: Finance, Technology, Data and Statistics (SDG17) on 3 December 2020, organised jointly by UNESCAP and the Government of Maldives.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting with UNDP Administrator Mr. Achim Steiner on the UNDP's new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 on 25 November 2020
- Participated in the ICWA Webinar on India and Africa - Looking Ahead - Contemporary Realities and Emerging Prospects, the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) initiative and addressed at the Session III on 'Agenda 2063 and Taking Stock of India Africa Development Partnership' on 24 November 2020.
- Participated in the online First Brainstorming Session of 'Experts' Working Group on 'The Future of International Co-operation' organised by Development Centre, OECD on 24 November 2020,
- Made a presentation on India-Japan Cooperation in STI for SDGs at the 10th Japan-India Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation held on 10 November 2020.
- Participated in the online Workshop on MGG Reflection Group for BMZ Position Paper 'Global Partners organised by the German Development Institute on 5 November 2020.
- Participated in the Open Discussion on Role of South-South Cooperation and Trilateral Cooperation in Restructuring International Development Architecture' at the Webinar on International Development Cooperation Knowledge, Governance and Practice, organised by CIDGA/ CIDRN on 28 October 2020.
- Made a presentation on 'Quality and Resilient Infrastructure for Development-India's Recent Experience' at the BRICS Academic Forum on 23 October 2020, organised by National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia and Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
- Delivered special remarks at the Signing Ceremony of the MoU on Bilateral Dialogue between ICWA and RIS of the Republic of India and KNDA and KIEP of the Republic of Korea organised by ICWA on 22 October 2020.
- Made a presentation on India's Policy Response to COVID-19 Pandemic at the Webinar on Examining the COVID-19 Response of India and the Philippines organised by ICSSR on 15 October 2020.
- Made a presentation in the session on Global Governance in Post-Pandemic World and Implications for BRICS Cooperation at the BRICS International School 2020 -Contest for BRICS Young Leaders, organised by BRICS International School, National

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Committee on BRICS Research, Russia and BRICS Russia 2020 on 8 October 2020.
- Lead Speaker in the Webinar on “Towards the Italian G20 Presidency. Reframing Goals and Priorities of the G20 Agenda in a Post-COVID 19 World” organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on October 6, 2020.
 - Made a presentation virtually on ‘Future of globalization: Outlook for South Asian countries’ at the Webinar on COVID-19 and South Asia organised by SAWTEE, Nepal on 25 September 2020.
 - Made a presentation virtually on ‘India’s Healthcare Diplomacy’ at the Panel on Institutional and territorial scales interlocking in health diplomacy for InsSciDE Webinars: Science diplomacy and the cross-sectoral impacts of Covid-19 organised by UNESCO on 25 September 2020.
 - Co-chaired and made presentation virtually on Role of STI for Rural and Agriculture at the Panel on ‘Big Ideas to achieve Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Rural Development’, organized during BRICS Civil Forum on Advancing BRICS People2people Cooperation For Sustainable Future on 24 September 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on India’s development cooperation at the Discussion Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation organized by UN India on 23 September 2020.
 - Delivered virtually the Inaugural Baudhik Lecture on 4-Ds of Trade Policy - India’s Way Forward organized by Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU) on 19 September 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on Unlikely conversations after COVID-19 “What you want to know, but haven’t been able to ask” at the Expanding South-South Cooperation in an interdependent world SSC Day 2020 - Dialogue on effectiveness and measurement organised by APC-Colombia and UNOSSC on 11 September 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Regional Cooperation in South Asia at the Virtual Policy Dialogue on South Asian Cooperation for Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19 and Building Back Better organized by UNESCAP on 9 September 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Economy at the Global Event on Clean, green and improved: Policy priorities in a post-COVID-19 world organized by Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and TAF on 9 September 2020.
 - Delivered First Lecture of the IndiaLics series on ‘STI Innovation System and Endogeneity of Technology: Role of AEI and Governance in Atmanirbhar Bharat’ organized by GIFT on 1 September 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on New Agricultural Technologies and Rural Prosperity and Sustainability at the Online Round Table of Sustainable cities and rural development working group on Smart Details in Complex Systems: best practices in urban and rural development in the post-COVID era organized by Civil BRICS Russia on 18 August 2020.
 - Addressed the virtual International Round Table on ‘Economic Diplomacy of Uzbekistan: New Momentum’ organised by Embassy of Uzbekistan to India on 12 August 2020.
 - Moderated the Webinar on ‘India-Myanmar Convergence’ organised by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS) and MEA on 7 August 2020.
 - Panelist at a Virtual Round-table on “Recent Chinese Actions and India’s Response” organized by India Foundation on 22 July 2020.
 - Participated in the virtual discussion meeting on New Triangular Cooperation India Germany Third Country Initiative organized by GIZ on 17 July 2020.
 - Addressed virtually the new DEV Talks series “Reshaping development” Rewriting international cooperation: work in progress organized by OECD on 16 July 2020.
 - Addressed virtually the thematic panel on “Mega Science and International S&T Engagement” organized by Science Policy Forum, in partnership with the STIP Secretariat and Gubbi Labs and Center for Policy Research on 9 July 2020.
 - Made a virtual presentation on STI Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps: Indian Perspectives at the Virtual High-level HLPF side event on STI Roadmaps for SDGs - paving the pathways for sustainable recovery and future “resilience” co-organized by the Government of Serbia/METD, EC - JRC, UN IATT the Government of Japan/JST on 7 July 2020.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Made a virtual presentation on Towards A Blue Economy Strategy for India Emerging Opportunities and Challenges organized by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees on 25 June 2020.
- Made a virtual presentation at the Expert Group Meeting on “STI for SDGs Roadmaps – paving the pathways for sustainable recovery and future resilience” organised by UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs; the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) on 22 June 2020.
- Made a virtual presentation on G20 Leadership and Relevance of Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmaps at the Task Force 7: G20 Support for SDGs and Development Cooperation T20 Web Conference on Policy Recommendations for a Post-COVID-19 World on June 15-17, 2020.
- Made a presentation on New Financial Institutions and Prospects for Financial and Infrastructure Growth at the Virtual 60th NDC Course on Global Issues, Science and Technology on 29 May 2020.
- Panelist at the session on “Will the Covid-19 pandemic reshape the future international development cooperation?”, at the CIDGA/ CIDRN Global Development Cooperation Webinar Series on Strengthening Development Cooperation Against COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges on 15 May 2020.
- Made a presentation at Webinar on ‘Post COVID Crisis and Multilateralism’ organized by JNU on 8 May 2020.
- Special invitee at the Webinar on ‘Indian Solutions with Global Vision to Resolve Current Economic Crisis’ on the occasion of Shri Dattopant Thengadi Ji Birth Centenary Memorial Lecture Series organized by BVSS Economic Think Tank’s on May 8, 2020.
- Made a presentation on ‘Role of STI in Post COVID-19 World’ at the Live Talk organised by Vigyan Bharti on 30 April 2020.
- Made a presentation on COVID Pandemic and Implications for India-Africa Relations at a webinar on ‘COVID Pandemic and Implications for India-Africa Relations’ organized by Centre at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on April 29, 2020.
- Made a presentation on ‘India’s Policy Response to COVID-19 Pandemic’ at the organized by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia, 28 April 2020.
- Participated in the panel discussion of the Global Table “What can the G20 do to foster sustainable infrastructure?” at the Digital Global Solutions Summit on 18 April 2020.
- Made a presentation on Effect of Covid 19 preparing for AFCFTA and its impact on doing business with Africa at the Meeting on ‘AFCFTA and its impact on doing business with Africa’ organised by CII on 15 April 2020.
- Panelist at the Webinar on “Development Cooperation post COVID-19: Possible Implications of the Current Crisis” organised by UNDP, Seoul on 16 April 2020.
- Speaker in the webinar on Chinese Corona: Genesis, Spread and Implications organised by Vichar Vinimay Kendra, New Delhi on 7 April 2020.
- Participated as a Lead Speaker in the Roundtable on ‘Role of Regulators in Building a \$5 Trillion Economy’, organised jointly by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and SJM on 4 March 2020 at New Delhi.
- Delivered Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture on ‘Social and Economic Inequalities: Would Technology be the New Equaliser?’ at the 20th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (ISEC), Bangalore
- 27 February 2020.
- Made a presentation on “Economic Development Partnership including digital economy” at the Roundtable Discussion on ‘Uzbekistan-India: New horizons of strategic partnership’ organised by Embassy of Uzbekistan on 10 February 2020.
- Made a presentation on ‘Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of GM Crops and Biosafety’ to address the participants of Biotechnology/Biosafety Regulatory Study Tour of AUDA-NEPAD/ABNE high level African Delegation on “RIS-India Africa Initiatives” organized by TERI on 10 February 2020.
- Made a presentation on Trade and Investment in India-Africa Relations: Trends and Prospects at the Seminar on “Stepping Up India’s Engagements in Africa” organised by EXIM Bank on 31 January 2020.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Made a presentation on India's Development Cooperation with Neighbouring Countries at the 12th South Asia Conference on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions organized by Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) on 28 January 2020.
 - Made a presentation on 'Role of RIS in development of South-South Cooperation' at the Human Resource Improvement Programme on 'Plant Variety Protection, Seed Testing and Certification' for the officials of Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service organised by ICAR on 28 January 2020.
 - Made a presentation on G20 Leadership and Relevance of Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmaps at the T20 Inception Meeting organized by T20 Saudi Arabia on 19-20 January 2020.
 - Made a presentation on 'International instruments affecting tribal livelihood and institutional approaches to reduce migration' at the Conference on 'Migrating from tribal areas - Problems, solutions and Way Forward for MPs from Tribal Areas organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and YOJAK Center for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development on 16 January 2020, Thane.
 - Addressed the dinner conversation on 'A New Eastern Trade Route: Integrating the Bay of Bengal' organised during Raisina Dialogue 2020 by ORF on 15 January 2020.
 - Made a presentation on South-South Cooperation at the IFS Officer Trainees of 2019 Batch organized by Ministry of External Affairs on 7 January 2020.
- Prof. S. K. Mohanty**
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on India South Asia Study: Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan, organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 22 February 2021
 - As a Jury Member of the India EXIM Bank International Economic Research Annual (IERA) Award 2020 participated in the virtual First Meeting of the IERA Award Committee 2020 for selection of best abstract for award, held by India EXIM Bank on 11 February 2021.
 - Participated in the Collaborative Course on International Relations in the Indian Ocean Region: International Collative Study - Sessions 1a & 1b and made a presentation on 'Surging Economic Interest of India in IOR' organised by The University of Western Australia on 9 February 2021.
 - Participated in the Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021: Post-COVID-19 Challenges in the Bay of Bengal Region (BoBED 2021) and Chaired the Paper Presentation Session: Trade, jointly organised by SANEM, AIC, SAWTEE, Pathfinder and Chula Chulalongkorn University, Thailand on 9 February 2021.
 - Participated as Key Speaker and made discussion in the Session, 'Economic Revitalization: Situation and Challenges in Key Sectors' in the Indian Economic Association (IEA) on the 103rd Online Annual Conference, held on 27 December 2020.
 - Participated in the meeting on India's FTAs (Performance, Status of Negotiations and Way forward and made a presentation on Efficacy of India's FTAs: Joining the Debate, organised by NITI Aayog, Government of India, on 23 December 2020
 - Participated as a key speaker in the MP-IDSA-RIETI web Seminar and made a presentation on Changing Shades of India-Japan Economic Relationship Possibility of Trade and Investment in the GVC Sector, organized by The Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India, on 16 December 2020
 - Participated in the Indo-German 1.5 Track Dialogue, 2020 and made a presentation on Changing Shades of Economic Partnership between India and Germany, organized by Bertelsmann Stiftung, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and the German Federal Foreign Office in partnership with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), RIS and the Ministry of External Affairs of India, on 27 November 2020
 - Participated in the India-China Webinar and deliver a lecture on India and China Economic Relationship evolving Chinese linkages with South Asian Economies, organised by the Jamia Millia Islamia University on 18 November 2020
 - Participated in the International Webinar on the topic: Post-Strategic Outlook of the Countries of the Bay of Bengal

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- region, organised by Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS) on 26 October 2020
- Participated in the Interactive session with Maritime Research Center (MRC), Pune regarding Institutional collaboration on Blue Economy, held on 15 October 2020
- Participated as resource persons for the Panel Discussion on 'Opportunities and Challenges for the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region' and made a presentation on Blue Economy, organised by the Blue Economy Forum in collaboration with the Chair in Indian Ocean Studies, University of Mauritius, held on 12 October 2020.
- Participated as an expert on the Selection Committee for appointment of Assistant Professor in Centre for Indo Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University nominated by Vice-Chancellor, JNU, New Delhi, 3 February 2020.
- Participated in the 2nd Meeting of CII National Council on International Trade Policy 2019-20, and made a presentation on "India's RCEP Pull-out: What Next?" organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi on 10 February 2020.
- Participated in the discussion meeting on 'India's Economic Engagement with LAC: Strategy for Trade and Investment', organised and chaired by Joint Secretary (LAC), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 14 February 2020.
- Participated as a Guest of Honour in the National Conference on 'Coastal Ocean-Atmosphere Science & Technology (COAST 2020)', organised by Department of Marine Sciences, Berhampur University and made a presentation at Berhampur, Odisha on 28th February 2020.
- Participated as a speaker in the 'Regional Planning Workshop for the Northern/Central Indian Ocean countries as well as ROPME sea area towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-30)' and made a presentation on "A Transparent and Accessible Ocean", and also Chair the WG VI: A Transparent & Accessible Ocean organised by IOCINDIO, NIOT and NCCR at Chennai on 8 January 2020.
- Submitted report on 'Regional Economic Cooperation among IORA Countries: A Conceptual Note', to the Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM), Ministry of Commerce and Industries, New Delhi on 16 January 2020.
- Participated as a Panelist in the Seminar on "Stepping Up India's Engagements in Africa", organised by EXIM Bank and made a presentation on "India and Africa: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities", New Delhi on 31 January 2020
- Participated in the Webinar on "Improving India's Competitiveness for Inclusive Economic Growth" organized by CUTS International on 9 March 2021.
- Participated in the CII-SR Annual Regional Meeting 2020-21 and Industry Reset Summit on "Strategic Manufacturing in the Digital Era" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 6 March 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee - Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 22 and 27 January - 1 February and 6 March 2021.
- Participated in a Discussion on Three Farm Laws and Ground Reality - Land to Market organized by India International Centre on 5 March 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the meeting of Indo-Pacific Experts' Group organized by Vivekananda International Foundation on 3 March 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on "How can increased openness to trade in services support a strong economic recovery?" organized by Peterson Institute for International Economics on 3 March 2021.
- Participated in the Webinar on "Neighbourhood First: The Coup in Myanmar: Implications for India" organized by India International Centre on 26 February 2021 at New Delhi.
- Delivered the Special Address in the Workshop on "Facilitating India's Act East Policy: Assessing Infrastructure Gaps at LCS in North East Region of

Mr Rajeev Kher Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in the Roundtable on "RCEP-EU-China-India" organized by Ananta Aspen Centre on 24 March 2021.
- Participated in a Webinar on "Trade Policy and Reforms for Trade Facilitation: An Unfinished Agenda" organized by ICRIER on 24 March 2021.
- Participated in the True North Journeys 2021 on 17 March 2021.
- Participated in the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee constituted for IPRS 2.0 organised by Ministry of Commerce & Industry on 16 March 2021 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Webinar on "Future of Data Governance - Hear Experts" organized by CUTS International on 12 March 2021.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- India” organized by ICRIER on 25th February 2021 in Guwahati.
- Participated as a Guest of Honor in the Webinar on “Industry Expectations from Forthcoming New Foreign Trade Policy 2021-26” organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 23 February 2021
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Reimagining India-US Relations: The Modi-Binden-Harris Era” organized by FICCI in association with Indo American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC) in Washington DC on 18 February 2021.
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Improving India’s Competitiveness for Inclusive Economic Growth” organized by CUTS International on 17 February 2021 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Session on “India China Economic Relations: Future Trends” organized by CII on 9 February 2021.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Governing Board of ICAI Registered Valuers Organisation (ICAI RVO) on 4 February 2021.
 - Participated in the Indo-Pacific Experts’ Group meeting organized by Vivekananda International Foundation on 29th January 2020.
 - Participated in the “CII International Trade Policy Council” on 29 January 2021.
 - Participated in the discussion on Blue Economy “Emerging Sectors and New Technologies” organised by FICCI in association with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Maritime Foundation (NMF) on 28 January 2021.
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Improving India’s Competitiveness for Inclusive Economic Growth” organized by CUTS International on 27 January 2021 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as a Member of the CII Core Group on China on 22 January 2021 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the discussion on the Bank’s forward-looking strategy and financials organized by Airtel Bank on 15 January 2021, New Delhi.
 - Participated in Disciplinary Committee (Bench II) Meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India held on 9 and 16 October 2020, 9 and 29 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “Transforming Logistics Performance in BBIN Countries” organized by CUTS International held on 16 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “Why Should India ‘Join or Not Join’ the RCEP - Pros and Cons” organized by CUTS International held on 9 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Director’s Colloquium Power Talk Series 3 on “Corporate Governance and International Profit Shifting: Evidence from India” organized by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs held on 9 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the “2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee constituted for IPRS 2.0” organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry held on 8 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in IP Experts Group meeting organized by Vivekananda International Foundation held on 3 December 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the True North: Annual LP Conference 2020 held on 3 December 2020.
 - Participated in the ICRIER Seminar Series on G20: The Riyadh Summit, 2020 held on 30 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “Agriculture-Nutrition disconnect in India: A Look through Policies and Programmes” organized by India International Centre held on 25 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “The Agriculture - Nutrition disconnect in India: A look through Policies and Programmes” organized by India International Center held on 25 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “Deciphering the US Elections: Implications for India, the Region and the World” organized by Kalinga International Foundation held on 19 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Conversation of Pradeep Mehta with Pascal Lamy on “Broader Role of the WTO in Underwriting Peace, Security, Stability and Prosperity

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- in the World” organized by CUTS International held on 18 November 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a series of webinars on “Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System to Promote Development and Inclusivity” organized by The Centre for WTO Studies (New Delhi), in partnership with the South Centre (Geneva), Third World Network (Geneva), the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town (South Africa), the Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), South Africa, and Trade Training and Research Institute (Cambodia) held on 17 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director of Board and Committee meetings of Goodyear India Ltd. held on 6 November 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Audit Committee, Independent Directors, Customer Service Committee, IT Strategy Committee and Board of Directors” meetings organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 2 November 2020.
 - Participated in a meeting of CII Core Group on China held on 30 October 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as a Moderator in the First High Level Panel on “Designing an Enabling Ecosystem to Build Back Better-Government to Governance” organized by CRB held on 28 October 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in Indo-Pacific Experts’ Group meeting organized by Vivekananda International Foundation held on 23 October 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in a Webinar on “Hidden hand of the State behind the Technology Edge: What can the WTO do?” organized by the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in collaboration with Third World Network, Geneva, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), South Africa and Trade Training and Research Institute, Cambodia held on 20 October 2020.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Risk Management Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee and Board of Directors Meetings organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 16 October 2020.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Board Meeting of Kirloskar Brothers Limited held on 5 June and 25 September 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Independent Directors’ Dialogue Series in virtual mode – Series 1 organized by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) in collaboration with IOD held on 10 September 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Cross Border Subsidies and the WTO: An Analysis of the EU’s Toolkit” organised by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade held on 9 Sept 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Audit Committee meeting and Board Meeting of GIL held at 22 May, 12 June, 11 August and 4 September 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the webinar series on “Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System to Promote Development and Inclusivity” organised by Centre for Research on International Trade held on 2-3 September 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Imperative of Resurrecting Multilateralism” organized by CUTS international held on 3 September 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Annual General Meeting of Good year held on 13 August 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the Board Meeting and Audit Committee meeting of Kirloskar Brothers Limited held on 12 August 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the Webinar on “Future of India-China Economic Relations: Towards De-Coupling, Reduced Dependency, or a New Equilibrium?” organised by Institute of Chinese Studies held on 12 August 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated as an Independent Director in the 17th Risk Management Committee organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 7 and 10 August 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the 6th Session of the QCI PPID Steering Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2020 at New Delhi.
 - Participated in the First Meeting of Trade Policy Council 2020-21 organised by Confederation of Indian Industry held on 27 July 2020 at New Delhi

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Participated in the inception meeting for PO Policy Advocacy held on 9 July 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the meeting of Board of Directors organised by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 26 June 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Webinar on “Is Globalisation Really Dead?” organised by Indian Council of World Affairs held on 25 June 2020 at New Delhi
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Session on “India’s Geopolitical Security Concerns by Amb. Rajiv Dogra” organised by True North Managers LLP held on 22 June 2020 at Mumbai.
- Participated in the Webinar on “What would happen to a World without the WTO?” organized by CUTS international held on 10 June 2020 at New Delhi
- Chaired the Session on “Enhancing Exports through Integration into the Global Value Chain: Opportunities in Asia Pacific, North America and European Union” organised by Confederation of Indian Industry held on 28 May, 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Nomination and Remuneration Committee Meeting organised by Good year held on 22 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the session with BCG-Implications of COVID-19 on the Economy and Business organised by Kirloskar Brothers Limited held on 21 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Webinar on “A Manufacturing Strategy for India” organized by ICRIER held on 21 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the webinar on “New World Order: A perspective for Indian Industry” organised by FICCI held on 20 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the webinar on “India-China Relations@70 Recaping the Milestone: Imganing the Future” organized by Indian Council of World Affairs held at 5 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee – Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India held on 1 and 6 May, 11 and 22 May, 11 July and 26 and 28 August 2020.
- Participated in the Webinar on ‘Economic fallout of Covid-19 in India’ organised by ICRIER held on 1 May 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the New Director Induction Meeting organized by Airtel Payments Bank Limited held on 28 and 30 April at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Webinar on “Re-imaging the Global Health Agenda: What Role can India Play?” organized by Indian Council of World Affairs held on 29 April 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Interactive Session to Discuss AYUSH Ministry project and the Commerce Ministry project on Pharma held on 23 April 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Sixth Meeting of the CII Core Group on China held on 14 April, 19 June and 10 July 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Rising India 2020 Summit organized by Network18 group held on 18-19 March 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as in the meeting on “True North Pathfinders Business Leaders’ Conclave” held on 5-7 March 2020 at Gurugram.
- Participated in the meeting of Indian Advisory Board of Coca Cola Pvt. Ltd. held on 28 February 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a member of the Steering Committee for the Project Planning & Implementation Division (PPID) of Quality Council of India (QCI) held on 19 February 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Audit and Finance Committee meeting organized by Kirloskar Brother Limited held on 14 February 2020 at Indore.
- Participated in the 2nd meeting of CII National Council on “International Trade Policy 2019-20” held on 10 February 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the 5-Insitute Budget Seminar 2020-21 on Reforms and Development perspectives organized by CPR, ICRIER, IDF, NCAER and NIPFP held on 8 February 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated CRIT evaluation-Meetings with DoC officials held on 5-6 February 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Brainstorming session on WTO’s Appellate Body Crisis organized by Centre for WTO Studies held on 30 January 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated in an Evaluation Meeting organized by Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT) held on 23-28 January 2020 at New Delhi.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Participated in EXIM bank meeting held on 21 January 2020 at Mumbai.
- Chaired the session on Leveraging Trade Agreements to Address the Rising Incidence of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) held on 15 January 2020 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Kirloskar Brothers Limited celebration the completion of its 100 years of incorporation as a public limited company held on 6 January 2020 at New Delhi.

Professor T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Made a presentation on “IPR-Relevance in Agriculture in the current Scenario” at the Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthi on 19 October, 2020.
 - Delivered Keynote address on the topic “Changing Dynamics of Intellectual Property for Development” at the Inaugural Session of National Symposium on Intellectual Property Rights organised by Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad on 11 October, 2020.
 - Delivered a lecture on “Geographical Indications & Traditional Knowledge “during a web-based workshop organised by TIFAC, New Delhi and Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology, Dehradun on 11th September, 2020.
 - Made a presentation on the virtual Round Table on Utility Model Protection under Indian Scenario organised by Maharashtra National Law University on 29th August, 2020.
 - Chaired the session on ‘Protection of Geographical
- Indications: Key Challenges’ at the Round Table organised by National Law School of India University, Bangalore on 20 August, 2020.
- Made a presentation on ‘Copyright issues in academic Institutions’ in a Webinar organised by B.I.T. Mesra, Ranchi on 17 August, 2020.
 - Attended the meeting on amendments to Biological Diversity Act organised by Ministry of AYUSH on 15th July, 2020.
 - Spoke at the Webinar on developing a project for “Documentation of Bio-cultural Heritage of Tribes of Kerala part of Western Ghats” organised by Kerala State Biodiversity Board in association with Kerala State Film Development Corporation on 3rd July, 2020.
 - Made a web-presentation on “How to get a Copyright - A Step by Step Process” at Prestige Institute of Management and Research Indore on 29th June, 2020
 - Gave a talk on ‘IP and Its Importance in Skilling Ecosystem’ in a webinar organised by Sagacious IP and National Skill Development Corporation on 19th June, 2020.
 - Made keynote address on Innovation for green future at the IPR Awareness and Innovation Promotion Forum (IAIPF) Webinar 26 April, 2020.
 - Made a presentation on ‘Covid-19 pandemic and green innovation: Exploring Social Aspects of IPR’ in a Webinar organised by Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi on 26 April, 2020
- Delivered a talk on ‘Access and Benefit Sharing under Biological Diversity Act, 2002’ at Indian Academy of International Studies on 12 February, 2020.

Dr. B. Balakrishnan

Science Diplomacy Fellow

- Participated in the DST Experts Committee meeting to review the functioning of DST Centres for Policy Research, held on 22 March 2021.
- Participated as speaker in Webinar on 10 February on the topic - Ambitions and Achievements of India’s Science Diplomacy, organised by AVRIST, Paris, France on 10 February 2021.
- Participated in Experts Meeting organized by the Department of Science and Technology on STIP on 24 January 2021.
- Participated in the closed panel discussion on Biosafety and Biosecurity in India organised by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on 21 December 2020.
- Participated as a main speaker on “Science Diplomacy- An Introduction” in the workshop organised by the South Asia Science Diplomacy Working Group of Global Young Academy on 21 November 2020.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the T20 Task Force 6 meeting of co-authors held on 22nd March 2021, to steer the Policy Brief on ‘How do we know? Monitoring, evaluating, and planning early childhood policies and practices as key to effective and resilient social welfare systems’ covering ‘Early Childhood Care and Education’.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Participated as a discussant in the Policy and Evaluation issues in the National Consultative Roundtable Dialogue organized by TERI on 2nd March 2021, on SDG 12, which covers the critical issues of Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- Participated in a meeting with the Scientific Secretary, DST, Government of India on 25th February 2021, for deliberations to take forward the work on STI for SDGs. Under the project RIS is the knowledge partner to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), as India is one of the partner countries in the Pilot programme on Technology Facilitation Mechanism.
- Participated in the meeting with the Indian Ambassador to ASEAN on 10th February 2021, in which as a member of the RIS team apprised and deliberated upon on the ASEAN-India co-operation and its wider context.
- Participated in Think Tank 20 (T20) Summit event on 31 October -1 November 2020, and handover event to Italy on 30th November 2020.
- Participated as a speaker in the T20 side event on the issue of 'Early childhood care and sustainability', on 4th November 2020.
- Participated in all the eleven Task Forces meetings organized by T20 Saudi Arabia, including the Task Force 10 on 22 October 2020 covering our co-authored Policy Brief on Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems.
- Participated in the Webex Discussion meeting on the issue related to childhood care and education with Professor Mathias, Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, Dublin City University on 1 October 2020 .
- Participated as a speaker in the WFP's virtual event on 'Towards effective South-South knowledge brokerage in view of COVID-19 and the trend of digitalization' held on 24th September 2020.
- Participated in all the eleven Task Forces meeting organized by T20 Saudi Arabia started from 17th September 2020.
- Made presentation on the main points emerged during Day 1 (23rd June 2020) of the workshop with Japan relating to Developing STI Partnerships for Sustainable Development on 29th June 2020.
- Participated in a virtual meeting on "Report of Nepal Voluntary Peoples Review of SDGs 2020", organized by SDGs National Network Nepal on 9 June.
- Participated in a virtual meeting on "Sustainable Resources in a Post COVID-19 World" organized by the T20 Task Force 10 Saudi Arabia on 3 June.
- Participated in all the eleven Task Forces meeting organized by T20 Saudi Arabia started from 17th September 2020.
- Participated in a virtual meeting on "Report of Nepal Voluntary Peoples Review of SDGs 2020", organized by SDGs National Network Nepal on 9 June.
- Participated in a virtual meeting on "Sustainable Resources in a Post COVID-19 World" organized by the T20 Task Force 10 Saudi Arabia on 3 June.

Mr. Krishna Kumar

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the meeting with the Indian Ambassador to ASEAN on 10 February 2021, in which as a member of the RIS team apprised and deliberated upon on the ASEAN-India co-operation and its wider context.
- Participated in Think Tank 20 (T20) Summit event on 31st October -1st November 2020, and handover event to Italy on 30th November 2020.

Dr K. Ravi Srinivas

Visiting Fellow

- Panelist in the Session on 'Reflections from related global, regional and sectoral initiatives' in the Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, on 3 February, Vienna.
- Delivered a talk on 'Responsible Innovation and Artificial Intelligence' in RIISE 2020 on 31st January 2020 at in IIIT-Delhi.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor

- Made a presentation at the session on “Economic Impact of Covid-19 on BRICS countries” at the IV BRICS Conference of the University of São Paulo (USP) organised by the Faculty of Law (FDUSP) and the Department of International and Comparative Law (DIN) on 26 October 2020.
- Inaugural Session of Webinar Series on “Localisation of SDGs in the North East” organised by RIS and NETRA Foundation, 4 July 2020.
- Nominated as Member, Thematic Group on Sustainable Technologies towards Science, Technology, Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020, Government of India
- Participated in the Workshop on Human Development Report 2020 on 3 February 2020 at

Seoul, South Korea. Made presentation on “Development and Sustainability: SDG inspired Policy Tools and Partnerships”, organised by UNDP Seoul Policy Centre.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Assistant Professor

- Made presentation on “Fintech and Changing Landscape of Global Trade” in the First International Conference titled ‘Japan-South Asia Connections on Economy, Health and Education’ organized by South Asia Research Center at Soka University, Japan on October 31, 2020.
- Presented remarks at the webinar on “Strategising India’s Policy Direction in G20” organized by VANI-FIDC-Heinrich Boll Stiftung on October 28, 2020.
- Made presentation on “Quality and Resilient Infrastructure for

Development- India’s Recent Experience” in the BRICS Academic Forum held on October 13, 2020.

- Made presentation on “Tackling Economic Fallout of COVID-19 pandemic: Policy Choices and Experiences from BRICS and G20” at the 2020 RIN Online Workshop Series on COVID-19 on September 25, 2020 organised by IDE-JETRO Bangkok Research Centre.
- Joined as a panelist in the Webinar on “Opportunity in Crisis: Green Energy as The New Normal” organised by the Asia Foundation on June 4, 2020.
- Participated in T20 Saudi Arabia Inception Conference as authors of policy briefs in Task Force 3 & 8 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on January 19-20, 2020.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Publications

Anand, P. K. and Kumar, Krishna (2020). ‘Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems’, T20 Saudi Arabia Policy Brief. (Co-authored)

Anand, P. K., Krishna Kumar et.al (2020). ‘Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems’, T20 Policy Brief under Task Force 10 Sustainable Energy, Water and Food, Saudi Arabia.

Chaturvedi, S., A. Alharbi and Sabyasachi Saha 2020. “G20 Leadership and Relevance of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps”, T20 Saudi Arabia Policy Brief, October 2020.

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Dash Priyadarshi. 2020. ‘AAGC and Economic Prosperity in Indo-Pacific’ in Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.

Chaturvedi, Sachin and K. Ravi Srinivas. 2019. ‘Evaluating technology in India: From national to global scale’. In Technology assessment as a method of forecasting socio-economic consequences of technological innovations. International cooperation and regional developments in Russia. A Series of International Parliamentary Experience, Toical Issues, European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA), December.

Chaturvedi, Sachin et.al. 2020. G20 Leadership and Relevance of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps. Task Force 7 on G20 Support for SDGs and Development Cooperation – Policy Brief, T20, Saudi Arabia.

Chaturvedi, Sachin et.al. 2021. An Evolving Shared Concept of Development Cooperation: Perspectives on the 2030 Agenda. In the Sachin Chaturvedi, Heiner Janus, Stephan Klingebiel, Li Xiaoyun, André de Mello e Souza, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos and Dorothea Wehrmann (eds.) The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030. The Palgrave Macmillan: Switzerland.

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

- Chaturvedi, Sachin et.al. 2021. Conclusion: Leveraging Development Cooperation Experiences for the 2030 Agenda – Key Messages and the Way Forward. In the Sachin Chaturvedi, Heiner Janus, Stephan Klingebiel, Li Xiaoyun, André de Mello e Souza, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos and Dorothea Wehrmann (eds.) The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030. The Palgrave Macmillan: Switzerland.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin et.al. 2021. Development Cooperation in the Context of Contested Global Governance. In the Sachin Chaturvedi, Heiner Janus, Stephan Klingebiel, Li Xiaoyun, André de Mello e Souza, Elizabeth Sidiropoulos and Dorothea Wehrmann (eds.) The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030. The Palgrave Macmillan: Switzerland.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin et.al. 2021. Global Trends in Triangular Cooperation with India - Emerging Policy Choices for Enhanced Collaboration with Civil Society Organisations, OECD Working Paper No. 89. January.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. COVID-19: The world needs to come together: Deepening partnerships and minimising the trade and economic impact, Financial Express, March 25.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. कोरोना से फार्मा कम्पनियों को टेन्शन, दवा के लिए कहाँ से आएगा कच्चा माल !, Moneycontrol, 6 February.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Post-COVID-19 Development and Global Governance: The Emerging Role of Science and Technology, OECD Blog, Development Matters, Covid-19, governance, Science, Technology, 10 September 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. RBI Guv showed zero tolerance on compliance front. The Economic Times, 6 March.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. RBI taking a constructive approach to address NPA risks, ET Now, 17 April 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2021. Inclusive Development - Enabling Social Sector, Yojana Special Issue - A Development Monthly, March 2021.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. G20 Leadership and Relevance of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps, Policy Brief, TF7: G20 Support for SDGs and Development Cooperation, T20 Saudi Arabia, September 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). 2020. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi. 2020. 'Introduction' in Chaturvedi, Sachin; Prakash, Anita and Dash, Priyadarshi (eds.). Asia-Africa Growth Corridor - Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer: Singapore.
- Dash, Priyadarshi. 2020. Growth Triggers in Asia-Pacific: Quality Infrastructure & Digital Economy, Japan Spotlight, November-December 2020.
- De, Prabir. 2021. "Building Partnership with ASEAN and Korea's New Southern Policy: Views from India, World Economy Brief, Vol. 11, No. 13, KIEP, Seoul, March 19, 2021
- De, Prabir. 2021. "Regional Integration in Bay of Bengal Region in Post-Covid-19 Period", ARTNeT Working Paper # 204, UNESCAP, Bangkok
- De, Prabir. 2021. "The BIMSTEC Moment" in ORF (2021) BIMSTEC in 2021, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Kolkata
- Kumar, Krishna. 2020. 'Integrated Nexus Policies for Sustainable and Resilient energy, water and food systems', T20 Saudi Arabia Policy Brief. (Co-authored)
- Mohanty, S.K. 2020. Paper on 'Regional Economic Dynamics of BIMSTEC during the Global Recession: China Factor in the Regional Caucus.' Pondicherry University.
- Mohanty, S.K. 2021. 'India-US Trade Negotiations: Issues for the Trade Deal'. Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- Mohanty, S.K. 2021. Chapters on "Potential for India-Japan Cooperation in Trade Facilitation in Africa" and "Economic Opportunities in Blue Economy in Africa" in Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: Development and Cooperation in Indo-Pacific. Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. January.
- Saha, Sabyasachi, S Chaturvedi and A Alharbi. 2020. T20 Saudi Arabia Policy Brief on "G20 Leadership and Relevance of the Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps," October 2020 (with).
- Srinivas, K. R. 2020. 'Governance of Emerging Technologies/Applications in the Bio/Life Sciences: Genome Editing and Synthetic Biology' in Chaurasia,

RIS Faculty Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues and Publications

Anurag, Hawksworth CBE, David L., Pessoa de Miranda, Manoela (Eds.), *GMOs: Implications for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Processes*, Springer 2020 Pp 441-462.

- Srinivas, Krishna Ravi. 2020. Book Review: What Can India's Embrace of Nanotech Tell Us About India's Science?, *The Wire*, 21 August. <https://science.thewire.in/society/nanoscale-pankah-sekhsaria-jugaad-nanotechnology-innovation/>
- Srinivas, Krishna Ravi. 2020. Vaccines: The Challenge to Ensure Fair, Equitable and Inclusive Access to Technology, *The Wire*, 4 September. <https://science.thewire.in/the-sciences/vaccines-the-challenge-to-ensure-fair-equitable-and-inclusive-access-to-technology/>

Popular Articles

- Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Use external funds effectively as debt keeps rising', *The Daily Star*, October 28, 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Will Joe Biden be able to defeat Trumpism in trade?', *The Economic Times*, 21 December 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin 2020. 'Holding cos will separate promoters from banks - No Attempt to Dilute Regulatory Architecture', *The Times of India*, 30 November 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Emerging Dynamics of India-US Partnership -Deepening Cooperation in Times of COVID, *Financial Express*, April 11.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Emerging strategy for structural and functional (संरचनात्मक और कार्य सम्बन्धी सुधारों के लिए उभरती रणनीति), *Aaj Samaj (Hindi)*, 20 May 2020.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Focus on MSMEs to boost manufacturing in India, *Moneycontrol*, 17 June.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. From crisis to leveraging opportunity, *The Statesman*, 22 May.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. How real is the truce in the US-China trade war?, *Moneycontrol*, 20 January.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Transmission of this rate cut has to be a lot faster. *The Economic Times*, 27 March.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2020. Will changes in FDI policy meet India's long-term strategic needs?, *Moneycontrol*, 24 April.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2021. 'Economic Survey has set the stage for promoting local production, consumption', *Indian Express*, January 30.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2021. India needs a new narrative on international trade, *Moneycontrol*, 7 January 2021.
- De, Prabir. 2021. "Patience please: India's ASEAN journey has much further to go", *The Mint*, 25 February 2021, New Delhi
- Kher, Rajeev 2020. "Does India's PLI Scheme Put the Cart Before the Horse?" *Bloomberg*, November 2020.
- Mohanty, S.K. 2020. "Taka Talks in a Tailored Suit: Exports, robust domestic economy and macroeconomic stability fuel Bangladesh's growth since 2004". *Outlook India Magazine*, December 28.
- Peter, Augustine. 2021. Priorities the new WTO DG must have'. *Financial Express*, 24 February.

15

Data and Information Centre

RIS Documentation Centre of the institute has obtained vast collection of latest specialized publications, reports, databases, e-journals and articles, etc. for providing up-to-date information to RIS Faculty and visiting scholars. It exchange programme of publications with a number of national and international organizations and keeps enriching the resource base by adding more publications and study programmes on issues of critical importance to the developing world.

The Centre has been having close linkages with key global institutions like FAO, ILO, OECD, UN, UNCTAD, World Bank, WTO, etc. Working Papers, Discussion Papers, Re-prints, Occasional Papers from national and international organizations, in print and electronic formats are received either through mutually exchanged programmes or downloaded through institutional websites. The current collection has more than 24,590 books that include government publications, documents of other research institutions in print and electronic format, in addition to 1850 journals in bound volumes. The centre also subscribes to more than 434 print and online journals/magazines that includes jstor, Elsevier- sciencedirect, Oxford University Press, Taylor& Francis Wiley etc. and gets about 50 journals

on complimentary basis from prestigious sources. There are more than 350 CD Roms and databases. and being a member of DELNET, it promotes resource-sharing. The Current Awareness Service is provided to the Faculty on regular basis.

The rich collection is available online through intranet for easy access.

Documentation Centre/Library 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 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. The Indian database covers time series database on trade at 8-digit level, database of Indian companies and their financial performance, social- economic database, and customs tariff among others.

RIS Data Server

The institute maintains modern Data Server, which is firewalled against any possible external attacks, including data exterminating viral or hacking as part of enhanced security of its databank. RIS 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, Indian Firms Database, Direction of trade statistics, (Dots) World Development Indicators (WDI), etc. These databases on server are updated on a regular basis. It provides instant updated data to Faculty members, which profoundly helps in their evidence-based research studies and obviates the need for subscription to expensive multiple global data systems for individual faculty.

RIS Website and Online Documentation Centre

(www.ris.org.in)

This website is updated on daily basis with more aesthetically impressive, user-friendly, content-wise rich, and equipped with latest features and functions. It is updated on a real time basis by RIS in-house team to put across the wide body of rigorous research studies and related events in the global public domain as a part of its outreach programme. It gives substantial up-to-date information on the core areas of the work programme of RIS, including health, trade, finance, investment, development cooperation, global economic issues, regional cooperation, South-South cooperation, health, science, technology and innovation. It provides free download facility of the wide range of publications brought out by RIS 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 2018-19, three new sub-domains have been developed in-house and linked to the RIS website for their clearer and wider accessibility. The eleven sub-domains under the RIS main website are:

BRICS

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

BIMSTEC

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

Asia Africa Growth Corridor

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

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Initiative

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

Sustainable Development Goals

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

STI for SDGs

<http://sti4sdg.ris.org.in>

Forum for Indian Development Cooperation

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

FISD

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

Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM)

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

Blue Economy Forum

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

Global Development Center (GDC)

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

ASEAN India Centre

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

New Asia Forum

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

In addition, the website also features the following website pages:

Asian Investment Infrastructure Bank

<http://ris.org.in/asian-infrastructure-investment-bank>

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum

<http://ris.org.in/science-technology-and-innovation-policy-stip-forum-and-monthly-lecture-series-0>

Delhi Process

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

Documents on Non-Aligned Movement

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

Summer School

<http://ris.org.in/summer-school-0>

Paris Peace Forum

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

Other Websites maintained by RIS

Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST)

<http://southernthinktanks.org>

IBSA

<http://ibsa-trilateral.org>

South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)

<http://saceps.org.in>

RIS website has witnessed a substantial increase in the number of hits in viewership. It has gained the status of one of the top research institute results powered by Google thereby underlining its expanding 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 organizations, prominent academia and other national and international eminent personalities to keep them abreast of the wide variety of credible research work being carried out by RIS on issues of critical importance to the developing countries.

Social Media

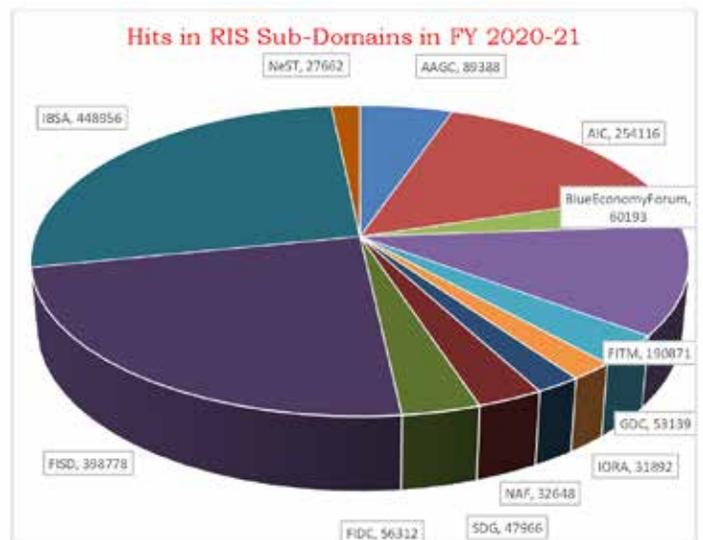
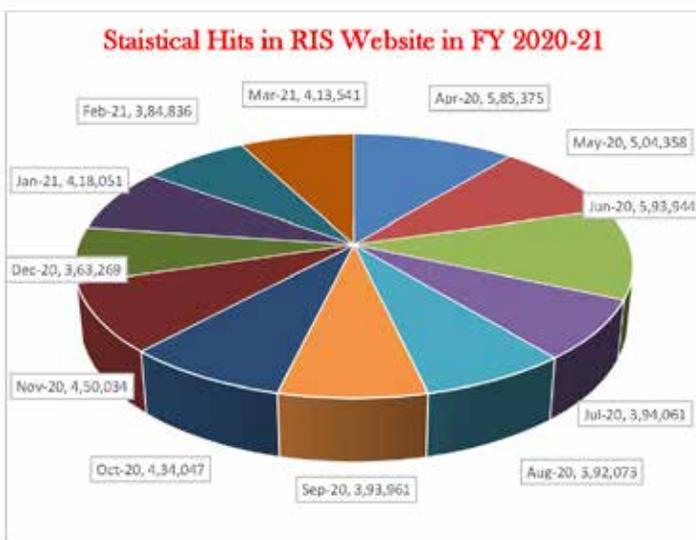
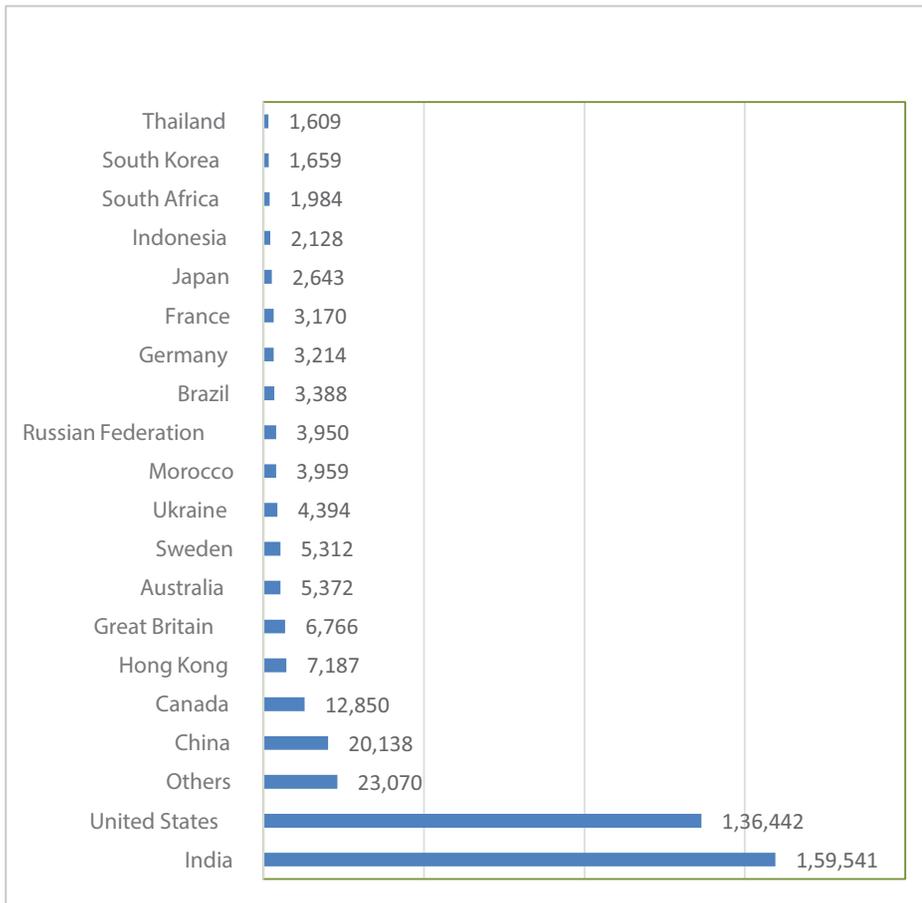
The institute has deepened its presence on the social media platforms like Blog, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. RIS YouTube channel is constantly kept updated. Video recordings of events are made available in YouTube for easy access. RIS YouTube channel has shown increase in viewership and its subscriber's base. The number of followers is more than 4k followers on Facebook and its pages have been rated at 4.3 out of 5 on the basis of public opinion polls. Every major activity of RIS is immediately flashed on both these platforms for quick public access on real time basis and there is response from viewers highly encouraging.

RIS Intranet Facility

RIS institute also provides intranet facility for faculty and administrative staff that provides password protected information to employees regarding their service matters, including leave records, salary slips, medical reimbursements and other details.

RIS has research databases for Faculty which are available in CD format covering Direction of Trade Statistics, CUSTADA, World Development Indicators, Government Financial Statistics (IMF), International Financial Statistics (IMF) among others.





Human Resource



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

Specialisation: International Economic Development and Cooperation

Faculty



Dr S. K. Mohanty

Professor

Specialisation: Global & Regional
Economic Integration
Trade and Development Issues



Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor
(till 31 January 2021)

Associate Professor
(from 1 February 2021)

Specialisation: : Technology &
Development Economics and
International Trade



Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Assistant Professor
(till 31 January 2021)

Associate Professor
(from 1 February 2021)

Specialisation: Macroeconomics
and International Finance



Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor
(from 15 March 2021)

Specialisation: Trade, Technology,
and Labour Market



Dr Beena Pandey

Research Associate

Specialisation: Social Sector,
Gender Empowerment and
Development Issues



Dr Sushil Kumar

Consultant (till 31 January 2021)

Assistant Professor
(from 1 February 2021)

Specialisation: International trade
and finance



Dr Amit Kumar

Research Associate
(till 31 January 2021)

Assistant Professor
(from 1 February 2021)

Specialisation: Innovation, foresight,
and S&T governance



Ms Pankhuri Gaur

Assistant Professor
(from 1 February 2021)

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

Specialisation: Economic diplomacy and South-South Cooperation**Professor Amitabh Kundu**

Distinguished Fellow

*(till April 2020)**Specialisation:* SDGs and methodology for impact assessment for regional cooperation**Mr R V Shahi**

Distinguished Fellow

(from 15 September 2020)

Visiting Fellows/Consultants/Research Associates

**Mr Bhaskar Balakrishnan***Science Diplomacy Fellow**Specialisation:* STI Cooperation and Science Policy**Dr K. Ravi Srinivas***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* IPRs and global trade**Professor T C James***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)**Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee***Consultant (till April 2020)**Specialisation:* Public policy, specially in energy**Professor Milindo Chakrabarti***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Micro-economics, International trade, development cooperation and evaluation**Mr Arun Somachudan Nair***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Foreign trade and investment**Dr P K Anand***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Economic growth and development**Dr Augustine Peter***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Trade investment and Competition Policy**Mr Krishna Kumar***Visiting Fellow**Specialisation:* Official statistics and SDGs

Visiting Fellows/Consultants/Research Associates

**Dr Namrata Pathak***Research Associate**Specialisation: Traditional knowledge***Dr Abha Jaiswal***Visiting Fellow**(till April 2020)**Specialisation: Public health policy and Management***Dr Kapil Patil***Research Associate**Specialisation: STI Policy, Science Diplomacy***Dr Sneha Sinha***Research Associate**Specialisation: Science and technology studies***Dr Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay***Consultant**(from 10 January 2021)**Specialisation: Indian Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation***Dr Dinesh Kumar***Research Associate**(till 28 February 2021)**Specialisation: International trade***Dr Tanzeem Hasnat***Research Associate**Specialisation: International and financial economics***Dr Deepika Chawla***Research Associate**(till 28 February 2021)**Specialisation: Development economics and innovation studies*

ASEAN India Centre at RIS

**Dr Prabir De**

Professor/Coordinator, AIC

Specialisation: International Economics, Trade & Transport Facilitation and Service Trade**Ms Sreya Pan***Research Associate**Specialisation: International trade***Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy**Consultant *(till 31 March 2021)**Specialisation: International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment & Applied Econometrics*

Global Development Initiative

**Ms Sadhana Relia**

GDC Fellow
(from 1 December 2020)

**Ms Rituparna Banerjee**

GDC Manager
(from 1 December 2020)

**Mr Amit Arora**

GDC Manager
(from 1 December 2020)

**Mr Abhinav Jha**

Research Associate
(till 31 January 2021)

Research Assistants

**Ms Prativa Shaw**

M. A. (Economics)

**Ms Aditi Gupta**

M. A. (Economics)

**Mr Apurva Bhatnagar**

*M. A. (Development
Economics)*

**Mr Ankur Jaiswal**

*M.Sc. (Economics)
till 15 April 2020*

**Ms Chandni Dawani**

M. A. (Economics)

**Ms Sabhya Rai**

*MSc (Economics)
till 7 May 2021*

**Ms Sunanda Mahajan**

M. A. (Economics)

**Ms Neeharika**

*MSc (Economics)
till 28 July 2020*

**Ms Sonal Garg**

*M. A. (Economics)
till 16 April 2021*

**Mr Siddharth Naidu**

from 17 November 2020

**Ms Debanjana Dey**

from 19 November 2020

Adjunct Senior Faculty

**Professor Anil Sooklal**

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

**Professor Haribabu Ejnavarzala**

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

**Dr Benu Schneider**

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

**Professor Amrita Narlikar**

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

**Professor Mukul G. Asher**

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

**Dr Balakrishna Pisupati**

Chairperson, FLEDGE and Former Chairman, NBA, Chennai

**Dr Biswajit Banerjee**

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

**Dr. Mitu Sengupta**

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

**Professor Manmohan Agarwal**

Formerly RBI Chair Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

**Professor Shahid Ahmed**

Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia

**Professor Srividhya Ragavan**

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

**Dr Ramkishan S. Rajan**

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

**Dr Suma Athreye**

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

**Dr T. P. Rajendran**

Formerly Assistant Director General, ICAR and Visiting Fellow, RIS

**Professor Kevin P. Gallagher**

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

**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 Mahesh C. Arora*Director (Finance and Administration)***DG Office**

Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra, Head, DG's Office

Mr N.N. Krishnan, Personal Assistant

Mrs Ritu Parnami, Personal Assistant

Ms Gohar Naaz, Secretarial Assistant

Publications Department

Mr Tish Kumar Malhotra, Publication Officer

Mr Sanjay Sharma, Consultant (Editorial)

Mr Sachin Singhal, Publication Assistant (Designing & Web)

Library and Documentation Centre

Mrs Jyoti, Assistant Librarian

Mrs Sushila, Library Assistant

Information Technology/Databases Unit

Mrs Sushma Bhat, Dy. Director (Data Management)

Mr Chander Shekhar Puri, Dy. Director (Systems)

Mrs Poonam Malhotra, Computer Assistant

Mr Satya Pal Singh Rawat, Jr. Assistant

Mr Soumya Ranjan, IT Assistant

Finance & AdministrationMr V. Krishnamani, Dy. Director (Finance & Administration
Till 31 May 2020. Administrative Consultant Since 1 June 2020)

Mrs Sheela Malhotra, Section Officer (Accounts)

Mrs Anu Bisht, Assistant

Mr Surjeet, Accountant

Mr Anil Kumar, Assistant

Mr Piyush Verma, LDC

Mrs Shalini Sharma, LDC/Receptionist

Research/Secretarial Support

Ms Kiran Wagh, PA

Mr Sanjeev Sharma, PS

Mr Surender Kumar, PS

Mrs Bindu Gambhir, Stenographer

Mr J. Srinivas Rao, Secretarial Assistant

Mr Baidnath Pandey, Office Assistant

Support Staff

Mr Satyavir Singh (Sr. Staff Car Driver)

Mr J.B. Thakuri (Staff Car Driver)

Mr Balwan (Daftri)

Mr Pradeep

Mr Raju

Mr Raj Kumar

Mr Manish Kumar

Mr Raj Kumar

Mr Sudhir Rana

Mr Birju

Mr Pradeep Negi

Financial Statements

SINGH KRISHNA & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

8, Second Floor, Krishna Market, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019
Tele.: 40590344, e-mail: skac@mail@gmail.com

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 March 31, 2021, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipt and Payment Account for the year then ended, and schedules to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at March 31, 2021, of its financial performance and receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards 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 ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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.

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.

for Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C



(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

UDIN : 21077494AAAAV7759



Place : New Delhi
Date : 12/10/2021

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

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2021

Amount in ₹

	Sch. #	As at 31-Mar-21	As at 31-Mar-20
LIABILITIES			
Research and Development Fund	1	13,56,55,874.86	12,12,06,400.18
Property, Plant and Equipment Fund (Non - FCRA)	2	1,96,97,803.00	2,04,70,092.00
Property, Plant and Equipment Fund (FCRA)		2,52,597.00	51,914.00
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	68,00,325.14	1,17,43,716.58
Unspent Balance of Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		87,27,688.28	1,35,45,613.80
Current Liabilities and Provisions (Non - FCRA)	4	4,29,25,126.67	4,35,87,287.67
Current Liabilities and Provisions (FCRA)		12,23,949.00	36,04,200.00
Total		21,52,83,363.95	21,42,09,224.23
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA)	5	1,96,97,803.00	2,04,70,092.00
Property, Plant and Equipment (FCRA)		6,53,893.00	4,53,210.00
Investment (Non - FCRA)	6	5,06,46,467.00	3,03,46,419.00
Investment (FCRA)		9,23,84,916.33	8,80,50,977.33
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	3	51,06,303.00	1,91,88,065.04
Amount Recoverable from Sponsored Projects (FCRA)		-	14,84,068.18
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	7	3,29,23,505.48	2,75,08,130.40
Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. (FCRA)		1,38,70,476.14	2,67,08,262.28
Total		21,52,83,363.95	21,42,09,224.23

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 Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C


(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

Place : New Delhi
Date : 12/10/2021



for Research and Information System for Developing Countries


Mahesh C. Arora
Director (Finance and 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, 2021

		Amount in ₹	
	Sch. #	Year Ended 31-Mar-21	Year Ended 31-Mar-20
INCOME			
Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	4(a)	10,98,70,364.00	11,53,67,123.00
Sponsored Projects Grant transferred to meet Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	2,69,50,673.78	7,81,05,121.82
Surplus amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		45,77,697.00	14,85,367.85
Income from Royalty, Publications, etc. (Non - FCRA)		96,742.72	95,624.88
Interest Earned :			
On Term Deposits (FCRA)		57,63,307.00	58,44,535.00
On Term Deposits (Non - FCRA)		26,64,439.00	10,96,315.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (FCRA)		3,45,966.00	3,81,734.00
On Savings Account/ Auto Sweep A/c (Non - FCRA)		3,05,933.00	7,17,700.00
On Loan to Employees (Non - FCRA)		1,166.00	17,751.00
On Income Tax Refund (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		1,02,177.00	-
Other Miscellaneous Income (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		100.00	3,02,587.50
Recoveries for Training Programs and Overheads from Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)		16,45,820.00	76,58,289.68
Prior Period Income		-	38,503.00
Income on Disposal of Tangible Assets		-	91,338.00
Payable Written Off		1,146.00	2,44,441.00
Amount transferred from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund - W.D.V. of Assets Sold/ Written-off (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	2	45,563.00	15,900.00
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)		47,65,546.00	47,33,456.00
Total		15,71,36,640.50	21,61,95,787.73
EXPENDITURE			
Programme Expenses - Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	8	2,69,50,673.78	7,81,05,121.82
Establishment Expenses (Non - FCRA)	9	7,93,17,435.00	7,61,17,846.00
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (Non - FCRA)	10	3,00,17,521.64	3,93,71,705.98
Administrative and Other Programme Expenses (FCRA)	11	20,620.36	2,05,856.30
Depreciation on Property, Plant and Equipment (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	5	47,65,546.00	47,33,456.00
Deficit amount transferred on completion of Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA and FCRA)	3	9,99,611.04	11,95,243.00
Prior Period Expenses		6,15,758.00	1,46,570.00
Surplus transferred to Research and Development Fund		1,44,49,474.68	1,63,19,988.63
Total		15,71,36,640.50	21,61,95,787.73

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 Singh Krishna & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No. 008714C


(Krishna Kumar Singh)
Partner
M. No. 077494

Place : New Delhi
Date : 12/10/2021



for Research and Information System for Developing Countries


Mahesh C. Arora
Director (Finance and Admin.)


Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General

**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, 2021

		Year Ended 31-Mar-21		Year Ended 31-Mar-20		Year Ended 31-Mar-21		Year Ended 31-Mar-20	
		Receipts		Payments		Expenditures		Total Carried Forward	
A	Opening Balances								
i)	Cash in Hand (Non - FCRA)	50,816.00		39,077.00		7,72,88,720.00		8,47,82,161.00	
ii)	Bank Balances:								
	In Savings Account - Andhra Bank	39,140.00		39,140.00		3,10,25,072.64		3,69,56,833.65	
	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	2,16,25,605.52		1,49,99,045.86		18,534.36		2,02,425.30	
	In Savings Account/ Auto Sweep - Bank of India (FCRA)	2,12,74,113.28		43,044.21		3,41,56,969.78		6,93,98,291.14	
	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (FCRA)	8,80,50,977.33		8,57,01,574.70					
	In Fixed Deposits - Bank of India (Non - FCRA)	3,03,46,419.00		3,80,32,610.00					
iii)	Postage Stamps - Balance in Franking Machine (Non - FCRA)	2,29,244.00		2,33,293.00					
	Total A	16,16,16,315.13		13,90,87,784.77		14,24,89,296.78		19,13,39,711.09	
B	Grants Received								
i)	From the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI	11,47,96,000.00		12,00,00,000.00		46,06,263.00		50,62,796.00	
ii)	From various Sponsored Projects (Non - FCRA)	2,59,45,338.00		4,93,38,917.00		1,86,240.00		77,363.00	
iii)	From various Sponsored Projects (FCRA)	1,06,06,035.00		4,58,13,716.62					
	Total B	15,13,47,373.00		21,51,52,633.62		47,92,503.00		51,40,159.00	
C	Interest Received								
i)	Interest on Loans, Advances, etc. (Non - FCRA)	1,166.00		16,471.00					
ii)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (FCRA)	3,45,966.00		3,81,928.00					
iii)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (Non - FCRA)	21,46,146.00		9,99,135.00					
iv)	Interest on Fixed Deposit Accounts (FCRA)	47,44,566.00		54,04,651.00					
v)	Interest on Savings Bank Account/ Auto sweep (Non - FCRA)	3,05,933.00		7,17,700.00					
vi)	Interest on Income Tax Refund	1,02,177.00							
	Total Carried Forward	76,45,954.00		75,19,885.00		15,12,64,048.78		20,48,05,167.28	
		32,06,09,642.13		36,17,60,303.39		14,53,731.00		24,53,602.00	
						25,28,518.00		58,71,715.19	



Mr. K.

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.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in



RIS

**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries**

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110 003 India., Ph. 91-11-24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74, Email: dgooffice@ris.org.in,
Website: www.ris.org.in