



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

BRICS Academic Forum 2021

RIS and ORF jointly organised the BRICS Academic Forum on August 3-6, 2021, under India's presidency of the BRICS in 2021. The BRICS Academic Forum convened academics, experts, researchers and analysts on a range of international policy issues affecting the five BRICS nations and the world in the run up to the BRICS Leaders Summit.

The forum started with the inaugural opening plenary session on Post-Pandemic World Order: Challenges and Opportunities for BRICS. Dr. Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation delivered the opening remarks; inaugural address was given by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble Union Minister for External Affairs, Government of India. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS also addressed the inaugural session and at the end extended the vote of thanks.

The Day II started with the session on Road to COP26: BRICS Climate Agenda. The panel focused on exploring the global progress on the Paris Agreement and took stock of how the developed and developing nations



have fared in their commitments. The session also looked to outline a BRICS proposition on climate negotiations, targets and partnerships, which can ensure climate action in conjunction with developmental goals.

The Day III discussed the BRICS agenda for trade and resilient supply chains. This panel explored how the BRICS grouping can formulate a 21st-century international trading framework, which can serve the needs of developing and emerging nations. The session looked to put forth a BRICS-led international trading regime that

reduces disruptions and streamlines regulations to promote greater flow in goods and services.

The last day session was on Building a post-pandemic workforce: An agenda for jobs. The panel explored the new models of education and skilling that are required to equip the present and future workforces and look to best practices among the BRICS nations that can be further adapted and adopted. The session also laid emphasis on how the future of work can be made more inclusive, ensuring 20th-century inequities are not replicated in the 21st century. ■

Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific



A Webinar on 'Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific' is in progress.

Advancement of modern marine technologies is enabling efficient harnessing of ocean resources for achieving higher socio-economic growth and sustainable development. Recognising this immense potential in the South Asian region, the coastal economies including India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are implementing several national level initiatives to promote Blue Economy and also promote cooperation in different areas of Blue Economy in the context of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Indian Ocean Rim

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BRICS Civil Forum 2021

The BRICS Civil Forum final programme, held on 28-29 July 2021 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and in his address, he emphasised that the platform of Civil Forum is a tool providing opportunity for establishing deeper partnerships among BRICS countries through people-to-people exchanges. The important role played by civil society in representing the collective voice of the people and in responding to local needs, was also highlighted in his Inaugural Address.

Distinguished participants from the BRICS countries included, Dr. Paulo Esteves, Former Director, BRICS Policy Center, Brazil; Ms. Zhu Jingfang, Research Fellow, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), China; Mr. Reon van der Merwe, Deputy Director for International Relations, Stakeholder Relations, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa; and Ms. Valeriia Gorbacheva, GR-Director, National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia.

The Forum consisted of two plenary sessions and one roundtable discussion that covered themes of: "Inclusive Development and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Role of Technology"; "People's Participation on Sustainability: The BRICS Experience"; and "Consolidating BRICS Civil Process".

The Plenary Session on Inclusive Development and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in BRICS: Role of Technology was chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India and Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. S. K. Varshney, Adviser & Head, International Division, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government



*Dr. Rajkumar
Ranjan Singh,
Hon'ble Minister of
State for External
Affairs*

Brazil; Mr. Igor Lavrovski, Director of the Institute of Futurology, Stolypin Club; Chairman of the Committee on Financial and Monetary Policy, All-Russia Public Organization "Business Russia", Russia; Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; and Mr. Alex Wang, Secretary-General, Youthink Center, China.

The second Plenary Session on 'People's Participation on Sustainability: The BRICS Experience' was Chaired by Mr. Shyam Parande, Secretary, Sewa International & Secretary General, Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, India and Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, Earth Science and Climate Change, The Energy and Resources Institute, India. The other distinguished panelists included: Dr. Ana Toni, Executive Director, Instituto Clima e Sociedade (iCS) and Founding Partner of Public Interest Management (GIP), Brazil; Mr. Vladimir Chuprov, Head of the Greenpeace Russia's Energy Program, Russia, Professor Pam Rajput, Emeritus Professor, Panjab University, India; Mr. Daqian Zhang,

of India. The other panelists of the session included: Dr. Mauro Oddo Nogueira, Researcher, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA),

International Coordinator of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, China; and Mr. Yared Tsegay, Programmes Head, African Monitor, South Africa.

A Roundtable Discussion on Consolidating BRICS Civil Process was also organised. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, chaired the Roundtable discussion and Ambassador P. Harish, India's BRICS Sous Sherpa and Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the special remarks. The panelists from the BRICS countries included: Dr André de Mello e Souza, Senior Research Fellow at Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA), Brazil; Professor Vladimir Davydov, Scientific Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) Institute of Latin America, RAS Corresponding Member, and Chair of the Scientific Council of the Russian National Committee on BRICS Research, Russia; Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and Chairman, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), India; Ms. Zhu Jingfang, Research Fellow, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), China; Mr. Reon van der Merwe, Deputy Director for International Relations, Stakeholder Relations, South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA), South Africa; and Dr. Victoria Panova, Managing Director, Russian National Committee on BRICS Research and Vice President for International Relations, Far Eastern Federal University, Russia. ■

Seventh IBSA Academic Forum



The seventh IBSA Academic Forum in progress

The RIS organised the two-day long 7th IBSA Academic Forum on 11-12 August 2021, on wide ranging issues and identified several important areas of cooperation among the IBSA countries. The two roundtables and three plenary sessions of 7th IBSA Academic Forum discussed several important themes. The Forum was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. In his address, he reminded that IBSA is a group that represents like-minded countries committed to promoting inclusive development and well-being of their citizens and the developing world as well.

The Forum featured a conversation with IBSA Sherpas on the future of economic partnerships and the need for strengthening intra-IBSA cooperation on issues of trade, technology, resilient value chains, and accelerating the digital transition processes for inclusive social development. Other pressing issues like pandemic preparedness, reform of the UN Security Council, rise of vaccine nationalism and the need for

strengthening manufacturing sector for the manufacture of vaccines and diagnostic tools, were also brought to attention.

The Day I started with the welcome address by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS. Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, as mentioned, delivered the inaugural address. The opening plenary was on Conversation with IBSA Sherpas on Economic Partnerships, which was chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory Committee, Global Development Centre (GDC), India. The speakers included: Shri Dammu Ravi, IBSA Sherpa, India; Amb. André Simas Magalhães, IBSA Sous-Sherpa, Brazil; and Amb. Dr. Anil Sooklal, IBSA Sherpa, South Africa.

There was a Roundtable on Reinvigorating IBSA Cooperation on Development, which was chaired by Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Former Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, India

and panelists included: Professor Sreeram S Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), O P Jindal Global University, India; Dr Ivan Oliveira, Director of Studies on Economic Relations and International Policies, IPEA, Brazil; Professor Ahmed Bawa, Chief Executive Officer Universities South Africa, South Africa. The next session was on Conversation on IBSA at UN and Future Multilateralism with Permanent Representatives (PRs) to the UN. Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, India chaired and speakers included: India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York; Amb. Ronaldo Costa Filho, Brazil's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York; and Amb. Mathu Joyini, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

The day II started with Plenary Session I: Post-Pandemic Imperatives for Access to Finance and Economic

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Recovery which was chaired by Mr David Rasquinha, Former MD, Exim Bank of India, India. The panelists included: Dr Renato Coelho Baumann das Neves, Senior Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil; Dr Esther Makhetha, Senior Lecturer, Institute for Economic Research on Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa; and Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, India.

The next Plenary Session II was on 'IBSA Cooperation on Trade and Resilient Value Chains'. Dr. Seshadri Chari, Chairman, China Study Centre, MAHE, Karnataka, India chaired. The panelists

included: Professor S K Mohanty, Professor, RIS, India; Dr Marcelo Nonemberg, Senior Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil; and Dr Siphamandla Zondi, Professor, University of Johannesburg and Former Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa.

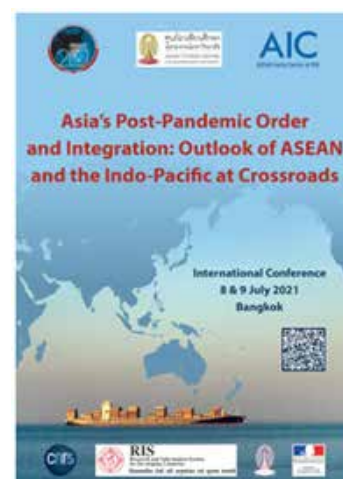
The Plenary Session III on 'Creating Post-Pandemic Resilience through Technology and Inclusive Social Sector Development' was chaired by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, India. Dr Shekhar Mande, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India and Director-General, Council of Scientific

& Industrial Research (CSIR), India gave keynote and panelists included: Professor K J Joseph, Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, India; Dr Fábio Veras Soares, Senior Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil; and Professor Rasigan Maharajh, Nodal Head, Department of Science and Technology and National Research Foundation' Centre of Excellence in Scientometrics and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, South Africa. The Valedictory Session was chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory Committee, Global Development Centre (GDC), India and Shri P. Harish, IBSA Sous Sherpa, India delivered the valedictory address. ■

Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads

The ASEAN Studies Center (Chulalongkorn University), Bangkok; the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS) in Bangkok, and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in New Delhi organised an international conference on "Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads" on 8 - 9 July 2021 in virtual mode. The two-day conference had six technical sessions which covered - Southeast Asia between India

and China Reimagining Asia and Regional Indo-Pacific Order; The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives; Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times; Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: The Interesting Interests of Other Major Powers; Asia's Post-Pandemic Integration: What the Indo-Pacific Should Stand for?; ASEAN amidst Competing Connectivity Strategic and Integration Challenges; Security Issues and Strategic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific. ■



Reviving Trade and Investment for Recovery: Focus on Resilience, Inclusion and Sustainability

The third dialogue in the series was on Reviving Trade and Investment for Recovery: Focus on Resilience, Inclusion and Sustainability was held on 20 July 2021. Professor S K Mohanty, RIS, gave the welcome remarks. Professor Manoj Pant, Director, IIFT, chaired and the panel discussion included following:

Dr. Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre (tralac). South Africa; Ms. Olga Ponomareva, Research Fellow, Institute of International Economics and Finance, Russian Foreign Trade Academy of the Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Russia;

Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, ICRIER, India and Dr. (Ms.) Zhang Chuanhong (Diana), Associate Professor, College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, China. Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, India gave the vote of thanks. ■

STIP Forum Lecture

The 36th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India on 5 August 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Science & Technology and the Pandemic”. The programme was chaired by Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, TERI. Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS delivered the welcome remarks followed by brief remarks by Mr. Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

In her very insightful address, Dr. Swarup covered the key aspects of what has been the science and technology response to the pandemic and how S&T has been playing at the forefront in the response to the pandemic. The enabling policy environment created over the period of time greatly helped S&T perform exceptionally well towards this pandemic; whether by building capacities in S&T across our academic institutions, or bringing together the industry, the academia, the Start-Ups, and forging international collaborations. The focus has been on addressing the gaps, building a strong ecosystem, identifying the new technology platforms, connecting Industry-Academia-Start-Ups.

She elaborated on the “Science-based Response Strategy” that India took well on time to tackle the pandemic. This strategy focussed on product development such as vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics, bio-therapeutics and botanicals, with the proper ecosystem support measures such as fast-track approvals, product scale-up facilities, mentoring and support to Start-Ups. This roadmap provided clear focus on what needs to be done and also provided the understanding on the stakeholders,



The lecture in progress.

which helped the government to connect all those stakeholders.

Dr. Swarup provided a detailed account of the key activities that the DBT undertook during the pandemic to handle the crisis. It created the “COVID-19 Research Consortium” in March 2020 itself with the aim of developing biomedical tools for prevention, identification and treatment to combat the pandemic. For better understanding of the virus, the “Indian SARS CoV-2 Genomics Consortium” (INSACOG) was created with inter-ministerial consortium of 28 laboratories and hospital networks, for pan-India genome sequencing and ascertaining the status of new mutations and variants in India.

She highlighted the role India played as major vaccine manufacturing country in world. She stated about the “Mission COVID Suraksha” which was initiated to augment vaccine manufacturing capacities and having a rich COVID vaccines portfolio in the country now, wherein three vaccine candidates have already been approved namely Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V; and ten more are already in

the pipeline. For enabling large scale clinical trials, DBT created a network of 53 sites including 36 hospital sites across country by connecting number of medical colleges, hospitals and laboratories through “DBT’s Resource of Indian Vaccine Epidemiology Network (DRIVEN)”. DBT also supported setting-up of number of COVID-19 Bio-Repositories in the country. She alluded to how with the government’s support, India could achieve 100 per cent self-sufficiency in indigenous diagnostic kit production in very less time.

Dr. Swarup highlight the emergence of many Start-Ups during the pandemic in the domain of biotechnology with the excellent support from the existing ecosystem, wherein there are more than 200 incubators to support biotech Start-Ups in the country. In her final remarks, she provided a brief account on the role international cooperation initiatives played during the pandemic such as India-PACT Programme (Partnership for Accelerating Clinical Trials), which helped in strengthening the clinical trial research capacity in the neighbouring countries and the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme. ■

Cross-Country Cooperation in Digital Payment Platforms and FinTech Solutions: Key to Ensure Financial Inclusion and Inclusive Development



Amar Sinha



D Janakiraman



Dr Emmanuel Mungo



Priyadarshi Dash

Speaking on 'Digital Payments Dialogue: Experiences among Developing Countries', the 11th webinar held on 22 July 2021, organised by Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS on South-South Cooperation, Professor D. Janakiram, the Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology established by the RBI, said that although India still examines the pros and cons of adopting central bank digital currency for wide use, digital wallets may become a crucial

part of the proposed Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) framework in India to help boost financial inclusion programmes as well as to prevent leakages of government subsidies, according to an expert.

The limited usage of the Aadhar-linked bank accounts opened as part of the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana-financial inclusion programme was burdening the banking system. He said, therefore, the way out to lessen the burden of banks is to promote digital wallets backed by technologies

like blockchain to ensure security as well as to develop the next-gen infrastructure to shift transfers of government subsidies to the digital currency space to prevent leakages. Use of 5G services and digital wallets promoted through video KYC would expedite the process, he added.

Ambassador (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, said Africa and Asia - which are the emerging as the most important digital payments markets due to their young and growing population - must be 'rule-

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Panel Discussion on Building Post Covid-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific

Panel Discussion on "Building Post Covid-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific", was held on 29 July, 2021. The programme started with the welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. The panelists were: Dr Sweta Sexena, Chief, Macroeconomics Policy and Analysis, UNESCAP; Professor Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade and Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA. The discussion featured policy dialogue on promoting economic resilience and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region during the post-COVID-19 recovery. The panelists addressed issues pertaining to resilient economic recovery, financing challenges and climate-related sovereign risk management in Asia and the Pacific in general and India in particular. There was also a Q&A



session. Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks. ■

India-Nigeria Webinar on Promoting MSME to Enhance Industrialization: Challenges and Prospects

India-Nigeria Webinar on Promoting MSME to Enhance Industrialization: Challenges and Prospects, was jointly organised by RIS, Nigerian Army Resource Centre and the High Commission of India in Nigeria on 14 July 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS gave the welcome remarks. H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria made opening

remarks. Major General (Retired) Mr Garba Ayodeji Wahab, Director General, Nigerian Army Resource Center, Nigeria gave special remarks. Session I was on MSME in India: Status, Challenges and Way forward and Session II was on MSME Sector in Nigeria. Eminent speakers included: Professor M. H. Bala Subrahmanya, Department of Management Studies, Indian

Institute of Science, Bangalore; Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Mr Joseph Olatayo Omidiji, Deputy General Manager and Head of the Strategic Planning Department at NEXIM Bank and Mr Adeyemi Folorunsho, Manufacturing Association of Nigeria. Dr Pankaj Vashisht, RIS gave the vote of thanks. ■

New Challenges to Development Cooperation in a Post-COVID World

The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), RIS organised a panel discussion, as part of its monthly seminar series, on the topic: New Challenges to Development Cooperation in a Post-COVID World on 24 September, 2021. The panel included Mr Tony Pipa, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings, Washington, DC; Dr Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation, Kuala Lumpur; and Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The discussion was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

The panelists highlighted the unprecedented development challenges and emerging trends in development cooperation, particularly squeezing assistance from the North and multilateral organisations. The discussion brought focus on the need for enhanced development cooperation in the wake of COVID-19 and the problem of trust deficit in addressing challenges of developing countries. The speakers shed light on future of 'aid' in an environment of geopolitical shifts and globalisation, need for increased emphasis on triangular cooperation such as India with US and EU, importance and need of financing infrastructure development like healthcare,

education etc in developing countries and leveraging regional institutions in development finance, infrastructure and increased connectivity. They pointed out that developed nations would likely be more inward-oriented and geopolitical considerations would continue to determine the course of development cooperation. The issues related to impact of development assistance also figured in the discussion, particularly in the case of Afghanistan. Non-traditional security issues warrant urgent attention and should be prioritized, however, the geopolitical interests of major powers would likely dominate their development cooperation agenda in near future. ■

Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific

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Association (IORA). The scope for maritime sector cooperation could be comprehensive and wider in the coming years from the perspective of Indo-Pacific cooperation. In order to generate informed debate and brainstorm on the potential and prospects of maritime

economy, RIS organised a Webinar on 'Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific' on 23 September 2021. Professor S. K. Mohanty delivered the welcome remarks and Dr Malini V. Shankar chaired. There were special remarks by H. E. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Deputy High

Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India. Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS, made a paper presentation on 'Maritime Trade in Indo-Pacific'. Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, Formerly Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Mines, Government of India was the discussant. ■

37th STIP Forum Lecture

The 37th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Dr Ashutosh Upadhyay, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology and Dean Academic, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) (an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries) on 29 September 2021 via online platform. The topic of this public lecture was “Food Processing and Rural Economy: Technological Options for Farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)”. The event was chaired by Dr. Debapriya Dutta, Sc. 'G' and Head, SEED Division and National Geospatial Program, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS delivered the welcome remarks followed by brief remarks by Mr. Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

In his very insightful address, Dr. Upadhyay covered the range of issues related to the topic including the significance of the food processing sector for India in general and for the rural economy, in particular. Given the low share of processed food in India, there is serious problem of high food wastage, especially of the fruits and vegetables. In this context, there is an immense scope and opportunity in the food processing sector, which needs to be tapped to provide a thrust to the rural economy. Towards this cause, farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can play a key role, provided they have the access to the available technological solutions at an affordable rate. Dr. Upadhyay elaborated on the gamut of technologies that are available for uptake by the individual farmers and SHGs. These technologies have been developed by the public-funded research centres and cover the entire value chain of the food processing



Dr Ashutosh Upadhyay, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology and Dean Academic, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) delivering the lecture.

sector. He further gave a detailed overview of such technologies within the sub-sectors such as dairy, fruits and vegetables, cereals and seeds, oilseeds, pulses, beverages, meat and poultry products, honey and spices.

Dr. Upadhyay also mentioned about some successful case studies where the S&T interventions from NIFTEM led to better understanding within the SHGs leading them to adopt scientific practices for making better processed food products. The institutional support also helped the farmers and SHGs comply to the food safety and quality norms so that their products are safe and hygienic. There are many food processing technologies available to increase the shelf life of the products such as better packaging technologies such as shrink packaging for fruits and vegetables.

He also gave a detailed account of the existing ecosystem within the

food processing sector with the key initiatives taken by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries such as the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, which was launched last year with the objectives of providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises including capacity building through skill training, imparting technical knowledge on food safety, standards & hygiene and quality improvement; hand holding support for availing bank loan, providing support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), producers cooperatives for capital investment, common infrastructure and also lending support for branding and marketing. The One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme has also been playing key role in helping SHGs identify niche areas of food products for value addition. ■

Agriculture and Food Systems in South Asia Demonstrated Unexpected Resilience



The programme was co-organized by IFPRI South Asia, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and RIS on 8 July 2021.

The severe health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted food systems and upended livelihoods. Yet pandemic responses have also demonstrated the power of well-crafted policies to blunt the impact of major shocks while laying the groundwork for stronger, more resilient food systems, according to the *Global Food Policy Report, 2021*.

The programme was co-organized by IFPRI South Asia, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and RIS on 8 July 2021, to present the highlights of the report in the South Asian context. Policy makers and thought leaders shared their perspectives on COVID-19's impacts on our food systems and discussed the lessons, the report draws from the current crisis for helping transform food systems to reduce the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, better prepare for future shocks, and address longstanding weaknesses and inequalities.

"We have known for a while now that there are major problems with our food systems, that they are unequal and unsustainable," said Dr Johan Swinnen, Director General of IFPRI. "This crisis has

revealed these problems in a way that none of us can ignore, but it has also demonstrated that we have effective ways to address these problems".

"UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (pertaining to ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030) is a critical area that needs to be addressed. In the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest contribution from India was that there were no starvation deaths despite closure of borders, disruption of value chains and locust attacks. The record wheat procurement speaks volumes about our food system," said Dr P. K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS. He said important aspects that require great attention include reduction of carbon footprint, ensuring climate resilience, financing mechanisms, localization of efforts to provide nutritious food to people, and making sure that there are sufficient stocks of a variety of food items including those like millets that can address issues of co-morbidities.

The pandemic in South Asia disturbed years of fast economic growth, reduction in poverty, and overall improvement in social indicators. In 2020, South Asian

political leaders responded to the pandemic's first wave by imposing lockdowns to flatten the curve of infections. To mitigate the impacts on the economy, governments enacted a wide range of policies aimed at saving lives, protecting livelihoods and stimulating economies.

"The *Global Food Policy Report (GFPR) 2021* highlights that the countries in the region did much better than the expert predictions in terms of economic performance, food price stabilization, and protecting livelihoods. However, the report also cautioned that there's no room for complacency, which unfortunately turned out to be true during the second wave that overwhelmed health systems and significantly disrupted livelihoods", said Dr Shahidur Rashid, Director- IFPRI, South Asia.

Dr Rashid went on to caution that the region is still reeling under the devastating impact of the second wave, "While vaccinations have been ramped up and the caseloads have slowly declined, there are uncertainties as to how things will play out in the region

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Dr Binayak Sen, Director General, BIDS, Bangladesh



Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, IPS, Sri Lanka



Dr Johan Swinnen, Director General, IFPRI



Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR



Dr P K Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi



Dr Swarnim Waglé, Chairman, IIDS, Nepal

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for agriculture and food systems”.

The report underscores that the pandemic has revealed both resilience and vulnerabilities in South Asian food systems. Across the region, the agriculture sector grew, food prices remained relatively stable, and no food security crisis was reported during the first wave. This resilience can largely be attributed to the region's decades investments in infrastructure and institutions for social transfers and safety nets programmes, as well as the expansion of many of these programmes.

Surveys conducted by IFPRI, found that public transfer systems for food, security, health, and nutrition have largely performed well in the region. In India the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) effectively reached smallholder farmers. Similar safety net programs, like Pakistan's EHSAAS programme,

which provides direct cash transfers to about 80 million people, extended additional coverage to 6 million families during the pandemic. In Bangladesh, the government increased the social protection budget from 2.9 per cent of national GDP in 2019/20 to 3.01 per cent in response to the pandemic.

One of the key vulnerabilities that the pandemic illuminated is the fragility of many South Asian labor markets, especially in the non-farm and informal sectors which are vital for both economic and food systems transformation. The strict lockdowns led to the return of many migrant laborers to their hometowns, creating scarcity of labor in the agricultural sector and threatening nutrition and food security.

The report finds that South Asia's international remittance inflows also proved vulnerable. As of December 2020, remittance flows had declined by about US\$10 billion for the region.

While the pandemic has raised new challenges, researchers stressed that we cannot lose sight of old challenges standing in the way of an inclusive and sustainable food system transformation for the region.

“Agriculture and food systems in South Asia have demonstrated unexpected resilience in the face of the pandemic. However, the region cannot afford to be complacent because growth in the non-farm and service sectors is an essential pre-condition for economic and food system transformation and COVID-19 has reminded South Asia how vulnerable these sectors are. Therefore, it's important that the vulnerabilities of these sectors are addressed at the same time keeping in consideration that the region must not lose sight of the structural challenges to transforming economic and food systems”, said Dr Rashid. The eminent participants included Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Dr Swarnim Waglé and Dr Binayak Sen among others. ■

Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Issues and implications

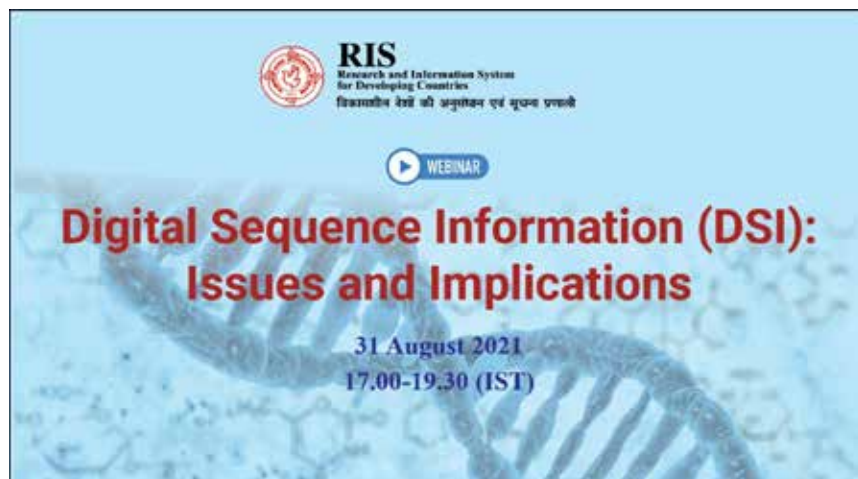
In light of developments related to Digital Sequence Information (DSI) in CBD and its implications for ABS, and discussions on DSI in other fora, RIS organised a Webinar on Digital Sequence Information (DSI): Issues and Implications on 31 August 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the welcome address and opening remarks. Mr C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Director, CIPS, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) & Chairperson, NBA Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) gave the keynote address.

The Session I on DSI: International Developments and Trends was chaired by Dr Sylvain Aubry, Scientific Advisor at Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Zurich. The distinguished panelists were: Mr Frederic Perron-Welch, Research Scholar, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University; Dr Lotte Asveld, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Department, Delft University of

Technology; Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz, ABS Team, Leibniz Institute - German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Culture; Dr Viviana Munoz, Coordinator of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme, South Center, Geneva.

The Session II was on DSI and Biodiversity: Implications for India. It was chaired by Professor M. K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore

and panelists were: Dr. Shivendra Bajaj, Executive Director, Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) & Alliance for Agri Innovation (AAI); Dr. Vishwas Chavan, Consultant in Bioinformatics, Pune; Ms. Shalini Bhutani, Legal & Policy Analyst, New Delhi; Ms. Shyama Kuriakose, Legal Head, Wildlife Conservation Society-India. Dr. Namrata Pathak, Research Associate, RIS was discussant. Closing remarks and vote of thanks were given by Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS. ■



Horizon Europe

RIS jointly with the Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy organised a Webinar on Horizon Europe: The Way Forward in India-EU Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation on 23 August 2021. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS gave welcome and opening address. Introductory Remarks were made by Ms Nienke Buisman, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission; Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs. The session on Horizon Europe: The Way Forward in India-EU Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation was chaired by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Panelists were: Ms Tania Friederichs, EU Research & Innovation (R&I) Counsellor in India; Dr S. K. Varshney, Head, International Cooperation Division, Department of Science and Technology; Dr Rita Dhodapkar, Principal

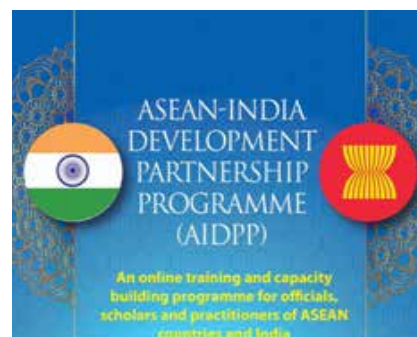


Technical Officer, Science Secretary, DRC, NEERI. Dr Jakob Williams Ørberg, Counsellor Innovation, Research and Higher Education, Royal Danish Embassy; Dr Madhusudan Reddy Nandineni, Counselor (Science & Technology), Embassy of India, Berlin and Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Consultant, RIS were discussants. Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, also gave the closing remarks. ■

ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP): An Online Training and Capacity Building Programme

Supported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the ASEAN India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP) was hosted jointly by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS; Asian Confluence and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore on 16-20 August 2021. The AIDPP programme comprised with several lectures and interactive sessions that include geo-politics, economic relations, trade

and investment, connectivity, trade facilitation and priority sectors for the ASEAN-India relations. The lectures were delivered by leading experts from the fields of policy, academia, law and industry and conducted interactive sessions on various topics and subjects that are critical towards forging mutually beneficial collaborations and larger regional cooperation between India and ASEAN countries. ■



Cross-Country Cooperation in Digital Payment Platforms and FinTech Solutions: Key to Ensure Financial Inclusion and Inclusive Development

Continued from page 6

shapers' than 'rule-takers'. He said governments must play the role of facilitators and enablers and help promote harmonisation of rules and share best practices.

Mr Ritesh Shukla, CEO of NPCI International Payments Limited, said P2M (person-to-merchant payments) transactions are growing in India with more merchants accepting digital payments. He said there is also a greater focus on providing digital payment solutions for people with regular phones (that are not smartphones). Mr Shukla also said experiences from the Indian digital payment ecosystem could be shared with other developing countries as part of the South-South Cooperation model. Closer regulatory cooperation and interoperability should be part of developing country discussions on digital payments, he said.

Mr Ganes Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Airtel Payments Bank, said the key target segment in the digital payments space in India is the 200 million underserved customers including in remote

areas. Biometric-enabled digital payment solutions can help serve all the rural customers in a secure manner, he said, adding that improving customer experience is key to ensure that they stick to digital payments mode as well as to promote financial inclusion.

Mr Kennedy Kipkemboi, Regulatory Specialist, Mobile Money, Programme, GSMA, Kenya, said it is important to reduce the compliance cost including those related to initial capital requirements to promote digital payments and ensure a level-playing field.

Mr Mackay Aomu, Director, National Payment Systems, Bank of Uganda, said Uganda is looking into the gaps in regulation including those related to initial capital requirements, and has introduced a six-tier regulatory mechanism to bring in small and medium players. He said Uganda is also addressing issues relating to inter-operability and generating greater public awareness about the efficiency of digital payments.

Ms Olanike Kolawole, Head, Agency Banking, Consumer Bank, Ecobank Nigeria Ltd.,

spoke about the opportunities in digital payments in Nigeria. Dr Emmanuel Mungongo, Senior Principal Officer, Bank of Tanzania, said there should be greater collaboration among developing countries on improving digital payment product design and reducing barriers.

Ambassador Amar Sinha, Chairman, Advisory Committee - GDC and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, spoke about the importance of sharing the experience of the developing world including India and Africa to mainstream digital payments that boost financial inclusion in the global discourse agenda, develop innovative solutions and build an ecosystem. He said governments must keep a close watch on the sector to prevent fraudulent practices. Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS, spoke about the exponential growth in all the aspects of digital payments and FinTech. He said regulators need to make sure an orderly growth of the sector. The session also had discussions on digital wallet insurance solutions as part of risk management strategy. ■

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Panelist at the book launch event on 'Origins, evolution and future of global development cooperation: The role of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)' organised by German Development Institute (GDI) on 29th September 2021.
- Participated in the Virtual Discussion on 'Expanding Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Relationships between India and ASEAN' organised by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on 21 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Methodological Pluralities in Impact Assessment of South-South Cooperation: A Synthesis from Efficiency Perspective' at the side-event on "Institutionalization and impact assessment of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Key findings and recommendations from Southern think tanks" organised jointly by UNOSSC and UNDP on 13 September 2021.
- Panelist at the event on "Strengthening Development Cooperation for Uncertain Times: Harmonizing Lessons and Experiences from the COVID19 Pandemic to Pave the Way for the Future" organised by Islamic Development Bank on 9 September 2021.
- Panelist at the Virtual Round Table Discussion on "Startups for New and Atmanirbhar Bharat" organised by ICSSR on 9 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'Dealing with COVID-19 and Beyond: India-Korea Partnership from a Business Perspective' at the session on 'Overcoming the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Business Perspective' organised during the Second Online Academic Workshop on "Facets of the India-ROK Partnership" organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul on 2 September 2021.
- Participated in the First Meeting of CII Africa Committee 2021-2022 organised by CII on 1 September 2021.
- Made a presentation on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals at the National Webinar on "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Role of Panchayats - Goal No. 2 - Zero Hunger" organised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India on 23 August, 2021.
- Participated in the Conversation about BRICS - particularly on future BRICS cooperation at the Intelligence Forum: The Future of BRICS Cooperation organised by BRICS Policy Centre on 11 August 2021.
- Chaired the Working Session II on Economic Diplomacy as a factor in India-ROK Relations of the International Symposium on India-Republic of Korea: Aspects of Public Diplomacy jointly organised by India Foundation, and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul on August 11, 2021.
- Made a presentation on Informality and the Power of Networks: BRICS knowledge at the Webinar Results of BRICS Labour Ministers Meeting at the Knowledge Development Series on Formalization in BRICS countries: A South-South Perspective organised by ILO on 10 August 2021.
- Made a presentation on 'South-South Cooperation and Inclusive Development, Jobs and Entrepreneurship' at the session on Informality and the Power of Networks: A South-South Perspective organised by ILO on 10 August 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting with the representatives in the G20 from India, Indonesia and India -- G20 3Is and study forum on renewing multilateralism, organised by OECD on 9 August 2021.
- Made a presentation at the Plenary Session "Aligning India-Africa bilateral trade with AfCFTA" at the 16th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India and Africa Project Partnership, "Harnessing the Africa-India Opportunity : Connect, Create, Collaborate" organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India on 13 July 2021.
- Delivered keynote address on Address on 'Welfare State Policies and Governance' at the International Conference on 'Governance and Policy Reforms: An Indo-Pacific Perspective' organised by Jagran Lakecity University in

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on 12 July 2021.

- Panelist at the High-level dialogue on the Partnership in Action on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps organised by the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations, in collaboration with Japan, UN-DESA, EC/JRC, UNESCO and UNECA on July 9, 2021.
- Made a presentation on "Facing the new order of globalization" in the 21st edition of Les Rencontres Economiques d'Aix-en-Provence, on the theme of "Embracing the future, together".organised by Les Rencontres Economiques d'Aix-en-Provence on 4 July, 2021.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Made a presentation on Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy: Towards Sustainable Utilisation of Ocean Resources, at the webinar on Marine Spatial Planning & Regional Cooperation, organised by the Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS) New Delhi on 03 September 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion/ Brainstorm Session on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Chaired by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs at New Delhi on 26 August 2021.
- Participated in the Discussion meeting as a Team Leader on Ayush Sector in India: Prospects and Challenges, in the Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi on 9 July 2021.

- Made a video presentation on Unleash Opportunities in the Blue Economy Sector in IORA: Untapped Potentials in Regional Blue Trade, at the 2nd Republic of Korea-Indian Ocean Rim Association Partnership Seminar, organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), Busan, Korea on 8 July 2021.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in the webinar on "Envisioning India: Getting India to the Green Frontier" organized by the George Washington University on 29 September 2021.
- Participated in the Governing Board Meeting of ICAI Registered Valuers Organisation ("ICAI RVO") on 20 and 28 September 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Airtel Bank on 4 August 2021 and 27 September 2021.
- Participated in the 6th International Competition Law Conference organized by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India on 23-24 September 2021.
- Participated in the conference on "India UK Roadmap 2030: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability and Technology" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 17 September 2021.

- Participated in the seminar on "Getting to Net Zero: An Approach for India at CoP 26" organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 16 September 2021.
- Participated in the conference on "Leveraging Partnerships through New Age Technologies" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 14 September, 2021.
- Participated in the seminar on "India's Public Finance Management System: Fiscal Governance" organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) in collaboration with the World Bank on 13 September 2021.
- Participated in the ICRIER-KAS COVID-19 Webinar Series on "People, Planet, Prosperity: Rebuilding Differently" on 13 September 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 9 September 2021.
- Participated in the 3rd India U.S. Trade Townhall on "Reducing Green House Emissions in Manufacturing for mitigating Climate Change" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with U.S. Consulate, Mumbai on 8 September 2021.
- Participated in the ICRIER-KAS Webinar on "Formulating New Approaches to Strengthen Multilateral" on 6 September 2021.
- Participated in the Consultation on "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)" organized by ICWA on 3 September 2021.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the Disciplinary Committee – Bench-II Meeting organized by Institute of Accountants of India on 13, 27 July, 17, 31 August and 2, 15, 30 September 2021.
- Conference on “5-Years of IBC, 2016 & Way Forward” organized by Confederation of Indian Industry 27 August 2021.
- Participated in the 61st SIAM Annual Convention on 25 August 2021.
- Participated in the Reimagine India Series : “India’s Climate Diplomacy” organised by FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians and the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung on 24 August 2021.
- Participated in the CII Annual Meeting 2021 on “India@75: Government and Business Working Together for Aatmanirbhar Bharat” on 11 - 12 August 2021.
- Participated in the seminar on “Towards a Strategy for India’s Decarbonisation” organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 6 August 2021.
- Participated as a Guest Speaker on “WTO Reforms & Implications on the Indian Industry” organized by Tata Steel Ltd on 6 August 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “Mapping Sustainable Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges of Exporting Processed Food from India” organized by India International Centre on 28 July 2021.

- Participated in the Book Launch: The Economics of Deep Trade Agreements organized by the World Bank on 19 July 2021.
- Participated in the 16th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on “India Africa Project Partnership- Harnessing the Africa - India Opportunity: Connect: Create: Collaborate” on 13-15 July 2021.
- Participated as an Independent Director in a meeting organized by Goodyear India Limited on 13 July 2021.
- Participated in the webinar on “The Indo Pacific Business Summit” - Developing a Road Map for Shared Prosperity organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, GoI on 6-8 July 2021.

Professor T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Chaired a session and delivered a talk on Trends in Trade and Development Goals and Policies for Ayush Industry during the Conference on Bioresources and Commercial Utilization – Trends, Supply Chain and Sustainability organised by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board on 27th September 2021.
- Delivered a talk on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright in Modern World at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi on 24th September 2021.
- Delivered a talk on Publication Ethics: Plagiarism and

Copyright to the faculty at the Deva Matha College, Kuravilangadu on 21st September 2021.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the T20 Roundtable Seminars/ workshops organized by T20 Italy chairs during July-September 2021.
- Participated in ISID-ICSSR-UNIDO Policy Roundtable on Reigniting Sustainable Growth of MSMEs in the Aftermath of Covid-19 Pandemic, held on 30 July 2021.
- Participated and made a presentation in ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP) on 20th August 2021.
- Participated in a Webinar on ‘Localization of Sustainable Development Goals & Role of Panchayats- SDG Goal No 2- Zero Hunger’, on 23rd August 2021 organized by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Moderated the panel discussion on ‘Digital Payments Dialogue: Experience among Developing Countries’ organised by Global Development Centre at RIS on July 22, 2021.
- Made presentation on services trade in Virtual Dialogue on ‘Trade in Services in the Digital Age’ held on July 19, 2021 organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

REPORTS

- **BRICS Civil Forum 2021-Outcome Document**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **Declining Savings Rate in India: New Policy Options**, RIS and IIC, New Delhi, 2021
- **UN@75 AND SSC : Evolving Roles and Responsibilities**, RIS, DIE and German Development Institute, 2021
- **Digital Payments Dialogue: Experiences among Developing Countries**, GDC, New Delhi, 2021
- **The Future of BRICS**, RIS and ORF, New Delhi, 2021
- **Road to BRICS Academic Forum**, RIS and ORF, New Delhi, 2021
- **Revisiting Novel Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients from India Achievements and Future Challenges**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021
- **Building a More Resilient Financial System in India through Governance Improvements**, RIS, New Delhi, 2021

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

- #270: **COVID-19: An Opportunity to Revamp Pharmacovigilance System** by Sumya Pathak, Rajeshwari Singh and Shubhini A. Saraf
- #269: **Skilling, Fulcrum of a Proactive Multidimensional Poverty Tracker Pathway** by Pramod Kumar Anand & Krishna Kumar
- #268: **India's Import Dependence on China in Pharmaceuticals: Status, Issues and Policy Options** by Amit Kumar
- #267: **Liberating Indian Agriculture Markets** by Dammu Ravi

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

- #105 **India-EBRD Partnership: Current Status and the Way Forward** by Dr Prasanna V. Salian & Mr Subhasis Dhal

ASIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

- Volume: 23 No: 2, July, 2021



- **Emerging Value Chain Opportunities Post -COVID19 and India-ASEAN Relations**, Rupa Chanda, AIC Working Paper # 6, New Delhi, July 2021

AIC Commentary Series

- AIC Commentary No. 21, September 2021, **An Agenda for Strengthening Maritime Transport Cooperation in Indo-Pacific** by Prabir De
- AIC Commentary No. 20, August 2021, **Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative: Providing Institutional Framework to the Indo-Pacific Region** by Rahul Mishra
- AIC Commentary No. 19, July 2021, **Role of Traditional Medicinal Systems in Enhancing India-ASEAN Partnership** by Sunetra Ghatak

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

- Chaturvedi, Sachin (2021). **Evolving Indian Strategy on SDGs and Scope for Regional Cooperation**, UN ESCAP SSWA Development Paper 21-01, March.
- Chaturvedi, Sachin (2021). Interview at DD News Conclave on 'Ease of Living', posted on 28 Sep 2021 by PIB Delhi.
- De, Prabir and Sunetra Ghatak (2021) "Income Convergence across Asian Economies: An Empirical Exploration" *Journal of Asia-Pacific Business*, Volume 22, No. 3
- De, Prabir and Durairaj Kumarasami (2021) "COVID-19 and the Changing Profile of ASEAN-India Economic Relations", *IMI Connect*, Vol. 10, No. 3
- De, Prabir (2021) "Regional Integration in Bay of Bengal Region in Post-COVID-19 Period", in Sreeradha Datta (ed.) *BIMSTEC: The Journey and the Way Ahead*, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi
- De, Prabir (2021) "A Silent Revolution in Border Trade", *Hindu Business Line*, 8 September, 2021

G20 DIGEST

- Volume: 1 No: 3, October, 2021

AIC at RIS Publications

- **Journal of Asian Economic Integration**, Vol. 3, No.2, September 2021
- **Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific**, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi, September 2021
- **India's Development Partnership with IMT-GT: Identifying the Regional Cooperation Contours**, Prabir De, Sreya Pan and Nida Rahman, AIC Working Paper # 7, New Delhi, August 2021



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