



— Research shaping the development agenda



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi delivering the inaugural address at SAES, 2022.

Thirteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES)

The South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) is a prominent track 1.5 exercise and one of its kind policy forum of academics, policymakers, diplomats and other experts from the region, that has been convened as an annual event rotating among South Asian nations. The Thirteenth SAES was held in New Delhi, organized by the RIS and partner institutions, on 19th and 20th April, 2022.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, in his welcome remarks emphasized the role of trade and connectivity in promoting employment expansion, FDI, knowledge partnerships, achieving greater digitization and accelerating the integration of economies in the South Asian region. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, highlighted his concern on leveraging resilient value chains and attainment of SDG goals in South Asia. Dr Dushni

Weerakoon, Executive Director, IPS, Sri Lanka presented the report of 12th SAES and underlined two main issues on food security & food supply chains and data privacy & accountability.

In her inaugural address, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India stressed the need to shift from 'neighborhood first' to 'neighborhood fast' policy for achieving faster and closer integration of the region that is currently facing multiple challenges.

Referring to the region being data generator and producer, the Minister urged the South Asian countries to cooperate in norm-setting, including at the multilateral level, for protection against 'data imperialism' by the Big Tech, who are 'data controllers'. Highlighting the low connectivity and meager intra regional trade, the Minister called for strengthening

integration in all dimensions. She emphasised that urgent measures are needed for strengthening regional multi-modal physical as well as digital and financial connectivity.

The Minister also undersigned that cooperation in South Asia should be based on the five Cs: Collective cooperation, Capacity Building, Connectivity, Cultural Connect and Community Connect.

The first plenary session, 'Post Pandemic Development Imperatives: Issues for Regional Cooperation' emphasised the importance of public and private investment, strengthening social safety nets, distributive policies to address inequality, external borrowing, energy cooperation, and cross-border connectivity in post-COVID recovery. Furthermore, there is a need to leverage technology and promote greater cooperation in order to face post-pandemic challenges and increase regional trade and

...Continued on page 2

Thirteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES)

...Continued from page 1

commerce. Institutional support and regional initiatives in South Asian countries will put the region on the path to recovery, greater integration and growth.

The RIS-UNESCAP session was on 'Trade Cooperation and Value Chain Localization.' Presentation was given on intra-regional trade trends, the dynamism of regional economic growth, and the economic foundations



Dr Dushni Weerakoon

of regional identity. Despite trade restrictions in the South Asian region, there is a localised reliance on one another, resulting in the creation of an enabling environment for value chain based on three pillars: trade investment, connectivity, and tariff barriers. Efforts are needed for finding ways and means for creating common goods and establishing regional



Dr Fahmida Khatun

value chains. Another issue was raised that despite accepting trade as a driver for economic growth, countries around South Asia have made little effort to boost intra-regional trade. It was also emphasized that value chains have become more global because of the growth of South-South cooperation in South-South trade flows. The session also highlighted the significance of the digital economy and financial inclusion.

The third plenary session focused on the future of regional connectivity. It emphasized the importance of trade facilitation measures in connectivity

in South Asia. It also talked about the role of port infrastructure and inland waterways in promoting regional connectivity. Furthermore, issues such as economic corridor connectivity, sustainable financing for infrastructure projects, disrupted occupational and worker mobility, openness in politics, institutions, and geography, and trade barriers were addressed. There is also need for implementing processes that are democratic, accountable, according to the rule of law, transparent, and allow the participation of civil society organizations, NGOs, and different political parties.



Professor Bishwambher Pyakuryal



Professor Mustafizur Rahman

In the special luncheon lecture, Smt. Smita Sharma, Director, International Department, RBI described the role of SAARC FINANCE as a platform for South Asian central banks to cooperate in areas such as monetary policy, payments system, capacity building, financial inclusion and research and development. Some of the other issues highlighted in the same session include Cryptocurrencies and Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)

The first parallel session on 'Institutional Ecosystem for Food Systems and Value Realisation' called for several interventions, such as low cost sustainable technologies for farm mechanization, importance of digital landscape, alternative approaches to agricultural production, private sector led agriculture, proactive new

subsidy management and smart farming. In the session it was also emphasized that there is a need to increase the capacity of production networks and technical efficiencies. Issues related to access to nutritious food and its related interventions was also discussed.

The second parallel session was on 'Health for all and Digital Health Initiatives.' Digital Health initiatives taken by South Asian countries on public health and to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) were elaborated. The session stressed on the need for people-partnered public health system, digitally-enabled decentralised and data-driven decision-making that enables care to be provided in all dimensions at home or as close to home as possible. Strong CSOs and community-based activism for health is also crucial. The role of traditional medicine in achieving the goal of "Health for All" was also discussed.

The third parallel session on 'Leveraging Energy Connectivity' emphasised on harmonization of regulations to facilitate cross border flow of electricity in South Asia which is paramount for green transition. This region needs power and sustainable energy. In terms of sustainable transition, energy transition is challenging as well as expensive. There needs to be a proper prioritized policy prescription if South Asia has to move towards sustainable transition. Very clearly it was mentioned that the South Asian region is less connected in terms of energy connectivity despite having sufficient freshwater and energy sources for the region, is more dependent on fossil fuels.

The closing session brought out the perspectives of enabling sustainable transition through Sustainable Lifestyle. The concept of "Ideas of LiFE: Lifestyle for

...Continued on page 03



Professor S. K. Mohanty with Gambian delegation.

Delegation from the Gambia

A delegation of Senior Civil Servants of the Gambia visited RIS on 20 May, 2022. Professor S. K. Mohanty welcomed the delegates and briefed them about the work programme of RIS. H.E. Mr Mustapha Jawara, High Commissioner of the Republic of Gambia in New Delhi made initial remarks.

In the interventions that followed the main speakers from RIS were Professor S. K. Mohanty, Dr P. K. Anand and Dr Priyadarshi Dash. The delegation was in India for participating in a week long special training programme for the Senior Civil Servants of the Gambia organised by the National Centre for

Good Governance, Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India. Copies of RIS publication '75 Years of Development Partnership: Saga of Commitment to Plurality, Diversity and Collective Progress' were shared with the delegates. ■

GDC India-Uganda Bilateral Session on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS continued to build on its preliminary interactions with the large number of interlocutors from Africa who visited the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020 from 4-5 March 2020 and participated in the workshops organized on 'Co-WIN vaccination platform' and 'Digital Payments offerings by NIPL'.

In that context, GDC has been following-up with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Uganda to ascertain their specific interest and determine the next steps forward. In response,

the MoH-Uganda communicated their interest in the registration module of COWIN and requested for a technical presentation and Demo on COWIN. Subsequently, GDC facilitated a technical session and demo between the National Health Authority (NHA), Government of India and MoH, Uganda on June 28, 2022. The delegation from the MoH, Uganda was led by Mr Mbaka Paul, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Health Information.

The NHA presentation was delivered by Mr Aviral Gupta, Officer on Special Duty to CEO.

He highlighted key features of the COWIN including inclusivity and interoperability, use cases for multiple stakeholders, transparency through real-time dashboard, among others. The NHA presentation and demo was followed by an interactive session. The overall presentation was highly appreciated by the technical team from the MoH, Uganda and may catalyse for processing MoU with NHA on strengthening digital health information systems in Uganda. ■

Thirteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES)

...Continued from page 2

Environment", a concept articulated by the Hon. Prime Minister of India in his address at the COP26 Summit, Glasgow was also discussed thoroughly. Given the importance of mountains and marine resources in the region, the session also focused sustainability in the context of Blue

Economy. The valedictory session highlighted that the region has been growing with trade as its engine of growth. Institutions, individuals, civil societies need to preserve the spirit of SAARC as an organization and the idea of South Asia as a region. Dr Sumit Seth, Joint Secretary (PP&R)

also addressed the participants at the cultural programme organised during SAES.

(Please see back page for more perspectives from valedictory session. Full Report of SAES, 2022 is available on RIS website www.ris.org.in) ■

New Horizons of International Cooperation: Exploring Synergies between G7 and G20

Recent years have witnessed radical shifts in the geopolitical landscape especially with respect to economic issues such as trade, foreign direct investment, climate change, global public goods and development finance. Multilateral fora like the G20 and the G7 have been covering those issues extensively and helping exploring new forms of regional and global cooperation. Some common issues seem to have attracted similar level of attention in both the forums, hence making a case for synergistic cooperation between G7 and G20. Moreover, there are obvious apprehensions about the possible sharing of ideas and approaches by both the forums.

In view of this evolving paradigm, RIS in collaboration with the Embassy of Germany organized a hybrid event on 'New Horizons of International Cooperation: Exploring Synergies between G7 and G20' on June 7, 2022, New Delhi to deliberate on the new ideas and formats of cooperation among the countries. Mr Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA, Government of India shared their individual perspectives and initiatives of both the governments that could possibly facilitate the exchange between G7 and G20.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS set the context of the discussion in the beginning. Among the experts who contributed to the panel discussion included Mr Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West); Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Dr Stephan Grabherr, Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, New Delhi; Dr Rudra Chaudhuri, Director,



Distinguished guest at the event.

Carnegie India, New Delhi; Dr Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Programme, German Development Institute, Bonn; Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor, Centre for European Studies, JNU, New Delhi; and Professor Amrita Narlikar, President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Hamburg.

The seminar addressed the issues of global governance through the lens of the G7, G20, and the possible synergy between the activities of both the forums. Issues that prompted joint action include the Agenda 2030 and ensuring the orderly recovery in the post-Covid years. Effective international cooperation in the event of global crises like the Covid pandemic is desirable. Such partnerships must be woven into the feelings of trust and cooperation. The partnership between India and Germany promises a lot of opportunities and assumes significance in this respect. Despite their diversity, the G7 and G20 connection can be strengthened by the Indo-German partnership. The Indo-German

government consultations in Berlin and the signing of the Indo-German Partnership for Green and Sustainable Development have led to a peak in this cooperation. Besides this, vaccines, digital transformation, digital infrastructure, food security, technology, and climate change are some other major areas where this partnership can foster positive results. India and Germany must move coherently in terms of achieving the SDGs and do some major restructuring of the global architecture. The issue of energy transition is also another major area where such bilateral partnerships can pave the way for a better future. Given the evolving global solutions India and Germany also now have greater incentives to develop economic and defence cooperation. Keeping these factors in mind, it is pertinent to observe that such issues can be addressed suitably at the G7 forum. G7, thus, can serve as a powerful signalling mechanism to project the current global priorities by both India and Germany during India's G20 presidency and Germany's G7 presidency in 2023. ■



Prominent speakers at the webinar.

Growing Space Economy & Emerging Challenges in Outer Space Governance

The Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD) at RIS held a webinar on the topic "Growing Space Economy & Emerging Challenges in Outer Space Governance" on 27 May 2022 under the chairmanship of Professor S.K. Mohanty and Dr B. Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow.

In his opening remarks, Professor Mohanty emphasized the societal applications of India's space pursuits – bridging the digital divide, agriculture and forestry mapping, climate change monitoring, and mitigation – and gave the audience an overview of upstream and downstream sectors of the space industry. He connected these space pursuits with India's SDGs and India's domestic socio-economic growth. On the challenges front, Professor Mohanty highlighted that the issue of 'space debris' is a legal issue. On the space diplomacy front, he said that India must continue to provide space technologies under its technology development cooperation program to developing economies.

The webinar began with the session on "Emerging Challenges in Governance of Earth's Orbits. The session had Dr A.S. Kiran Kumar, Member Space Commission of India, Professor V. Siddhartha, Former

Systems Planning and Analysis Group Member at ISRO Headquarters, and Lt. Gen. PJS Pannu, Distinguished Fellow, United Services Institution of India.

Dr A.S. Kiran Kumar set the session's tone, citing the emerging trends in the global space sector and increasing space access. He highlighted that space activities are no more domains of space agencies, but the private sector is increasing its stakes. He mentioned ISRO's interactions with academia and industry, the privatization of numerous commercially-viable space applications, and how they are vital for India's economy.

Next spoke Professor V. Siddhartha, who started on the note stating that the Moon is no longer far away from the Earth's orbits. He said the Earth's orbit is a conflicted territory beyond national jurisdiction, and any attempts to extend national or international laws are fraught with difficulties.

The last speaker in this session was Lt. Gen. Pannu. He voiced the importance of high-resolution imaging and communication, command, control, computers, information, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR).

The second session was titled Balancing Space Economy Opportunities with Challenges. It

saw Lt. Gen. Narasimhan, Centre for Contemporary China Studies, Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri, Satcom Industry Association of India, and Mr Kunal Gupta, Skyroot Aerospace, as speakers.

Lt. Gen. Narasimhan started the session by focusing on the Civil-Military Fusion and China's Space Capabilities. He explained the state control and oversight of CMF that spans industries, startups, and academia.

Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri, in his intervention, began by mentioning ISRO's contributions to setting the foundation of the Indian space economy through early-stage R&D contributions and creating an industry ecosystem. He then mentioned about steps to make India a leader in the global space economy and satellite manufacturing global hub.

The last speaker of the session was Kunal Gupta of Skyroot Aerospace. He gave a brief overview of the space industry, how space solutions are strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and a quick glimpse of the product portfolio of Skyroot Aerospace.

Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan summed up the webinar with his concluding remarks and thanked all the speakers and attendees on behalf of FISD and RIS. ■

43rd STIP Forum Lecture

Why Invest in Research on Brain Sciences?

The 43rd STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Mr Senapathy Gopalakrishnan (Kris), Co-Founder and Former Vice-Chairman, Infosys, Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Chairman, CII AI Forum and CII Start-up Council, on 28 April 2022 on “Why Invest in Research on Brain Sciences?”. The event was chaired by Professor K VijayRaghavan, Former Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. Welcome remarks was delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, followed by brief remarks by Mr Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

In his very insightful address, Mr Gopalakrishnan provided



Mr Senapathy Gopalakrishnan

an overview of the significance of undertaking research on an exciting domain of brain sciences. He articulated that the huge amount of data that would emerge in such

research on brain sciences would help us understand how the brain develops, what changes take place during aging or at the time when disease struck.

Mr Gopalakrishnan also highlighted the serious concern of the rising number of patients with brain-related diseases in India as well as in the world.

He elaborated upon his efforts in promoting brain research in India through setting-up of Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre recently at IIT-Madras to power an ambitious Global Project to map the human brain at the cellular and connectivity levels, with a focus on high-resolution brain imaging. ■

44th STIP Forum Lecture

Policy Challenges of Sustainability

The 44th STIP Forum Lecture was delivered by Mr Nitin Desai, former Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN and Chairman, Governing Council, TERI, on June 28, 2022 on “Policy Challenges of Sustainability”. The event was chaired by Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI. Welcome remarks was delivered by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS, followed by brief remarks by Mr Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

Mr Desai began his insightful address by tracing the evolution of the idea of sustainable development since 1980s, when the Brundtland Commission (established by the United Nations in 1983 as World Commission on Environment and Development), submitted its report titled “*Our Common Future*.” He articulated that the idea of sustainability basically involves



Mr Nitin Desai

connecting three things together: the economic dimension, the social dimension and the environmental dimension.

The most important challenge for sustainability that we are facing today on the environmental side is the climate change. The essential point on climate issue is the emission of carbon. It has very often been said that India is the

third largest emitter, which is true as India's emissions have grown from a little around 600 million tonnes in 1990 to close over nearly about 2.6 billion tonnes in 2019. India has responded and has given its commitments in the climate process. India's latest position on commitments is that by 2030 it will reduce our carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes, reduce the carbon intensity of GDP by 45 percent, increase the non-fossil electricity capacity to 500 GW and raise the share of electricity based on renewables to 50 percent, which is quite commendable.

Mr Desai did acknowledge that to achieve these ambitious targets, we need to do much more and there are many areas that we have to address. Mr Desai exhorted on the need to bring back the notion of living with harmony with nature for a better sustainable future. ■

India-EU Cooperation in Green Hydrogen: Towards Sustainable Energy Transition

RIS in collaboration with the MEA and the EU-European External Action Service on India-EU organised a panel discussion on 'Cooperation in Green Hydrogen: Towards Sustainable Energy Transition' on June 2, 2022. Speaking at an event, H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the EU to India, opined that there is huge potential for deep and broad cooperation between India and the European Union (EU) in the field of green hydrogen including through initiatives like the EU's Global Gateway and thereby accelerate green transition.

Dr Vandana Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, said that from the perspective of energy transition and energy security there is a need to create a strong pipeline of green hydrogen projects including electrolyser and manufacturing facilities in India so that the supply side can be strengthened.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West), MEA, said that the main challenge now is to start implementing



Distinguished participants at the event.

joint green hydrogen projects, find markets for green hydrogen and green ammonia as well as address challenges in technology (including issues related to storage and transport) and financing.

Mr Tudor Constantinescu, Principal Adviser to the Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission, highlighted that the EU's REPowerEU Plan aims to accelerate the creation of a robust green hydrogen ecosystem and forge sustainable partnerships.

The event covered the following key issues: (i) Identifying potential joint pilot projects in India, especially in the critical areas of electrolyser

manufacturing, as well as green hydrogen and green ammonia production - which can be taken up by both the sides for early-stage implementation; (ii) Developing effective and efficient mechanisms to ensure a long-term pipe line of viable projects and build a robust green hydrogen ecosystem; (iii) Ascertaining the policy and regulatory changes required to boost private sector collaboration; (iv) Strategizing ways to mobilize adequate funding for pilot projects; (v) Addressing the key risks involved in the financing of green hydrogen; (vi) Role of the Development Finance Institutions in risk-mitigation. ■

Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific: Building Economic Resilience through Enhanced Connectivity

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in partnership with the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, RIS and ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi organized the second edition of seminar on connectivity pillar of Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) titled, "Connectivity Cooperation for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific: Building Economic Resilience through Enhanced Connectivity", on 8 April, 2022. The seminar was conducted in virtual mode. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, delivered opening remarks, whereas Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS delivered special remarks. H.E. Amb. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,

Embassy of Japan, New Delhi delivered the inaugural address. Ambassador Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), MEA, Government of India, delivered the keynote address.

H.E. Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki, in his inaugural address, reflected on the latest visit made by Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to India on 19th March, 2022 for summit meeting, attaching importance to India as a key partner in its Indo-Pacific vision. From the 1st Edition of the Seminar on Connectivity, held on 17 March, 2021, Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki built on the previous agenda and acknowledged the inclusion of an important dimension to the discussion on a Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-

Pacific; building economic resilience through enhanced connectivity. Ambassador Saurabh Kumar, in his keynote address, brought into notice Japan-India fructifying cooperation through several connectivity projects and marked on the importance of cooperation in the areas of digital connectivity.

The webinar had two sessions: Session 1 on Quality Infrastructure and Economic Resilience discussed the importance of good quality infrastructure in building a resilient economy by absorbing shocks. Session II on Digital Connectivity embarked on the need for digital connectivity in the Indo-Pacific to make it Open, Free and Inclusive. ■

India, EU look at Deepening Partnership, including Connectivity Projects in Third Countries

India and the European Union (EU) are looking forward to deepen their partnership in connectivity sectors including exploring connectivity projects in third countries through risk-mitigation measures that can attract private sector participation. In this regard, RIS organised 'India-EU Connectivity: New Context, New Horizons, 27 April 2022 along with the, MEA, India, the EU External Action Service and the European Investment Bank (EIB).



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi welcoming H.E. Ambassador Romana Vlahutin.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, mentioned about the Connectivity Webinar Series that RIS launched and highlighted the role that the Global Development Centre (GDC), established at the RIS, could play in advancing the connectivity partnership between India and EU. With support from Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation GDC can take India's development experience to the Global South, including in Africa. He added that the EU could join hands to strengthen the GDC's work in this regard.

"We want to explore how we can best combine our capabilities in South Asia, East Asia, Central Asia and Africa, and may be also in some regions closer to Europe," said Ambassador Romana Vlahutin, Ambassador at Large for Connectivity, European External Action Service (EEAS).

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West Division), MEA, India

said there is political convergence between India and the EU on connectivity including at the leaders' level, reflecting the political will to work together on many levels. This partnership will get a huge impetus in terms of its ability to attract private capital and improve trade ties when the bilateral FTA comes into force.

He said the EU, through its Global Gateway strategy, could also consider financing connectivity projects in India and in South Asia.

Another proposal was to replicate the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (meant for working with India's developed country partners) with the help of the EU to bring in Indian expertise, talent and entrepreneurship to develop projects in third countries, he said. The official added that India and the EU could also partner to replicate the success of India's digital payment platforms in third countries.

Mr Christian Kettel Thomsen, Vice President, European Investment

Bank, talked about issues including the need to enhance climate finance, the importance of de-risking of projects to make them attractive for private players as well as the crucial aspect of ensuring transparency in government procurement.

Others who spoke at the event include Dr Seshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council and General Body, RIS, Mr Shashi Shekhar, Director General, Independent Green Hydrogen Association, Mr P. R. Jaishankar, Managing Director, India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd., Ms Vidya Basarkod, Managing Director - India and Director - Ramboll Engineering Centre, Mr Davide Cirelli, Country Manager and CEO, Snam India Private Limited, Mr Sanjay Tiwari, Head of Public Affairs, Maersk India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and Mr Anirudh Suri, Managing Partner, India Internet Fund. Mr Arun Nair, Visiting Fellow, RIS extended the vote of thanks. ■

Webinar on Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Economic Relations

To commemorate the 30 years of ASEAN-India strategic partnership, the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS has been organising webinars in virtual mode to focus on the persistent challenges and emerging opportunities in ASEAN-India relations. The second

webinar in this series was held on April 22, 2022 on virtual mode. The speakers discussed the current engagements between India and ASEAN in economic pillar. Give the unfolding global political scenario, the speakers covered issues such as recovery from the Covid-19

pandemic, review of ASEAN-India FTA process, the RCEP, global value chains, role of digitalization in strengthening the partnership. The speakers also identified the priorities for the region in order to deepen the relations in the next decade. ■

Seventh Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)

The Seventh Round of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) began on May 12, 2022 on virtual platform. The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh has joined hands with the ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System (RIS), New Delhi as a partner organisation. The AINTT is supported by the ASEAN-India Fund and benefitted by the encouragement from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Indian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta. The second day programme was held on May 13, 2022.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh from India and Hon'ble Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia, Dr Kung Phoak delivered the Inaugural Address and the Keynote Address, respectively.

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS in his address mentioned that the world is facing double jeopardy the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In this backdrop, considering that ASEAN and India enjoy high degree of trust for either side, they need to pursue technological cooperation to enhance the bilateral as well as multilateral



Distinguish participants at the 7th Round of AINTT.

relations and create more ways of sustainable partnership for the world said Amb. Kumar.

India is a valued partner of ASEAN, mentioned the Secretary of State of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia, Dr Kung Phoak. He also appreciated the draft ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership document submitted by India to augment the present one.

ASEAN is positioned at the heart of India's Act East Policy, said Hon'ble MoS of External Affairs and Education, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh while delivering the inaugural address. The 7th AINTT was set to engage in constructive dialogues on post-Covid-19 recovery for the regions. ASEAN has a greatest role to play in ensuring peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. Health

security, digital economy and green sustainable future are the three important aspects of ASEAN-India partnership in the present context. India has been instrumental in initiatives like Vaccine Maitri and Quad Vaccine diplomacy in helping the Indo-Pacific countries in building meaningful health partnership. India has also taken initiatives like ASEAN-India Green Fund to foster green and sustainable future embracing clean and green energy for the region.

In the rest of the sessions, speakers from all ASEAN member stated and India shared their views at the two-day event that was themed as 'Post-Covid-19 Recovery: Regional Cooperation Agenda for ASEAN-India Partnership'. They deliberated on sustainable recovery, cooperation in health, SDGs, MSMEs, connectivity and supply chain resilience among many other issues. ■

Socio-Cultural Partnership between ASEAN and India

The webinar on Socio-Cultural Partnership between ASEAN and India was held on June 30, 2022. In his opening remarks, Dr Prabir De, Coordinator of the AIC, outlined the changing profile of ASEAN-India relations and the activities completed. H.E. Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Indonesia to New Delhi, India delivered the special remarks at the webinar with a focus on "strategic trust" between India and ASEAN. She focused on different opportunities in the field

of socio-cultural domain between ASEAN and India in the line of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint. Professor Baladas Ghosal, former Professor of Southeast Asia and South-West Pacific Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in his special remarks, commented on the geo-civilisational connectivity between ASEAN and India. Professor Lipi Ghosh, Centenary Chair Professor of International Relations, University of Calcutta chaired. Speakers included Professor Parul Pandya Dhar, Professor, Department of History,

University of Delhi. Professor Joefer B. Santarita, Professor, Asian Centre, University of Philippines, Manila, Dr Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Associate Professor, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar and Professor Dr Do Thu Ha, Head of Indian Studies Department, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (VNU), Ha Noi, Vietnam. The speakers noted the importance of historical ties, cultural traits and civilisational legacies between ASEAN and India which needs to be translated and transformed for the contemporary utilization. ■

Accessing Rare Earth Elements and Prospects for Manufacturing

Indian Rare Earth Sector

India is endowed with rich REE reserves. With almost 7 million tonnes of REE reserve, India accounts for more than 5 per cent of global REE reserves, fifth largest in the world (Table 3). Interestingly, India has also been one of the early countries to recognize the importance of REE. It started efforts to develop domestic REE production capacity in 1950s, when it established the Indian Rare Earth Ltd (IREL) for mining and processing of REE. Nonetheless, in spite of rich reserves and an early start, India has not been able to develop the REE industry of any significance and its share in global REE market has remained negligible. Ironically, IREL, which was established to produce REE, never actually focused on REE production. Instead, IREL gave more importance to thorium and other minerals such as ilmenite, zircon, rutile etc. Consequently, for years, REE production in India remained stagnant at around 2000 tonnes before increasing to 4215 tonnes in 2018-19 (MOM 2020). Extremely low domestic supply of REE ensured that downstream REE industry virtually remained absent in India, forcing Indian manufacturers to rely on the imports of finished REE derivatives from China to meet the booming domestic demand of consumer electronics, computing equipments, electric machinery, solar panels etc., leading to a massive increase in trade deficit.

India's inability to realize REE potential can mainly be attributed to passive government attitude. REE exploration and processing is fraught with financial, technological and environmental challenges and therefore needs government support in terms of clear policy and financial handholding in the initial phase of development. However, in spite of recognizing the importance of REE, Indian government failed to devise a clear policy or road map for the development of REE sector. Instead of having a separate policy for REE, government clubbed REE with atomic minerals which ensured

state monopoly and kept the foreign and private domestic investors away, leading to a stagnant REE sector. Global tech leader such as Japan has tried to source REE from India. In 2014, PM Modi and PM Abe signed deal to produce 2000 tonnes of REE in India and export it to Japan. However, due to state monopoly, lack of technology, environment clearance hurdles and absence of any viability gap funding nothing has been materialised till date.

India: A Major REE Producer

Growing disenchantment with China has opened an interesting opportunity for India. Building a resilient supply chain of high tech product by reducing dependence on China has emerged as an important objective of major economies across the globe. USA, Japan, Australia, France, EU all have come up with their Indo-Pacific Strategies which along with other objectives also emphasis on supply chain resilience/ diversification. Some of these countries have already started nudging their firms to reduce dependence on China. However, these isolated attempts have yield limited results. Therefore, a closely coordinated approach is required to secure supply chains of high-tech products. Policy makers in these countries have realised this and consequently, multi country co-operation for supply resilience has gained momentum in the form of India-Japan-Australia, India-France-Australia trilateral co-operation and Quadrilateral security dialogue. India-Japan-Australia have gone a step ahead and have formally launch a Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) which envisage investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events along with joint trade and investment diversification measures to achieve the objective of supply chain resilience.

Increasing clamour for reducing tech dependence on China and Supply chain resilience provides a rare opportunity for India, which has fifth largest REE reserves in the world. Given the Chinese experience,

India too can use its REE reserve to establish a thriving high technology manufacturing sector. The prevailing circumstances are most conducive for India to opt for a REE centric approach for mitigating tech dependence on China. Tech leaders of the world are actively trying to build REE supply outside China. Japan's financial co-operation has helped Australian firm to restart REE production. USA is also cooperating with Australia to increase production of REE. These efforts have helped Australia to produced 15 per cent of global REE in 2018, despite having just 2.5 per cent of global REE reserves. India on the other had has more than 5 per cent of known global REE reserves. However, its production has remained stagnant at around 3000 tonnes.

There is a huge scope for India and its emerging strategic partners in Indo-Pacific to co-operate in the extraction and processing of REE. Australia is an ideal partner for technology co-operation in the field of production and processing of REE. Similarly, Japan, USA and France will be happy to financially co-operate with India to bridge the viability gap in REE production project. However, before seeking international co-operation, India needs put its house in order. Two steps are required to boost upstream REE industry in India. One, India should urgently chalk out a clear policy for REE sector with realistic objectives. Second, it should amend Atomic Mineral Concession Act (2016) which has reserved all beach Sand Mines deposits containing more than 0.75 per cent Monazite (source of REE) for government owned companies. These two measures if taken immediately have potential to transform India in to a major REE producer. Development of upstream REE industry can then stimulate economically more valuable downstream manufacturing leading to an Atamnirbhar Bharat. ■

(Excerpted from the RIS Policy Brief No. 106, prepared by Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS.)

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Made a presentation on 'Enabling Strategies and Business Models for Transfer and Adoption of 4IR Technologies' at the International Conference on Innovation, Transfer And Diffusion of 4ir Technologies organised jointly by UNESCAP-APCTT, Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China and Guangzhou University on 30 June 2022.
- Recorded podcast on India's Participation and takeaways; the question of equity in climate issues and meeting energy needs and the relevance of India's participation ahead of taking over the G20 presidency organised by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on 27 June 2022.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Development Partnership' at the National Seminar on India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas organised by ICWA on 15 June 2022.
- Delivered a Tarlok Singh Memorial Lecture on 'Indian Social Science Research and University-Think Tank Connect: The Way Forward' at the 21st IASSI, Annual Conference organised by IGIDR on 14 June 2022, Mumbai.
- Spoke at the Webinar on 'The Quad Way: A Force for Global Good' organised by India Writes Network; India and the World magazine in association with the Centre for Global India Insights (CGII) on 9 June 2022.
- Participated in the Roundtable on Digital Innovations for Advancing Health and Development - How India's digital public goods can benefit the world organised by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 7 June 2022.
- Delivered Keynote Address on "Swadeshi, atma-nirbhar and Sustainability: Convergences and Way Forward" at the 3S International Virtual Conference organised University of Utah on 5 June 2022.
- Chaired the Special Lecture on "Monitoring Large Scale Government Projects" delivered during the 4th Edition of 3PE -Public policy and program evaluation workshop organised jointly by ILR School of Cornell University and GRAAM on 28 May 2022.
- Discussant at the Session on Building on a shared vision for future infrastructure investment: the contribution of T20, B20, D20 at the Virtual Seminar 'Joining forces for recovery and a safe, sustainable future: Assessing a multilateral roadmap for financing high impact, sustainable infrastructure projects in the G20' organised within the framework of the G20 and in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia, the D20 and the T20 and B20 Official engagement Groups on 24 May 2022, Berlin.
- Participated in the Public Panel Discussion: The Role of the G7 in a New Geopolitical Environment at the THINK 7 Summit on Fostering Global Cooperation in a Contested Geo-Political Environment organised by Global Solution Initiative and DIE on 23 May 2022, Berlin.
- Participated in the Informal strategic brainstorming on Triangular Co-operation with Asia: Steps from Political Support to Project Implementation organised by Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation (GPI) on 23 May 2022 at Berlin.
- Panelist in the plenary session on "What should the G7 do to foster cooperation with the G20?" at the THINK 7 Summit on Fostering Global Cooperation in a Contested Geo-Political Environment organised by Global Solution Initiative and DIE on 23 May 2022, Berlin.
- Delivered speech at the Session on 'Practicing true multilateralism and improving the global economic governance system' at the 14th BRICS Academic Forum 2022 on Cementing Intellectual Support for BRICS with the Focus on Common Development organised by China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation on 20 May 2022.
- Addressed the Plenary Session of the BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organisation Forum on Solidarity and Cooperation toward Common Development and a Brighter Future organised jointly by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, China Council for BRICS Think Tank Cooperation and China NGO Network for International Exchanges on 19 May 2022.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on WTO Issues in preparation for MC-12 organised by Department of Commerce in coordination with the Centre for WTO Studies on 18 May 2022.
- Delivered Remarks in the session on India's Growth Potential at the National Symposium on "Challenges in Understanding Economics" organised by ICSSR on 15 May 2022.
- Panelist at the Special Event 3: Supporting national capacities and the Partnership in Action for STI4SDG roadmaps at the Seventh Annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for SDGs on "Science, technology, and innovation for building back better from the corona virus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" organised by Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum), supported by the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) on 6 May 2022.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Made a Special Address on 'Why India should address Indigenous Peoples' Debate with Urgency?' at the fourth session on Global Aspect of the National Vimarsh on "Legal Status of STs; their Identity and Future" on 1 May 2022.
- Addressed the inaugural session and chaired the session on Strategies of Research Design at the Madhya Pradesh PhD Colloquium, 2022 organised by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi on 28-29 April 2022.
- Made a presentation on Trajectory of Trade, Investment and Innovation in India's Biotechnology Sector at the Workshop on Secure Trade and Transfers of Biotechnology: Regulations & Good Practices in India organised jointly by Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, ABLE and STIMSON on 26 April, 2022, Bengaluru.
- Made a presentation on 75 years of Independence how to integrate Trade in Learning and Teaching of Economics made at the 17th Annual National Conference Uttar Pradesh - Uttarakhand Economic Association (UPUEA) organised jointly by Sharda University and UPUEA on 23 April 2022, Greater Noida.
- Made a presentation at the Roundtable 3 on From Deliberation to Collaboration: Government & Industry at the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit organised by Ministry of Ayush on 20 April 2022 at Gandhinagar.
- Made a presentation at the Roundtable 2 on Indian AYUSH Opportunities for the World at the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit organised by Ministry of Ayush on 20 April 2022 at Gandhinagar.
- Participated in the Brainstorming Session between STI Agencies of India and APCTT for Promoting Regional Technology Cooperation organised by Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) on 19 April 2022.
- Delivered a lecture on 'SDGs' at the First International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals' organised jointly by Deendayal Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh and others on 15 April 2022, Chitrakoot.
- Made a presentation on India-China Trade Deficit and Wider Trade Narrative? at a Session on India-China Trade Deficit and Emerging Trade Narratives organised by RBI, New Delhi on 13 April 2022.
- Addressed the inaugural session, addressed the session on 'Development Communication and Writing' and also addressed the session on 'Partnership for Sustainable Development and Sharing Experiences: Conclave with CSO' at the Partnership for Development and Sharing of Experiences Conclave with CSOs organised jointly by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal and PRIA, New Delhi on 8-9 April 2022.
- Recording on India-Nepal Ties in the context of Visit of Prime Minister Hon'ble Deuba to speak on the economic dimensions of the relationship at Weekly Programme on Sansad TV, Diplomatic Dispatch on 6 April 2022.
- Participated in the 30 Years of ASEAN-India Relations - Delhi Dialogue XII: Building Bridges in Indo-Pacific and made a presentation on Deepening India and ASEAN Economic Partnership: Review of Bilateral FTA in the Session on Facilitating Trade, Investment and Value Chains in the Post Pandemic Recovery and Rebuilding on 16 June 2022, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences and made a presentation on Relevance of Blue Economy for India, as a special Talk on Blue Economy on the occasion of World Ocean Day, 8 June 2022, New Delhi.
- Participated as a panelist in the Annual Conference 2022 on The Middle East: A New Arena for Asian Competition? Organised by Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore (MEI-NUS), Singapore and made a presentation on India-China Bilateral Trade Relationship, with ME as an Arena, through zoom on 18 May 2022.
- Participated in the zoom Annual Conference 2022 on The Middle East: A New Arena for Asian Competition? regarding discussion on talking point, organised by Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore (MEI-NUS) on 17 May 2022.
- Participated in the webinar on Regional Trade Agreements of South Asia, organised by the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE), and made a presentation on Invigorating Trade Cooperation among Regional Economies in South Asia, on 6 May 2022.
- Meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Science, regarding RIS work programme on Blue Economy, New Delhi on 28 April 2022.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the 30 Years of ASEAN-India Relations - Delhi Dialogue XII: Building Bridges in Indo-Pacific and made a presentation on Deepening India and ASEAN Economic

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Joined as panelist in the Global Policy Forum organised by ISPI,

Italy in collaboration with T20 Indonesia on June 20-21, 2022.

- Organised RIS Seminar on “New Horizons of International Cooperation: Exploring Synergies between G7 and G20’ on June 7, 2022.
- Contributed to the RIS Roundtable Discussion on “Development Issues at G20: Scope and Context at DWG and T20’ organised by RIS on June 6, 2022.
- Organised Seminar on “India-EU Connectivity Partnership and the Global Gateway: Cooperation in Green Hydrogen towards Sustainable Energy Transition’ organised by RIS and EU Delegation in India in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, India on June 2, 2022.
- Joined as Discussant in the Virtual Seminar ‘Joining Forces for Recovery and a Safe, Sustainable Future: Assessing a Multilateral Roadmap for Financing High Impact, Sustainable Infrastructure Projects in the G20’ organised by G20 Indonesia on May 24, 2022.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in a talk on Trade and Climate Change organized by World Trade Institute of the University of Bern and the Centre for WTO Studies of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, the Embassy of Switzerland on 30 June 2022.
- Participated in a Trade Talk on EU’s Approach towards External Subsidies organized by Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT on 29 June 2022.
- Participated in a trade talk on Trends in recent WTO safeguards jurisdiction organized by CWS on 20 June 2022.

- Participated in a discussion on Strategic Roadmap on Competition Issues in Data Markets organized by the Esya Centre in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation on 17-18 June 2022.
- Participated in a programme on Climate and ESG factors for Asia Pacific organized by Deloitte on 15 June 2022.
- Participated in a webinar organized by PHDCCI on 6 June 2022.
- Participated in a programme on Digital Frontier: Technology and the Board organized by Deloitte on 19 May 2022.
- Participated as a Member in the 8th QCI PPD Steering Committee Meeting on 17 May 2022.
- Participated in a webinar on WTO 2.0 in the post-COVID World organized by ICRIER-KAS on 5 May 2022.
- Participated in a programme on the inflation outlook: How can boards prepare for the future of global inflation? organized by Deloitte on 4 May 2022.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board Meeting of Airtel Bank on 2-3 May 2022.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the power talk on the wheels of Corporate Governance and evolving roles of Boards and Independent Directors organized by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs on 29 April 2022.
- Participated in a Session on Gearing up with ESG: A Discussion on India’s ESG Playbook, Preparedness and Expectations organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 28 April 2022.
- Participated as an Independent Director in Risk Management Committee organized by Goodyear India Limited on 28 April and 26 May 2022.

- Participated in a webinar on whether ‘data localisation’ and ‘national champion’ approach would lead to an inclusive digital economy? Organized by CUTS on 27 April 2022.
- Participated in a webinar on Explained.Live: After the war: Russia, the West, and India on 20 April 2022.
- Participated in a webinar on India-Australia: Evolving Trade & Investment Paradigm organized by EXIM Bank on 8 April 2022.
- Participated in the CII Corporate Governance Summit on 8-9 April 2022.
- Participated in a Flagship Seminar on From Grey To Green: Net-zero Transition Opportunities For India, organized by Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) on 6 April 2022.

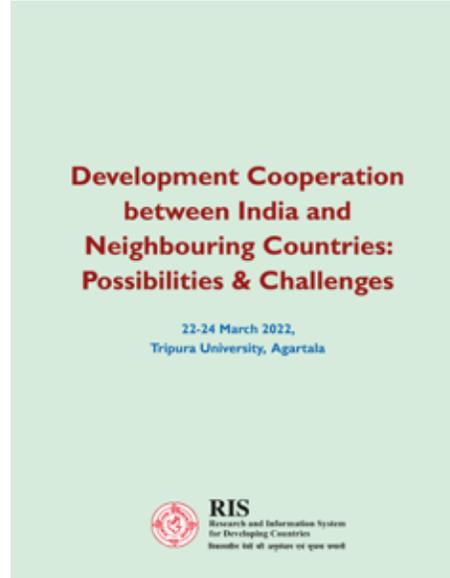
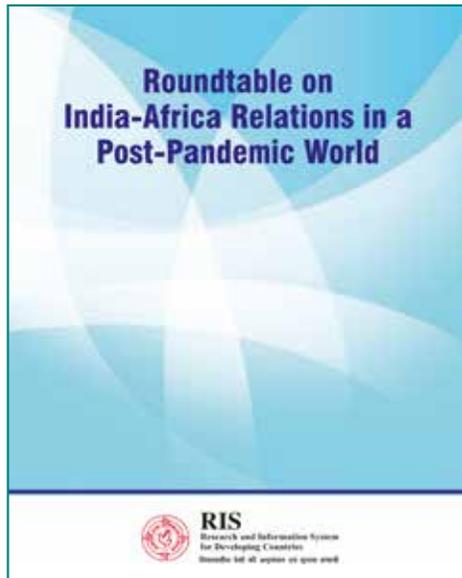
Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the G20 AWG Webinar titled, ‘Enhancing Digital Agriculture and Rural Finance for Food Security’, held on 28th and 29th June 2022.
- Participated in the T20 side event titled, ‘Managing Elevated Risks of Climate Transition’, of ‘International Finance and Economic Recovery of T20 Indonesia’, held in collaboration with LPEM FEB UI, on 2nd June 2022.
- Made a Presentation on ‘Reduction of Poverty in India’, in the ‘International Conference on Poverty Reduction in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’, organised by Uzbekistan on 26th May 2022, on the invite of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) event on 'Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH)' on 25 May, 2022.
 - Participated in the UNESCAP side event on 'Carbon neutrality goals and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific', held on 24 May 2022.
 - Participated in the USAID and IFPRI event on 'Irrigation Investment Policy: Does Scale Matter?' on 24 May, 2022.
 - Participated in the webinar on 'India's Industrial Policy and Performance', organised by Council for Social Development and Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (CSD-ISID), held on 12th May 2022.
 - Participated in the G20 webinar on, 'Escalating the Role of Gas in Energy Transition', organised by the Energy Transitions Working Group on 11th May 2022.
 - Participated in the G20 Indonesia side event CSIS Global Dialogue 2022, titled, 'G20 Indonesia: Windows for Recovering Together and Stronger', during 27th to 29th April 2022.
 - Participated in the ERIA event organized in association with ADB on 'Economic Outlook: Prospects for growth and Regional co-operation' on 28 April 2022.
 - Participated in the online seminar titled, 'Social Cohesion. What, why and how? Social Cohesion in Africa: Where do we stand? Where are we heading to?', organised by the Social Cohesion Team of DIE on 26th April 2022.
 - Participated in the webinar titled, 'Remanufacturing: The Future of Sustainable Business', organised by the US Consulate General, Mumbai, on 26th April 2022.
 - Participated in the seminar on 'Recover Stronger through the G20: Sustainable Landscape Management Strategies in Agriculture' organized by Think20 (T20) side event organized by the World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia on 21 April 2022.
 - Participated in the Webinar on , 'When Evidence Meets Policy: Helping India's State Governments Respond to Public Health Challenges', organised by J-PAL on 19th April 2022.
 - Participated in the IFAD organised debate on 'Transforming food Systems for Rural Prosperity: How do nutrition and environment fit in?', held on 11th April 2022.
 - Participated on 5th April 2022 in the Policy Roundtable on, 'Green Industrialisation in India', organised by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID).
- Mr Krishna Kumar**
Visiting Fellow
- Participated in the Joint Webinar between Agriculture Working Group (AWG) and Development Working Group (DWG) on G-20 Agenda: "Enhancing Digital Agriculture and Rural Finance for Food Security" on 28-29 June 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the OECD and T20 Indonesia event on Global Policy Forum (GPF) on 20-21 June 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the T20 Indonesia side event on 'Managing Elevated Risks of Climate Transition' on 2 June, 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the ICRIER event on 'Release of Report Contribution of Non-Alcoholic Beverage Sector to Indian Economic Growth and Atmanirbhar Bharat' on 27 May, 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the USAID and IFPRI event on 'Irrigation Investment Policy: Does Scale Matter?' on 24 May, 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) event on 'Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH)' on 25 May, 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) event on 2022 Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change & Food Systems' on May 12, 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the ERIA event organized in association with ADB on 'Economic Outlook: Prospects for growth and Regional cooperation' on 28 April 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the CSIS Global Dialogue 2022 on "G20 Indonesia: Windows for Recovering Together and Stronger" from 27 April to 29 April 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the seminar on 'Remanufacturing: The Future of Sustainable Business' organized by US Consulate General, Mumbai on 26 April, 2022 (virtual).
 - Participated in the seminar on 'Recover Stronger through the G20: Sustainable Landscape Management Strategies in Agriculture' organized by Think20 (T20) side event organized by the World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia on 21 April 2022 (Virtual).
 - Participated in the IFAD organised debate on 'Transforming food Systems for Rural Prosperity: How do nutrition and environment fit in?' held on 11th April 2022 (Virtual).



REPORTS

- **Roundtable on India-Africa Relations in a Post-Pandemic World**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2022*
- **Development Cooperation between India and Neighbouring Countries: Possibilities & Challenges**, *RIS, New Delhi, 2022*

FITM POLICY BRIEF

- #8 **Heal by India, Heal in India: Ayurveda and Yoga as Soft Power Tools** by Professor T. C. James

JOURNALS

- **G20 Digest**, Volume: 1 | No.4
- **Asian Biotechnology and Development Review**, Volume: 24, No. 1, March, 2022
- **Traditional Medicine Review**, Volume: Vol. 1 | No. 2 | April 2022

AIC at RIS PUBLICATION

AIC Working Paper

- #10 **Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: The Stock-taking of Outcomes for 1992-2022**, by Sampa Kundu

Mekong Ganga Policy Brief

No. 11, March 2022



Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2022. Social Sector: Inclusive Infrastructure, Yojana, April 2022.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2022. Strengthening BIMSTEC Partnership for Collective Development. In *25 Years of BIMSTEC: Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal*, Dhaka, BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka (pp.35-46).

Chaturvedi, Sachin, Tim Bütte, Peter B Payoyo, and Krishna Ravi Srinivas. 2022. 'India and the Philippines in Global Health Governance' in *Rethinking Participation in Global Governance* edited by Joost Pauwelyn, Martino Maggetti, Tim Bütte, and Ayelet Berman, Oxford University Press 2022, (Pp 349-378).

Popular Articles

Chaturvedi, S & Pogge, Thomas. 2022. India's stand TRIPS vaccine inequity. *Financial Express*, June 08, 2022.

Chaturvedi, S. 2022. Bonds of the Bay: fulfilling the potential of the Bay of Bengal community. *Indian Express*, April 09, 2022.

Importance of South Asia In Quest for Development

- Rapid growth did help reducing absolute poverty in South Asia very rapidly by historical standards but not as much as it could have been because the initial income distribution was unequal and there was rising income inequality.
- Economic growth also did not lead to employment creation. South Asia is also home to more than 40 per cent of the world's poor. The social indicators on health and development are among the worst in the world.
- Regional cooperation in South Asia assumes enormous importance in this quest for development. Initially, the logic and benefits of economic cooperation in South Asian countries were set out largely in terms of gains from goods in trade. At present, there are also economic transactions related to services, investment, technology, and people.
- Institutions, individuals, intellectuals, citizens and the civil society in our countries must preserve the spirit of SAARC. However, the idea of South Asia as a region for governments also has its complications.



**Professor
Deepak Nayyar**
Co-Chair, SA-
CEPS

Moving towards Regional Cooperation

- Challenges of poverty and hunger, rising and widening inequality across the region still persist and need to be dealt with. The rise of technology and globalisation have been pointed out as some of the factors contributing to this.
- Sustainable Development Goals have become very relevant and vital for South Asian countries to ensure that 'no one is left behind'.
- Given the prevailing global situation regional cooperation is must. If South Asia wants to achieve sustainable development goals and build inclusive economies, it must have greater regional cooperation.
- Shared problems or shared challenges need shared solutions. There is also a need to build sustainable transport connectivity like regional or freight corridors running across the region. Institutional architecture needs to be strengthened and made much more active because official institutions have not been very active off-late. There is also a need for people to connect and civil society participation to take the agenda forward.



Dr Nagesh Kumar
Director, Institute for
Studies in Industrial
Development, New
Delhi

Together We Will Stand

- The misery and the experience faced during the pandemic should be treated as assets for the future. This will help us invest all our initiatives, experience, and accumulated knowledge to prepare better for the future. "Together we will stand" should be our motto.
- Several problems cannot be solved without working with the partners who are locked into the same problems. Climate change, trade, investment, finance, multi-modal connectivity, technology, innovation, data, etc. are such locked-in sectors/problems. Individual attempt to solve these problems will lead to sub optimal solution.
- Dealing with the uncertain world as a collective regional entity is the biggest issue. Uncertainty in the world can be caused by fluctuations in commodity prices, changes in the energy sector, supply chain and logistics issues, other softer cross-border issues, etc. These issues are intertwined and call for the co-operation among regional actors.



**Dr Debapriya
Bhattacharyya**
Chair, Southern
Voice network of
think tanks and
Distinguished
Fellow, CPD,
Bangladesh

Promotion of Deeper Integration in South Asia

- South Asia is one of the least integrated regions in the world. However, one should remain optimistic regarding the promotion of deeper integration in South Asia.
- Optimism also stems from the fact that think tanks like the RIS, CPD, IPS, SAWTEE, SDPI, other research institutions, and private sector actors are working hard to identify new drivers for regional cooperation ranging from agriculture to net-zero carbon.
- Research activities and advocacy activities need to be continued and politicians have to play a leading role to take this process of regional integration ahead.



**Dr Posh Raj
Pandey**
Chairman,
SAWTEE, Nepal



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

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



www.facebook.com/risindia



Follow us on:

@RIS_NewDelhi



www.youtube.com/RISNewDelhi