



— Research shaping the development agenda



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

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Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla with member of SAGE.

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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



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, Mr 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, Sri 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



Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman RIS, addressing the participants.

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Access to Vaccines, Pharma and Diplomacy

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.

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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. ■

Finance, Banking and Technology

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 thefts. ■

India's vaccine diplomacy generating goodwill...

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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 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 Co-operation (FIDC) and Founder-President of PRIA made remarks on FIDC and CSO perspectives on triangular co-operation. 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

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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. Dhinadhayalan, 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. ■

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

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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



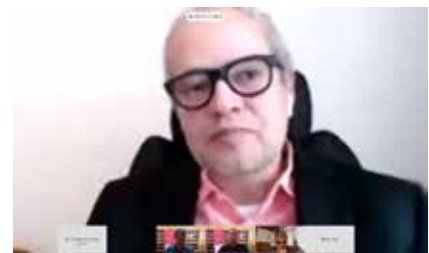
Mr Moon, who is the Deputy Chair of The Elders (an independent group of global leaders), also pointed out that many nations, particularly those in the global South, were facing expanding budgetary constraints in 2021. “Traditional donors are cutting aid when it is most needed. Despite this, we must redouble 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.”

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.

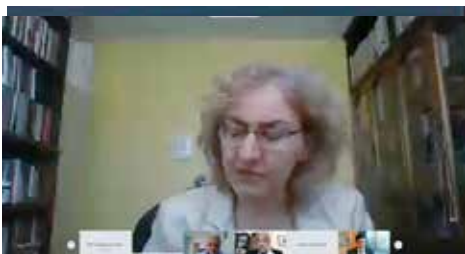


was challenged by budgetary constraints.

Noting that nationalism and protectionism were hindering multilateral cooperation, he asked the global community to redouble efforts to ensure that critical resources reach the



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



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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. ■

Panel Discussion on "Joe Biden Administration"

With the Inauguration of the Biden Presidency, the new administration took over on 20 January 2021 in the United States of America. Several commentaries on the importance of the global order have emerged. What exactly it would entail for India was the focus of the Webinar that RIS planned on Wednesday, 3 February 2021 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI and former Diplomat.

The distinguished panelists on this occasion included: Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Dr Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs; Dr Srikanth Kondapalli, Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Mr Dipanjan Roy Chaudhary, Diplomatic Editor, The Economic Times; and Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. ■

Bay of Bengal Economic Dialogue 2021

The AESAN 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. ■

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 OECD 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 NGHM 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." The webinar was organised by RIS, in collaboration with OECD Development Centre and ERIA, Jakarta.

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 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. ■

Promoting India-Taiwan Cooperation in Science, Technology, & Innovation (STI): Way Forward

Continued from page 9

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. ■

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. ■

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

Continued from page 9

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. ■

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> ■

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. ■

Towards BRICS Civil Forum 2021: Partners Consultation



Distinguished Participants at the 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 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. ■

Global Trends in Triangular Cooperation with India...

Continued from page 7

India engaged for the first time in Triangular Cooperation. In 1964, India created the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation 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. ■

RIS Faculty

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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
- 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
- Participated in the Third Brainstorming Session of the Experts’ Working Group on ‘The Future of International Co-operation’ organised by OECD, 9 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.

- 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 ‘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 ‘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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Made presentation on “Role of Think-Tanks in Evidence-Based Policy Making” in the training programme on ‘Building Analytical Capacity for Researchers in Afghanistan and Bhutan’ held on 24th March 2021 organised by UNESCAP New Delhi Office and Biruni Institute, Afghanistan.

Fellows/Researchers

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.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- 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.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- 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.
- 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 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-Biden-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.

Dr B. Balakrishnan

Science Diplomacy Fellow

- 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 DST Experts Committee meeting to review the functioning of DST Centres for Policy Research, held on 22 March 2021.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- 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 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.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the meeting with the Indian Ambassador to ASEAN on 10th February 2021, in which as a member of the RIS team appraised and deliberated upon on the ASEAN-India co-operation and its wider context.

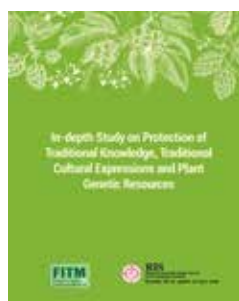
- Participated in the T20 Task Force 6 meeting of co-authors held on 22nd March 2021, to steer the Policy Brief on 'How do we know? Monitoring, evaluating, and planning early childhood policies and practices as key to effective and resilient social welfare systems' covering 'Early Childhood Care and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

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 appraised and deliberated upon on the ASEAN-India co-operation and its wider context.

Latest Publications



REPORTS

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

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

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

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

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

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

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

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

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

RIS POLICY BRIEF

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

G20 DIGEST

- Volume: 2 No: 2, January, 2021

JOURNAL OF ASIAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- Vol. 3, No. 1, April 2021

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

- Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2021. Inclusive Development – Enabling Social Sector, *Yojana Special Issue* – A Development Monthly, March 2021.
- 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. 2021. India needs a new narrative on international trade, *Moneycontrol*, 7 January 2021.
- 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. 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.
- 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.
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- 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
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- Mohanty, S.K. 2021. ‘India-US Trade Negotiations: Issues for the Trade Deal’. Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
- Peter, Augustine. 2021. Priorities the new WTO DG must have’. *Financial Express*, 24 February.



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विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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