



India- ASEAN Should Embrace Re-globalisation: Dr Jaishankar

8th Round of AINTT at Singapore



Dr J Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, delivering keynote address at the 8th AINTT meeting, Singapore.

The 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) took place on 7-8 November 2024, in Singapore. The event was organised jointly by the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi, and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore, with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, India. The theme of the roundtable was “Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for ASEAN-India Cooperation,” and it gathered over 100

scholars, policymakers, and experts from India and ASEAN member states to discuss ways to enhance ASEAN-India relations amidst global and regional transitions.

The event began with an inaugural session in which Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, emphasised the significance of strengthening ASEAN-India relations as ASEAN prepares to adopt its Vision 2045 and Strategic Plans. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General of



Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma

The Government of India has appointed Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, IFS, Chairman of RIS. Ambassador Verma, with over 36 years of distinguished service, has held key positions across the world. He has represented India as Ambassador to Japan and the Republic of the Marshall Islands before his recent role as High Commissioner to Canada. Committed to advancing cybersecurity, AI, IT services, trade, and foreign investments, he remains an esteemed member of the Indian Foreign Service.

Under his leadership, RIS would go a long way to fulfill its mandate of being a Think Tank of Global South. It would continue to work effectively for ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth of all.



Panel discussion at AINTT.

RIS, underscored the importance of sustained engagement and collaboration among think tanks for advancing partnerships in trade, technology, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Choi Shing Kwok, Director and CEO of ISEAS, highlighted the economic synergies between ASEAN and India, noting the bilateral trade of USD 131 billion and identifying opportunities in energy, the digital economy, and maritime cooperation.

The Ministerial Session featured keynote addresses by Dr S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of Singapore. Dr Balakrishnan reflected on the long-standing ties between India and Southeast Asia, emphasising the deep cultural, trade, and religious exchanges that have shaped their relationship. He stressed ASEAN's central role in India's foreign policy and expressed optimism for the future of joint development across various sectors. Dr Jaishankar, in his address, discussed the accelerating pace of global transitions and identified key turning points, such as China's entry into the WTO and the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have reshaped global dynamics. He advocated for ASEAN and India to embrace "re-globalisation," particularly in areas such as manufacturing, critical



Delegates at the 8th AINTT meeting.

technologies, and connectivity. He also emphasised the importance of collaborative infrastructure development, citing initiatives like the Trilateral Highway and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, and highlighted the potential for deeper cooperation in trade, green technologies, and education.

The roundtable included six technical sessions. The first session addressed the challenges and opportunities of strengthening regional value chains (RVCs) amidst a shifting global trade landscape. The second session focused on ASEAN-India cooperation for green energy transition, while the

third explored the challenges and opportunities of digitalising micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in both regions. In the fourth session, discussions centered on the policy and regulatory challenges faced by the fintech sector, with a particular focus on cross-border digital payments and the roadmap for cooperation, such as the India-Singapore "Fintech Cooperation Agreement." The fifth session examined the role of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in promoting international rule of law, especially in the context of global shifts. The sixth session consolidated key insights from the previous discussions, sharing and

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Panel Discussion on Inequality, Economic Growth and Inclusion



Professor Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics.

RIS and the Delhi School of Economics jointly organised a panel discussion on the topic “Inequality, Economic Growth and Inclusion” in New Delhi on 13 December 2024. The event brought together a distinguished panel of economists featuring Professor Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics; Dr Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; Dr V. Ananta Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS; Professor Ravindra H. Dholakia, Independent Member, RBI Board of Governors;



Dr Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.



Dr V. Ananta Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India.

and Professor Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics. The discussion attracted an audience of over 700 students, academics, and policy professionals, with additional participants joining online.

The panel discussion commenced with inaugural remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, who underscored Thomas Piketty’s seminal contributions to understanding wealth accumulation and distribution. He emphasised the broader implications of inequality for social justice. Following this, Professor Piketty delivered

a comprehensive presentation, drawing on insights from his three books and the Global Inequality Report. He examined global inequality trends, focusing on income distribution, policy impacts, and the specific case of India. Advocating for inclusive growth, he proposed implementing a moderate wealth tax on India’s richest citizens as a mechanism to generate revenue and reduce inequality.

Dr Shamika Ravi’s presentation provided a critical perspective on Piketty’s findings, highlighting the unique social and economic dynamics of India. She questioned the universal applicability of OECD measurement frameworks and presented data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey to indicate a trend of decreasing inequality in India. Dr Ravi emphasised the complexity of understanding inequality and economic growth, advocating for the use of granular data to gain a nuanced understanding of economic realities.

Dr V. Ananta Nageswaran’s presentation addressed the question of “What Matters?” in inequality measurement from a public policy



Professor Ravindra H. Dholakia, Independent Member, RBI Board of Governors.

standpoint. He argued for the inclusion of variables such as geography, history, climate, and emissions, which influence income and wealth distribution. Using



*Professor Sachin Chaturvedi,
Director-General, RIS.*

examples from India's economic history, Dr Nageswaran challenged the notion that redistribution alone

can adequately address poverty and inequality.

Professor Ravindra H. Dholakia commended the World Inequality Index as a bold attempt to address the complexities of inequality but called for further research on the subject. He explored correlations between variables such as the rate of return on capital, economic growth rates, wages, and the social rate of discount, contributing valuable insights to the discussion.

The session concluded with remarks from Professor Ram Singh, who expressed gratitude to Professor Piketty and the panelists for their enriching contributions. He highlighted the growing recognition of inequality as a critical global and national issue and stressed the need to balance economic growth with inclusion measures to address inequality effectively.

By bringing together diverse perspectives on topics such as wealth taxation and tailored measurement frameworks, this panel discussion illuminated the multifaceted nature of addressing inequality in varied socio-economic contexts. The event underscored the importance of robust academic and policy discourse in developing strategies to foster inclusive economic growth.



*Professor Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School
of Economics.*



Seminar on Trade, Tariff and Trump



Eminent Speakers at the Seminar on Trade, Tariff and Trump.

On 31 December 2024, RIS hosted a seminar titled 'Trade, Tariff and Trump'. The seminar featured a detailed presentation by the RIS team, led by Professor S.K. Mohanty, which addressed the theme, "Why the US is on the Path of Recovery: Why Trade Action." The presentation and subsequent discussions offered an in-depth exploration of the dynamics of US trade actions, drawing upon India's prior experience in 2018 and critically assessing the appropriateness and implications of such measures.

A key aspect highlighted was the necessity to deepen trade linkages at the sectoral and product levels by identifying potential threats and opportunities before formulating policy actions. In this context, end-use goods, particularly consumer goods, were identified as a likely focus for tariff imposition by the US administration. India's exports, such as pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, and shrimp, were singled out as particularly vulnerable. To mitigate the impact, it was suggested that India should enhance its pharmaceutical supply chains, ensuring alignment with US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards, and explore alternative markets beyond the US. For the

jewellery sector, increasing value addition could make Indian products more appealing to the American consumer. In the shrimp sector, reinforcing sanitary and phytosanitary measures was recommended to meet the standards required by the US.

The seminar also noted that other manufactured goods, such as leather, textiles, plasticware, and base metal articles, may require proactive measures. While these goods face both threats and opportunities, competition with countries like China, Mexico, and Canada in the US market was emphasised. The new US administration's potential tariffs on these countries could create an opportunity for India to fill the market space vacated by them. During Trump's first term, India was unable to fully capitalise on this opportunity as China utilised Mexico as a manufacturing base to bypass US tariffs. However, the seminar stressed the importance of acting swiftly to prevent these countries from reclaiming their positions in the market.

India's established presence in the US services sector, particularly in business process outsourcing (BPO), was acknowledged. However, the over-reliance on H1B visas for

service delivery was flagged as a challenge in the context of a rapidly changing business model. The seminar recommended that India shift its focus towards professional services, as well as maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services, among other service sub-sectors, to remain competitive.

Regarding technology-driven products, the seminar pointed out that India has successfully penetrated the US market across various segments. US tariffs on high-tech products are the lowest (0.2 percent), making them vulnerable to potential tariff hikes by the new administration. To mitigate the impact, strengthening partnerships with US importers was recommended, enabling them to lobby for favorable policies. Conversely, tariffs on low-tech products are higher, offering India an avenue to increase its participation in the US manufacturing sector's value chains. Given the intrinsic link between trade and investment, India was advised to review its bilateral investment treaty model to support sustainable trade initiatives.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

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Illicit Financial Flows and G 20 Strategies for the Global South: Discussion with Nilimesh Baruah



Brainstorming session on India's own successful efforts on financial inclusion and Innovation as lessons.

RIS hosted Nilimesh Baruah for a focused discussion on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) under the chairmanship of Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, on 30 December 2024. The session brought together RIS faculty members and experts from various institutions to address the complexities and implications of IFFs within the context of India's G20 Presidency and its leadership role in the Global South.

The discussion centred on the multidimensional challenges posed by IFFs, which involve the illegal cross-border movement of money stemming from activities such as corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, and organised crime. Characterised by secrecy and complexity, these flows present severe political, economic, and social challenges, undermining governance, eroding public trust, restricting resource mobilisation, and distorting economic equity.

Africa was highlighted as a case study of the developmental toll

inflicted by IFFs, having experienced an estimated loss of over \$1 trillion in the past five decades, with an annual outflow of \$88.6 billion, equivalent to 3.7 per cent of its GDP, according to UNCTAD. Reports like Swissaid's study on gold smuggling and documentaries such as Missing Dollars underscore the systemic exploitation of resources and the urgency of addressing these issues to safeguard national economies.

On a global scale, organisations such as the United Nations, African Union, OECD, and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) have prioritised the mitigation of IFFs through measures including anti-money laundering regulations, enhanced transparency, and international cooperation. Frameworks like the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and commitments made at the Hangzhou Summit emphasise bold and transformative actions to combat IFFs, including addressing secrecy jurisdictions, recovering stolen assets, and curbing tax evasion.

India, leveraging its position as a G20 leader and utilising its T20 mechanism, was identified as having a pivotal role in advancing global efforts to curb IFFs. The proposal for an Illicit Financial Flows Interdiction Framework (IFFIF) was introduced, suggesting an innovative blend of ancient Indian economic principles with contemporary governance strategies to address these challenges. Such a framework could bolster India's global leadership while exemplifying ethical and sustainable economic practices in global policymaking.

Achieving the 2030 goal of substantially reducing IFFs requires cohesive national policies, robust international frameworks, and collaboration among multiple stakeholders. By taking proactive measures, India can not only restore public trust and ensure equitable growth but also set a global precedent for sustainable development through decisive and innovative leadership in combating IFFs.

Geopolitical Dimensions of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Insights from H.E. Ambassador Yannis Alexi Zepos



From left: H.E. Ambassador Yannis Alexi Zepos, the former Ambassador of Greece to New Delhi, Ambassador Sudhir Devare and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS.

H.E. Ambassador Yannis Alexi Zepos, the former Ambassador of Greece to New Delhi, was hosted by RIS on 10 December 2024, for an in-depth discussion on the geopolitical dimensions of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). This significant event, chaired by Ambassador Sudhir Devare, explored the strategic importance, challenges, and potential opportunities of the IMEC project. Although the initiative was signed in September 2023 with the aim of establishing an alternative trade route to the Suez Canal by connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe, its progress has been hampered by ongoing geopolitical instability. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, moderated the session, which also saw active participation from RIS faculty members.

Ambassador Zepos provided an illuminating analysis of

Greece's unique role within the IMEC framework. He underscored Greece's historical prominence as a global hub of maritime trade and its strategic position as the first European port in the corridor. Greece's unparalleled expertise in the shipping industry, coupled with its geographical location, confers upon it a vital role in the success of the IMEC initiative. This role aligns with Greece's ambition to offer an alternative and efficient trade route that strengthens connectivity between the continents.

The Greek government has demonstrated robust support for the IMEC project, emphasizing its potential to act as a bridge between Europe and Asia. Ambassador Zepos highlighted bilateral discussions where Greece's maritime capabilities were identified as key facilitators of the initiative. These discussions have also stressed the opportunities

for collaboration with India, particularly in the shipbuilding sector, which holds great promise for bolstering the operational and strategic goals of IMEC.

A critical aspect of Greece's involvement lies in its ongoing evaluation of port modernisation and inland transport networks to meet the corridor's requirements. The port of Piraeus, an essential node in the IMEC, currently faces infrastructural challenges, particularly in its railway connections to Northern Europe. Ambassador Zepos pointed out the need for significant investments in this area to ensure seamless integration within the corridor and to maximise its economic potential. Such modernisation efforts are not merely national endeavours but are integral to the broader success of the IMEC project.

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Expanding India's Global Commercial Space Footprint to IN-SPACE



RIS representatives handed over the report "Expanding India's Commercial Space Sector Footprint Internationally" to the officials of IN-SPACE.

On 20 November 2024, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) formally submitted the final report titled *Expanding India's Commercial Space Sector Footprint Internationally* to Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE), during the final closure meeting held at IN-SPACE headquarters in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This report represents the culmination of a short-term consulting survey study sponsored by IN-SPACE, aimed at advancing India's commercial space sector on the global stage.

The report is a pioneering effort to identify prospective international markets—both within and beyond the G20—where Indian commercial space exports could establish a

secure and sustainable presence. It proposes strategies to develop robust bilateral business pipelines, fostering a mutually beneficial exchange. Positioned as a rapidly emerging global economic power, India's strategic engagement with its commercial space sector offers a unique opportunity to enhance its economic diplomacy and advance its development cooperation agenda, particularly within the Global South. This vision aligns with India's broader objective of expanding its national space economy from USD 8.4 billion in 2023 to USD 44 billion by 2033, as outlined by the government.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from IN-SPACE, including Dr Vinod Kumar (Director), Dr Rajeev Jyoti (Director), Mr Lochan Sehra (Joint Secretary),

and Dr Ganesh Mohan (Assistant Director). The report was received with high commendation, with Dr Goenka expressing appreciation for RIS's efforts and indicating that IN-SPACE would carefully consider the policy recommendations presented.

Established in 2020, IN-SPACE operates as a single-window, independent, and autonomous nodal agency under the Department of Space (DoS). Its primary role is to facilitate private sector participation in India's space sector, thereby contributing significantly to the growth of the private space economy. The submission of this report further underscores IN-SPACE's commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration within the burgeoning commercial space industry in India.

Workshop on Cyber Security in Digital Public Infrastructure

DAKSHIN hosted the seventh edition of its workshop series on "Cyber Security in Digital Public Infrastructure" on 5 December 2024. This programme served as a vital platform to explore cybersecurity challenges and strategies for safeguarding digital solutions, with a specific focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The discussions highlighted capacity-building measures and the development of robust safeguards to strengthen the resilience of these systems.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, opened the workshop by emphasising the significance of DPI for the Global South and the critical necessity of instituting robust security frameworks to ensure its functionality and effectiveness. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator of DAKSHIN, extended his gratitude to the panelists and outlined the progressive stages of the workshop. In his remarks, Mr. Anish Kumar, Advisor in the Development Partnership Administration - III Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, identified Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a transformative use case for DPI. He

highlighted both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI integration, suggesting that emerging technologies such as blockchain and quantum computing could address some of these challenges effectively.

Mr. Magesh Ethirajan, Director General of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), presented an overview of initiatives undertaken by C-DAC to enhance cybersecurity awareness. He stressed the importance of incorporating security measures during the early phases of technology design to mitigate vulnerabilities. Dr Krishna Kumar Balaraman, an Associate Professor at the School of Management & Entrepreneurship, IIT Jodhpur, elaborated on the concept of cyber resilience in cyber-physical systems. He advocated for multilayered protection mechanisms and recovery strategies to ensure system integrity. Dr Jatin Patel, Director (In-Charge) and Assistant Professor (IT) at Rashtriya Raksha University, discussed the imperatives of securing government IT infrastructure, emphasising the global effort required to safeguard critical infrastructure. Ms Smitha Sriharsha from F5 Networks addressed the

growing sophistication of cyber-attacks and strongly advocated for the adoption of layered defence strategies to counter these threats effectively.

From the perspective of the Global South, the workshop included significant international contributions. Mr Issam Lotfi, Chief Strategy Officer of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES), Morocco, provided an overview of Morocco's policies and strategies aimed at enhancing cybersecurity. Mr. Russell Woruba, Chief Technology Officer of the Department of ICT, Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), outlined the legal frameworks governing cybersecurity in PNG. Ms Sarai Faleupolu Tevita from Samoa shared insights from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in October 2024, where cybersecurity emerged as a focal issue. In his closing remarks, Mr Atul Kaushik, Fellow at RIS, underscored the importance of fostering awareness and building resilient cybersecurity measures to protect digital infrastructures. He expressed gratitude to the participants for their contributions and active engagement.

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exchanging perspectives on the way forward.

This roundtable provided a valuable platform for addressing

the evolving challenges and opportunities in ASEAN-India relations, offering actionable insights for fostering deeper cooperation

in critical areas such as trade, technology, energy, and regional security.

Professor Anil Sooklal Welcomed at RIS

India-South Africa Partnership



Dr Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India at RIS.

On 18 December 2024, Dr Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India and Adjunct Senior Fellow at RIS, visited RIS to engage in a substantive discussion on the evolving India-South Africa partnership within the framework of the Global South. Moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, the event provided an opportunity to reflect on the historical trajectory, contemporary challenges, and untapped potential of this collaboration in addressing global and regional issues. RIS faculty members actively participated, contributing to a vibrant dialogue.

During the discussion, Dr Sooklal highlighted the enduring shared history between India and South Africa, tracing their partnership back to landmark events such as the Bandung Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement. These milestones underscored their

mutual commitment to advancing South-South cooperation. He emphasised the current dynamism within the Global South, noting the recent G20 presidencies held by Indonesia, Brazil, and India as illustrative of the region's capacity to address multilateral challenges with increasing efficacy.

A key focus of the discussion was the conceptualisation of the Global South amidst its diverse socio-economic realities. Dr Sooklal underscored that while the Global South has immense potential to drive transformative change, it must contend with shared challenges such as economic inequalities, infrastructural deficits, and limited digital inclusion. These obstacles, however, also present opportunities for collaborative action, particularly between India and South Africa.

The conversation explored specific areas of potential partnership, including digital public

infrastructure, connectivity, and the mitigation of developmental inequalities. Dr Sooklal underscored the strategic alignment between India's Digital India initiative and South Africa's efforts to bridge digital divides, highlighting their shared commitment to using technology as a vehicle for inclusive development.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Sooklal affirmed the significance of the India-South Africa partnership in bolstering the role of the Global South in global governance. He advocated for enhanced collaboration that leverages shared histories and mutual aspirations to construct a more equitable global order. The event reaffirmed RIS's dedication to fostering meaningful dialogue on South-South cooperation and advancing partnerships that benefit the Global South.

Seminar on Media and Development Economy

On 14 December 2024, Dr Julia Cagé, a distinguished economist specialising in media economics and political economy, delivered an incisive lecture at RIS. The lecture convened experts and policymakers to delve into the intricate intersections of development economics and media. The event commenced with Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, extending a warm welcome to Dr Cagé, RIS faculty members, and select media experts, setting the stage for an engaging intellectual exchange.

In her lecture, Dr Cagé addressed a range of pressing issues at the nexus of media, democracy, and economic growth. She began by exploring the challenges posed by information asymmetry and its far-reaching consequences for democratic processes and economic development. She proposed actionable strategies to counteract the misuse of social media, emphasising the necessity of empowering citizens to critically evaluate and identify credible information within an increasingly complex media landscape.

Dr Cagé also illuminated the intricate relationship between media



From Right: Dr Julia Cagé and Dr Pami Dua at RIS.

and industry, highlighting the influence of industrial stakeholders on media content and independence. She unpacked the dynamics of crony capitalism, which often intertwines media ownership with political elites, thereby compromising journalistic autonomy.

A significant portion of her lecture focused on the economic challenges faced by traditional newspapers, particularly the fixed costs associated with print media and the pressures of transitioning to digital platforms. She examined the dominance of digital platforms as news sources and their implications for the viability of traditional media institutions. Her

comparative analysis of Indian and U.S. newspapers provided valuable insights into their respective adaptations to changing patterns of media consumption.

Furthermore, Dr Cagé underscored the critical importance of safeguarding journalistic integrity and media independence to resist external pressures. She also addressed the issue of information inequality, analysing its role in exacerbating socio-economic divides. Her lecture evaluated the opportunities and challenges presented by the digital transformation of news, offering a nuanced perspective on how to ensure equitable access to credible information.



Participants at the programme.

Webinar on Leads from Global South Presidencies of G20: Message for South Africa

The poster features the RIS logo at the top left, with the text 'RIS Research and Information System for Developing Countries' and a banner for 'RIS-40'. The main title is 'Leads from Global South Presidencies of G20: Messages for South Africa' in red and black text, with a 'WEBINAR' icon. Below the title, it states '7.30 PM (IST) on Monday, 16 December 2024'. Five speakers are listed with their photos and titles: Professor Sachin Chaturvedi (Director General, RIS), Dr Luciana Servo (President, IPEA, Brazil), Professor Siphamandla Zondi (Professor, Politics and International Relations, University of Johannesburg), Dr Riatu Mariatul Qibthiyyah (Director, LPEM, University of Indonesia), and Dr Sabyasachi Saha (Associate Professor, RIS). A QR code and a participation link (<https://bit.ly/3OXlyfB>) are also present.

On 16 December 2024, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) hosted a webinar titled "Leads from Global South Presidencies of G20: Message for South Africa." The event was inaugurated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General of RIS, who emphasised the leadership exhibited by Indonesia, India, and Brazil in steering the G20 priorities towards sustainable economic growth, amplifying the voice of the Global South, and addressing critical areas such as climate finance and energy transitions. He highlighted initiatives like Brazil's Bioeconomy, India's LiFE (Lifestyle for Sustainable Development), and Indonesia's focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as exemplary contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr Luciana Servo, President of IPEA, Brazil, reflected on the

inclusion of the African Union in the G20 as a milestone achievement, significantly strengthening the Global South's voice in global governance. She detailed Brazil's pivotal contributions, including the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, reforms in global financial architecture, and discussions on a global wealth tax. Despite these advances, Dr Servo noted the persistent challenge of mobilising sufficient climate financing and stressed the importance of accelerating the implementation of financial mechanisms and reforms to the financial architecture. Dr Riatu Qibthiyyah, Director at LPEM, University of Indonesia, discussed Indonesia's presidency, emphasising the focus on recovery from the pandemic, inclusivity, sustainability, and adaptability in navigating global uncertainties. She highlighted the achievements in health architecture, digital transformation, and the

advancement of SDGs, drawing parallels with India's efforts during its presidency.

The discussion included input from key scholars and experts. Mr Mario Pezzini from UNESCO critiqued the subjective and opaque practices of global credit rating agencies, advocating for greater transparency and reforms to ensure equitable financing for development in the Global South. Ms. Ana Fernandes from the OECD underscored the momentum for reforming the international financial architecture, driven by India's presidency, and emphasised the importance of Triangular Cooperation to complement North-South and South-South collaborations. Dr Rolf Schwarz, also from the OECD, addressed the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA), blended finance, and life economies in addressing development bottlenecks.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor at RIS, moderated the session and commended the leadership of Indonesia, India, and Brazil in advancing the Global South agenda. He stressed the importance of Think20 (T20) collaborations in ensuring that academic perspectives are incorporated into discussions as South Africa's presidency continues to prioritise the sustainable development agenda. The webinar provided valuable insights into the achievements and challenges faced by the Global South in G20 governance, offering strategic recommendations for South Africa's future leadership in the G20.

Launching of Spanish language edition of the Development Cooperation Review



Launching of the Spanish edition of the Development Cooperation Review in Argentina.

RIS, in collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, organised a roundtable on 15 November 2024, which marked the launch of the first Spanish-language edition of Development Cooperation Review (DCR). This initiative, undertaken in partnership with DAKSHIN – The Global South Centre of Excellence, the Global Development Centre (GDC), the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), and the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST), represents a significant milestone in RIS's efforts to expand its intellectual and academic influence within the broader framework of South-South Cooperation (SSC), particularly beyond the English-speaking world.

The launch of the Spanish edition of DCR, occurring on the margins of the G20 Summit, provides an opportunity to disseminate the research outputs of RIS to a wider audience, especially in Latin America. Despite the increasing number of development partnerships in the Global South, there remains

a notable lack of comprehensive information and analysis about their contributions to global development processes. While isolated efforts have been made to document these activities, a sustained and systematic approach to chronicling the diverse experiences within SSC has been largely absent. In response to this gap, RIS has been publishing Development Cooperation Review since 2018, focusing on issues related to SSC, development cooperation, and international development practices. DCR aims to capture a holistic narrative of global development cooperation, emphasising the theorisation, empirical verification, and documentation of Southern-led development cooperation processes.

The publication's expansion into Spanish is part of RIS's broader strategy to engage with non-English speaking audiences. The editorial team's decision to launch a special edition for Latin America reflects a commitment to fostering a more inclusive discourse around SSC. Furthermore, DCR plans to extend its reach by publishing future special

issues in French and Arabic. In this context, the DCR team is organising a series of roundtable discussions across Latin American capitals, with each event culminating in the launch of the Spanish edition.

In addition to the publication launch, the roundtable addressed a range of pertinent issues, with a particular focus on productive transformation and industrialisation. Discussions centered on the technological disruptions brought about by rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and biotechnology within the Global South. Participants examined the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, particularly the effects of artificial intelligence on job creation, relocation, and losses, especially in developing countries.

The roundtable included diverse participants from academia, policymaking, think tanks, civil society organisations, international organisations based in Buenos Aires, and the diplomatic corps, fostering a rich exchange of ideas on these critical topics.

Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran at RIS: Navigating India's Economic Adjustments



Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance and RIS faculty Members during RIS CEO Talk series.

On 3 October 2024, RIS hosted Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, as part of the CEO Speaks series. The session, chaired by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, was attended by members of the RIS faculty and focused on the evolving dynamics of the Indian economy.

The Indian economy is currently navigating a phase of market corrections influenced by global uncertainties and domestic factors. A notable development is the increasing participation of retail investors, particularly from the middle class, in the stock markets. This trend reflects a growing preference for equities and mutual funds as alternatives to traditional savings instruments such as fixed deposits. However, despite this

shift, industrial sectors, including manufacturing, real estate, and infrastructure, are facing significant challenges. Slowing demand, rising input costs, and declining profitability are dampening growth within these industries.

Additionally, changes in consumer behaviour have emerged as a response to rising inflation and economic uncertainty. Households, especially within the middle class, are adopting more cautious spending patterns, which have resulted in reduced discretionary expenditures. Nonetheless, sectors such as technology, healthcare, and education continue to exhibit stable demand, underscoring their essential nature.

A critical challenge for Indian businesses lies in navigating the complexities of technological adoption, particularly in the domain

of artificial intelligence (AI). While AI offers transformative potential for enhancing efficiency and fostering innovation, concerns regarding job displacement, the financial burden of investments, and the imperative to upskill the workforce have tempered its widespread implementation.

In summary, the Indian economy is undergoing a multifaceted adjustment phase. The increasing retail investor participation signals confidence in financial markets, yet the sluggish growth in industrial sectors and cautious consumer spending patterns reveal underlying vulnerabilities. The measured approach to AI adoption further reflects the balance sought between technological progress and its societal implications.

RIS-IDE-Indian Embassy Symposium on India-Japan Economic Relations



Dr Rajiv Kumar, Chairman, Pehle India Foundation, and Prof. Kimura, President, IDE-JETRO.

RIS in collaboration with the IDE-JETRO and Indian Embassy organized an international symposium entitled “Strengthening India-Japan Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges in context of Changing Global Order” on 20 November, 2024, held at JETRO Office in Tokyo. The symposium was attended by over 100 delegates in person and over 500 online. The symposium was comprised of three sessions including a special session by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Chairman of Pahle India Foundation. Dr Kumar spoke about Viksit Bharat 2047 and India’s economic achievements. He also presented a spectrum

of opportunities to deepen the relationship between India and Japan. There was a session on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and two lead presentations - one by Mr R Madhu Sudan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, and another by Mr Masashi Kono, Director of Southwest Asia, Research and Analysis Department of JETRO. This session presented the achievements and challenges of India’s investment in Japan and Japan’s investment in India. The Session III was devoted on Northeast India-Japan relations. Two key presentations were made - one by Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS and the other by Mr So Umezaki, Director

of the Economic Integration Studies Group, Development Studies Centre in IDE-JETRO. This session discussed the current status of development in Northeast India and the existing challenges and opportunities. The symposium was attended by Indian officials including Ambassador Sibi George, who delivered the keynote address. Professor Fukunari Kimura, President of IDE-JETRO delivered the opening remarks as well as the closing remarks. Indian Ambassador also hosted a dinner at his residence in honor of visiting delegates and speakers of the symposium.

Special Course for Nepalese Delegates on Global South and Development Cooperation



Diplomats and Officers from Nepal visited DAKSHIN as part of their special course on development cooperation.

The first Special Course for Diplomats and Officers from Nepal was held from 21 to 29 November 2024, at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. This course was attended by twenty-six diplomats and officers from Nepal and focused on areas of mutual interest, with the goal of fostering future initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations. As part of their field visits, the delegates visited DAKSHIN – the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS.

The proceedings began with a welcome address by Mr Atul Kaushik, Fellow at RIS, who introduced the participants to RIS and elaborated on the conceptualisation and establishment of DAKSHIN during India's G20 Presidency. He detailed the vision,

mandate, objectives, and operational modality of DAKSHIN. Mr R.V. Shahi, former Power Secretary in the Government of India, Distinguished Fellow at RIS, and Chairman of the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE), presented on Hydro-Power Development and Energy Diplomacy between India and Nepal, addressing and dispelling several myths surrounding energy diplomacy between the two nations. Prof Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator of DAKSHIN, discussed broader issues related to India's engagement with the Global South.

The presentations were followed by an engaging discussion. Nepalese delegates inquired about India's Global Development Compact, the potential for India to establish a standalone development

cooperation agency, and the criteria used for apportioning grants to developing nations. Questions were also raised regarding India's technology-sharing modalities and the role of DAKSHIN in amplifying existing development cooperation initiatives. The delegates sought clarification on India's Soil Health Card initiative and the Joint Working Group between India and Nepal aimed at sharing this best practice. In relation to hydro-power trade between the two countries, the delegates discussed existing policy and infrastructure challenges, proposing solutions to address these issues. The session concluded with the Nepalese delegates expressing their gratitude to RIS for the opportunity to engage with India's initiatives for Global South countries.

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In the context of the volatile geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, Ambassador Zepos emphasised that the IMEC represents more than an economic initiative. It is envisioned as a "peace project" that fosters connectivity and cooperation across regions.

Despite the instability, Greece remains steadfast in its commitment to the corridor, recognising its potential to enhance economic resilience, diversify trade routes, and promote regional stability.

This discussion at RIS highlighted the necessity of leveraging regional strengths and

fostering collaborative frameworks to address the complexities of global connectivity projects. The IMEC initiative, through the integration of expertise and strategic assets from participating nations, offers a transformative vision for reshaping trade routes and strengthening economic interdependence.

Deputy Governor, RBI, Visits RIS



Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at RIS.

On 29 November 2024, Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), visited the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and engaged in an insightful interaction with its faculty members. The discussion, moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, focused on critical aspects of financial and economic policymaking.

In his address, Shri Rao underscored the pivotal role of data-enriched policymaking and

emphasised the need for robust financial regulation alongside the capacity-building of regulators. He highlighted that addressing the complex and evolving challenges in the financial sector requires well-designed regulatory frameworks and enhanced skills.

Shri Rao also reflected on India's aspiration for a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) and identified capacity building as an essential component of achieving sustainable growth. Furthermore, he recognised climate finance as a defining

challenge of the contemporary era, emphasising its profound implications for economic resilience. He proposed that areas such as climate finance, monetary policy formulation, and capacity building represent significant opportunities for collaboration between the RBI and RIS. Such a partnership, he suggested, could facilitate the adoption of evidence-based and forward-looking strategies vital for advancing India's development trajectory.



4th Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue



Representatives from RIS and ICWA at the 4th Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue.

The 4th Indo-German Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue was held in Berlin on 19–20 November 2024, bringing together think tanks from India and Germany to discuss key aspects of bilateral relations. Established in 2019, this Dialogue is jointly led by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) from India, alongside the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) from Germany. It provides a platform for academic and policy-oriented exchanges, focusing on areas such as the geopolitical environment, trade and investment, technology transfer, scientific collaboration, climate change, and sustainability. The significance of this forum was reaffirmed in the Joint Statement of the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations in October 2024.

The Dialogue featured an eight-member Indian delegation, including representatives from RIS and ICWA. The RIS team, led by Ambassador Amar Sinha, included Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Dr

Pankaj Vashisht, and Dr Sneha Sinha. The ICWA delegation was headed by Ambassador Gurjit Singh, with contributions from prominent academics such as Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor Rajat Kathuria, and Dr Himani Pant. Ambassador Ajit Vinayak Gupte, India's Ambassador to Germany, also participated and emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral ties in areas such as research and development, technology transfer, skill development, and mobility. He highlighted the relevance of Germany's recently released *Focus India* document, which outlines strategic areas for engagement with India in the context of evolving Indo-Pacific dynamics.

The Dialogue comprised three technical sessions, in addition to inaugural and closing sessions. The RIS contributions focused on economic cooperation, science diplomacy, and emerging areas such as financial technology (Fintech). Ambassador Amar Sinha underscored the growth in Indo-German relations, emphasising the actionable insights from the Dialogue as a critical value addition. Dr Priyadarshi Dash explored the potential for Fintech

in enhancing financial cooperation between the two nations, citing the success of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in promoting digital payments and financial inclusion. He proposed a dedicated India-Germany Fintech Dialogue to address key areas such as cybersecurity, anti-money laundering compliance, central bank digital currency, and countering the financing of terrorism.

The Dialogue also addressed broader aspects of India-Germany relations, including expanding trade and investment, advancing clean energy initiatives, fostering research and development, and facilitating technology transfer. The German delegation expressed optimism regarding ongoing EU-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations and emphasised joint efforts toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), green transition, technological collaboration, and enhancing people-to-people mobility. Both sides agreed to continue efforts to deepen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, leveraging shared priorities and objectives.

CEO Speaks

Dr Poonam Gupta (NACER) Discusses the Transformation of Policy Research

On 17 October 2024, RIS hosted a discussion with Dr Poonam Gupta from the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as part of its CEO Speaks series. The session was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS. The dialogue centred on NCAER's organisational transformation since 2021, addressing critical challenges such as financial viability, restructuring, and talent retention. Key measures implemented included cost reduction, organisational restructuring, the empowerment of new leadership, and enhanced visibility through research and media outreach. Over the past three years, NCAER has doubled its research staff, enhanced the quality of its talent pool, and increased research revenue from Rs 30 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 40 crore,



Dr Poonam Gupta and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi during RIS CEO talk series.

with a promising future pipeline. With 70 per cent of its workforce now dedicated to research, NCAER has achieved financial resilience, generating operational surpluses that facilitate the creation of public goods. Current initiatives include hosting conferences, publishing journals, and contributing to

government committees, solidifying its position as a leading economic policy think tank with an agile and dynamic framework for decision-making.

The session also underscored the complementary roles of RIS and NCAER in India's policy research ecosystem. While RIS

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Insights on the Trade Facilitation Agreement

On 1 October 2024, Dr Joshua Ebenezer, Principal Consultant at NuCov Facili-Trade India, engaged with the RIS faculty members as part of the CEO Speaks series, with Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, chairing the session. The discussion centred on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), introduced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which aims to streamline and expedite the movement of goods across borders by reducing delays and simplifying customs procedures. A key focus of the TFA is the promotion of transparency, encouraging member countries to provide clear and accessible



Dr Joshua Ebenezer, Principal Consultant at NuCov Facili-Trade India, in the RIS CEO talk series at RIS.

information to traders to foster a more predictable and consistent

trading environment. Additionally, the agreement advocates for the

modernisation of border operations through the adoption of automation, risk management systems, and the implementation of Single Window platforms, which allow traders to submit all required documentation at a single-entry point, thus minimising procedural delays and enhancing trade efficiency.

Customs cooperation is another critical aspect of the TFA, facilitating closer collaboration between customs authorities of different countries to improve the efficiency of trade processes. The agreement also introduces voluntary compliance

systems, enabling traders to correct any errors without facing penalties, which enhances the relationship between customs officials and traders. The TFA is structured into three sections: trade-facilitating provisions aimed at reducing delays and automating customs processes, special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries to provide flexibility and technical assistance, and institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the agreement through national committees and reporting mechanisms.

Looking ahead, TFA 2.0 envisions the integration of digital technologies, such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data, to further automate customs processes, lower trade costs, and improve transparency. The overall goal of the TFA is to enhance global trade efficiency by removing bureaucratic barriers and encouraging technological advancements. The session was well attended by RIS faculty members, who actively participated in the discussion.

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focuses on international economic relations, development cooperation, and South-South collaboration, enhancing India's global diplomatic and economic engagements, NCAER specialises in domestic economic policy, addressing national strategic concerns and contributing to the formulation of robust economic frameworks.

Both institutions collaborate extensively with government agencies, providing evidence-based policy recommendations and disseminating knowledge through publications, conferences, and advisory roles.

In addition to their policy research contributions, both RIS and NCAER actively engage in capacity-building

and the creation of public goods. RIS plays a pivotal role in shaping India's international economic diplomacy, while NCAER reinvests resources into initiatives that benefit the broader public. Together, these institutions strengthen India's policy infrastructure, advancing national priorities on both global and domestic fronts.

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outlined eight critical points for fortifying the India-US partnership. These included developing a comprehensive approach to trade, investment, technology, and finance; enhancing institutional frameworks in India to channel collaborative energies; and focusing on the services sector to drive bilateral trade growth. Furthermore, he emphasised expanding outreach to US consumers, intensifying technology partnerships, strengthening financial cooperation, advancing discussions on the totalisation agreement to address social security concerns, and broadening India-US collaboration by engaging with other global partners.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

emphasised eight critical areas to fortify the India-US partnership. He began by underscoring the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to the four key pillars that define the bilateral relationship – trade, investment, technology, and finance. He advocated for enhancing institutional frameworks within India to streamline and amplify these efforts. Professor Chaturvedi highlighted the services sector as a significant driver of bilateral trade growth and stressed the importance of expanding outreach to US consumers to deepen trade engagement. He also called for intensifying technology partnerships, emphasising the mutual advantages of shared innovation and expertise.

Strengthening financial cooperation emerged as another cornerstone of his vision, reflecting the growing interdependence of the two economies.

Additionally, Professor Chaturvedi urged advancing discussions on a totalisation agreement to address social security concerns, benefiting professionals navigating the labour landscapes of both nations. Lastly, he emphasised the importance of broadening the India-US collaboration by engaging with other global partners, envisioning a partnership that extends its influence and impact on the world stage.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Panelist at the Session on 'Back to classrooms? Strengthening the capacity of state actors on approach for climate change' at the multi-stakeholder convening - "The Rockefeller Foundation AsiaXchange 2024," organized by Rockefeller Foundation held on 1 October 2024 at Bangkok.
- Participated in the G20 Technical Meeting on Trilateral Cooperation organized by The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) in collaboration with collaboration of Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P., under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), held on 7 October 2024 at Lisbon.
- Moderated the Panel on 'Triangular co-operation with Asian partners' in the 8th International Meeting on Triangular Co-Operation: Linking Global Processes to Create Local Impact organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) held on 8 October 2024 at Lisbon.
- Participated in the Inaugural Session of the 3rd Kautilya Economic Conclave "The Indian Era" organized by Institute of Economic Growth held on 4 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Cooperation in Tax Matters with Specific Focus on Two-Pillar Solution' in the in the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance conference organised by Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation held on 9 October 2024 at Moscow.
- Made a presentation on 'Innovative Financing for Resilient and Futuristic Infrastructure' in the in the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance conference organised by Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation held on 9 October 2024 at Moscow.
- Participated in the RBI@90 High-Level Conference on "Central Banking at Crossroads", organised by RBI on 13-14 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Delivered lecture on 'Global Trade and Connectivity: Innovation Approaches with IMEC' to the participants of 3rd Special Course for Central Asia Countries organised by MEA on 17 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Chaired the Panel on Inclusive India @ 100: People-Policies-Economy at the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference organised by Institute for Human Development on 26 October 2024 at Ranchi.
- Delivered special remarks on the occasion of Release of the IASSI-CESS Book on 'Intersecting Paths of Sustainable Development, Urbanisation, and Women's Empowerment' at the 23rd IASSI Annual Conference organised by Institute for Human Development on 25 October 2024 at Ranchi.
- Participated in the Roundtable discussion on "Expectations from G20 Brazil Summit" organised by Vivekananda International Foundation on 28 October 2024 at New Delhi.
- Provided Expert inputs at the T20 Summit Side Event on 'Global cooperation on Sustainable Development after the 2024 election year' organised by IDOS, IPEA, T20 Brazil, MGG and PRODIGEES on 13 November 2024.
- Panelist in the panel on 'Beyond Aid: A G20 Roadmap for Climate and Disaster Finance' at a High level workshop in support of G20 Brazil on 'Innovative Strategies for Disaster Resilience: Fortifying Global South Economies Through Dynamic Governance Solutions', co-organized by Brazilian High Studies Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, IPEA, ERIA, MIGA-GSRC, CSIS, RIS, SIIA and NEPAD, on 13 November 2024, Rio.
- Panelist at the T20 side-event on Launching the special G20 edition of journal, G20 Challenges and the Pro-Tempore Brazilian Presidency' organised by IPEA on 13 November 2024 at Rio.
- Delivered a brief kick-off intervention at the Ministerial Dinner Roundtable with the global Think Tank community at the Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue organised jointly by ORF and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on 18 November 2024, New Delhi.
- Delivered a Valedictory Address on 'Multipolar World and Multifaceted Partnerships: New Dynamics of Contestations and Cooperation' at the 17th All India Conference of China Studies conference on Understanding China in a Turbulent World: Geopolitical Contestation and Cooperation organised by Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi and MAHE, Manipal on 23 November 2024, Manipal.
- Distinguished Discussant in the session on 'Influencing the regional and global discourse' at the CPD Journey: Commemorating CPD's 30th Anniversary organised by the CPD on 1 December 2024 (online).
- Panelist in the International Conference on Deciphering Transversality of Water-Energy-Environment Nexus organised by India Water Foundation, 05 December 2024, New Delhi.
- Panelist in the panel discussion "Emerging markets: The role of the global south in reshaping international affairs" at the 8th edition of the Global Boardroom, the Financial Times' flagship virtual event on 4 December 2024, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India Geopolitical Challenges and Opportunities' at the 23rd Anniversary of Prabhasakshi on 6 December 2024, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Launch Event of 'Anna Chakra', PDS Supply

Chain Optimisation Tool and SCAN Portal organised by Department of Food and Public Distribution on 5 December 2024, New Delhi.

- Made a presentation on 'India Demonstrates How International Climate Finance Should Work: The Role of Viability Gap Funding' in the plenary on 'Trade and Industrial Policies in a Time of Climate Action' at the Fifteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XV) titled "Unleashing an equitable green transformation in South Asia" organised by SAWTEE, 12 December 2024, Kathmandu.
- Provided inputs on the 'Indian perspective' at the Hearing in the framework of the European Economic and Social Committee opinion on the EU-India Strategic Partnership, external relations section organised by EESC, 12 December 2024. (Online).
- Made a presentation on 'Roadmap for Developed India: Targets and Challenges at Multiple Levels' at the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar University on 21 December 2024 at Ambala, Haryana.
- Chaired a Special Session on 'Trade Policy, FTAs and Value Chains' at the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar University on 22 December 2024 at Ambala, Haryana.

Professor S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the Regional Agri-food Trade Dissemination Event, organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) along with CGIAR, Washington DC and made a presentation on Agriculture Trade and Investment in the BIMSTEC Region, at Bangkok, Thailand on 3 October, 2024.

- Participated in the review meeting to discuss action taken/ progress made for improvement of trade statistic made discussion presentation and on Trade Data Gaps organised by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), at New Delhi on 7 October 2024.
- Participated as a panelist in the 8th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT), jointly organized by the ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and made a presentation on Connectivity and Regional Value Chains at Singapore on 7 November 2024.
- Participated in the 17th All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS) on the Special Theme -Understanding China in a Turbulent World: Geopolitical Contestation and Cooperation and made a presentation on Impact of Geopolitical Factors on Economy and Trade, organised by China Study Centre, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Academy of Higher Education (Institution of Eminence) at Manipal, Karnataka on 23 November 2024.
- Participated in the special session on Trade Policy, FTAs and Value Chains of the 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA), organised by Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala (Haryana) on 22 December 2024.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Made presentation on "Digital Finance" at the RIN Annual Meeting held at Bangkok on 27 November 2024.
- Made presentation on "Fintech and New Possibilities for India-Germany Financial Cooperation" at 4th Indo-German Dialogue held in Berlin on 19-20 November 2024.

- Contributed to the brainstorming session on Purvodaya states held at NITI Aayog on 12 November 2024.
- Made presentation on "Fintech and Cross-Border Payment Settlement" at
- 8th ASEAN-India Network of THINK Tanks (AINTT) Conference held at Singapore on 7-8 November 2024.
- Made presentation on "Cooperation in Tax Matters with Specific Focus on Two-Pillar Solution" at the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance Conference held at Moscow on 9 October 2024.
- Made Special Remarks on 'Role of Digitalization and Fintech Solutions: A Way for Inclusive Development of North-Eastern Region' at the Korea-India Forum Northeast Region Development held at New Delhi on 1 October 2024.

Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor

- Made a presentation on 'Strengthening India-Germany Bilateral Cooperation in Indo-Pacific' at 4th Indo-German 1.5 Track Strategic Dialogue on 20 November 2024, Berlin, Germany
- Made a presentation on 'India-Malaysia Relations: Economic Achievements and Concerns' at India-Malaysia Trade Conference 2024, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Made a presentation on 'Role of India in Shaping Global Development and Relations' at India-Malaysia Trade Conference 2024, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Made a presentation on 'Comprehensive review of India Nepal Treaty of Trade' at ministry of commerce, government of India, 17 December 2024.

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RIS POLICY BRIEF

#113: *Strengthening India's Mineral Security: From Efforts to Action* by Pankaj Vashisht

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

#300 *Assessing Performance and Productivity of Major Ports of India* by Prabir De and Arpit Barman

#299 *Cooperation in International Taxation: Two-Pillar Solution in BRICS Countries* by Priyadarshi Dash and Arpit Barman

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#295 *Seafarer's Well Being and Mitigation of Challenges in the Ecosystem* by Chander Shekhar

AIC COMMENTARIES

- #53: *Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for the ASEAN-India Partnership* by Dr. S. Jaishankar
- #52: *The Future of Regional Maritime Information and Intelligence Sharing in the Indian Ocean* by David Brewster

AIC WORKING PAPER

- *75 Years of India-Indonesia Relationship: A Historical Perspective* by Amb Gurjit Singh

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin, Kumar, Amit. 2024. 'Responsible AI Growth with Safety: Exploring Global and National Policy Discourse', *Journal of Information and Knowledge*, Vol 61 (5), October 2024, P. 231-237.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024. Special Issue on Trade Policy, FTAs, and Value Chains - An Overview. *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, Issue 46. Nov16, pp 31-32.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024 Agricultural Exports and Trade Policy Responses Leveraging New Opportunities and Addressing Persisting Challenges. *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, Issue 46. Nov16, pp 42-49.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2024 (coauthored). *Climate Impact Auctions: Increasing the Effectiveness of Global Climate Finance*. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy. IRPP Insight No. 58.

De, Prabir. 2024. "Barriers to Goods Trade in South Asia: Challenges and Prospects", in Anand Kumar (ed.) *Achieving Regional Economic Integration in South Asia*, MP-IDSA, New Delhi

De, Prabir et al. 2024. "Securing Regional Solar Supply Chains: Determinants and Preparedness of the Northeastern Region of India and ASEAN", Working Paper No. 537, ERIA, Jakarta

De, Prabir et al. 2024 (eds.) *Indo-Pacific and ASEAN: New Balances and New Challenges for Asian Integration and Stability*, Routledge India, New Delhi

Mohanty, S. K. 2024. "Exploring Trade, GVCs, and Technology Goods in India's FTAs". *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 59, Issue No. 46.

POPULAR ARTICLE

De, Prabir. 2024 "The coming 21st ASEAN-India summit and way forward", *The Economic Times*, 8 October 2024

De, Prabir. 2024. "Navigating through India's port sector", *The Hindu Businessline*, 30 November 2024

Vijaykumar, Anupama. 2024. "Transformational India Germany Partnership Can Shape Inclusive Technologies". *The Sunday Gurdian*, 3 November.



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Managing Editor: Mr Tish Malhotra

Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for the ASEAN-India Partnership



The last quarter century has seen many inflection points. Understandably, we focus particularly on major events in big nations. But the more consequential actually are the ones that are more universal. And to my mind, three of them stand out. The first is China's entry into the WTO in 2001 that had profound consequences for globalization. Second, is the financial crisis of 2008 which heralded a new era of rebalancing. And third, is the Covid pandemic of 2020 that exposed many of our socio-economic vulnerabilities and capacity constraints so starkly. The three are obviously closely interrelated.

Some other things have also happened in this period. Europe, for example, witnessed Brexit. The United States has reset terms vis-à-vis the world over multiple Administrations, in terms of engagement vis-à-vis the world across multiple administrations. A conflict in Ukraine has shaken Eurasia out of its strategic complacency. West Asia/Middle East is seeing longstanding issues and fissures exploding beyond expectations. In our own continent, territorial disputes and challenges to international law have become a significant recurring source of instability. The world has responded in different ways to different challenges in different geographies. In our own, the emergence of the Indo-Pacific and the maturing of the Quad are noteworthy for promoting global good.

Data privacy and cyber security have become overriding concerns. The Covid experience in many ways, was the moment of truth. Since then, the quest for more resilient supply chains, trusted partners and diversified production have become the crucial agenda.

Whether it is challenges or indeed opportunities, the world today is clearly headed for re-globalization, not de-globalization. That is the transition that we – ASEAN and India – separately and together, have to navigate. The quality of our partnership will be influenced by the extent of convergence on all these domains. In the last three decades, we have built up a solid track record of cooperation that has served us both well. To take it to the next level, however, we must utilize the changing global situation to our advantage, rather than bemoan it as a departure from a norm with which we were all so comfortable.

Connectivity is another domain that merits attention. The post 1945 economic growth centers have naturally created new logistical demands. They are also correcting the distortions and disruptions of the colonial era. Recent conflicts and extreme climate events have only underlined the case for new connectivity initiatives. Where India is concerned, the Trilateral Highway to the East and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) are major commitments. Understanding their implications is key to exploiting the opportunities they present. Digital and energy connectivity have also been the subject of recent conversations, especially between India and ASEAN. At the end of the day, collaborative connectivity will always be used better and regarded more positively than unilateral ventures.

The India-ASEAN partnership, now in its fourth decade, holds immense possibilities. We have been an enthusiastic participant in all ASEAN-led forums. Additionally, our bilateral and trilateral engagements have contributed to our closeness. The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) are making their impact felt as well. As the Indo-Pacific evolves, India has been expressive in its support for ASEAN's centrality and cohesion. We see it as an indispensable partner as well as a meeting ground. We have been equally clear about respect for international law, rules and norms. Both in approach and substance, our convergences have only grown over these last four decades. As we look ahead, this is a foundation from which we can aspire to higher ambitions.

Excerpts from the remarks made by Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India at 8th AINTT meeting at Singapore on 7 November 2024