



*Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways delivering speech at the launch of India Maritime Report 2025-26*

India Maritime Week (IMW) was held in Mumbai during 27-31 October 2025. The RIS Report 'India Maritime Report 2025-26' was released by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari. The CMEC at RIS organised five sessions on different topics on maritime cooperation at the IMW.

India Maritime Report 2025-26 entitled "Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision: India's Maritime Strides" presents the rich content of India's maritime journey with particular focus on the achievements, challenges and

way forward. Written by industry experts and research scholars, there are a total 32 chapters divided in 10 parts, reflecting India's strategic vision in the backdrop of MIV 2030 and MAKV 2047. The chapters not only discuss India's maritime heritage, they also analyse the trends in maritime trade, investment, connectivity and finance.

During the Maritime Week, CMEC also conducted three sessions on innovative mechanisms for ship registration; enhancing tonnage and ship financing. The CMEC team also participated as knowledge

partner for the two sessions on dredging technologies and operations and waste to wealth opportunities from dredging with Dredging Corporation of India (DCIL). The above mentioned sessions were also curated by the CMEC.

Furthermore, CMEC also served as the nodal knowledge partner for Joint Working Groups with Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, and supported the conduct of ministerial-level bilateral meetings with Italy, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Norway and the Netherlands.





Shri Nitin Gadkari, launching the India Maritime Report 2025-26.

**Amrit Kaal Sessions**

27 October 2025

CMEC also conducted three sessions on innovative mechanisms for ship registration; enhancing tonnage and ship financing. The first session on Innovative Mechanisms in Ship Registration was moderated by Dr. Shishir Shrotriya and the second and third sessions on 'Innovative Mechanisms for Ship Financing and Global Tonnage Tax regimes', were moderated by Cmde. Sujeet Samaddar. The session speakers included leading industry voices and chaired by senior officials, namely, DG Shipping and Chairman IFSCA.

**Sagar Samridhi Sessions on Dredging**

30 October 2025

CMEC also participated as knowledge partner for the two sessions on Dredging Technologies & Operations and Waste to Wealth Opportunities from Dredging with Dredging Corporation of India (DCIL). Both sessions were curated by the CMEC and moderated by Capt. S Divakar, MD DCIL and Dr. Shishir Shrotriya, Head CMEC, respectively.

**Bilateral Meetings and JWG**

CMEC also was the nodal knowledge partner in JWGs with Denmark, Netherland and Norway and for conduct of bilateral meetings at the Ministerial level with Italy, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Norway and Netherland. CMEC also contributed through talking points and stakeholders integration for the various events and sessions at the India Maritime Week for the Union Minister and MoS MoPS&W and also for Secretary, MoPS&W.



CMEC at RIS sessions at the India Maritime Week.

# Globalization of Traditional Medicines: Harnessing AI and Digital Technology for Quality and Standards



*Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS addressing seminar on Indian Traditional Medicine. Also on the dias, Shri Anurag Sharma, Chairman, AyushEXCIL; and Mr. Rajeev Kher and Mr. Anil Jahuri.*

The Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) at RIS organized a roundtable on 16th December 2025 to address the growing global focus on quality and safety in traditional medicines, and the role of AI and digital technologies in supporting these objectives.

One of the major themes of the discussions was on standards, regulation, and market access for traditional medicine products and services. Speakers emphasized that global expansion of Indian traditional medicine requires international recognition of domestic standards and closer alignment with evolving global norms and the role of international standard-setting bodies, particularly ISO, in improving credibility and facilitating cross-border trade. While India has developed multiple standards and certification frameworks, implementation remains uneven, particularly

in manufacturing, services, and supply chains. The importance of good manufacturing practices, quality management systems, and traceability of raw materials and the need to move beyond fragmented and voluntary compliance toward more coherent and credible quality frameworks was emphasized. The discussion further highlighted the need for closer coordination between government, industry, and practitioners.

The roundtable also examined how artificial intelligence and digital technologies can enhance quality assurance and standards implementation. The speakers highlighted AI's potential in quality control, adulteration detection, and data analysis throughout the traditional medicine value chain. Applications discussed included diagnostics, treatment protocols, prakriti analysis, pharmacovigilance, and safety monitoring. Digital

tools and blockchain systems were identified as ways to improve traceability, transparency, and trust from sourcing to consumption. Industry examples showed AI's value in processing data, improving quality checks, and supporting compliance. Participants stressed that AI should serve as an enabling tool, with safeguards to address bias, data quality, and overreliance on automation.

In sum, the roundtable underscored that the globalization of traditional medicine will hinge on a carefully calibrated approach that brings together standards harmonisation, regulatory strengthening, and the responsible deployment of emerging technologies. While artificial intelligence and digital tools present significant opportunities to enhance efficiency, transparency, and quality assurance, their effective application is contingent upon

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# Maritime Sustainability – Global Perspectives and Opportunities for India

The CMEC Maritime Knowledge Series, lecture on "Maritime Sustainability – Global Perspectives and Opportunities for India" was held on Tuesday, 7 October 2025. The speakers of the session were Dr. S.S.V. Ramakumar, CTO of AM Green and Mr. Manish Tripathi, AM Green. The lecture focused on the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Net-Zero Framework and the prospects it offers for India's maritime sector.

The lecture focused on the draft IMO Net-Zero Framework, approved at MEPC 83 in April 2025, which establishes the first global mandatory greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limits and pricing mechanism for an entire industry. Its primary goal is to achieve net-zero GHG emissions in shipping by 2050, applying compliance obligations to vessels over 5,000 gross tonnage.

The speakers also explained the 'Reward Mechanism', which offers incentives for ships using fuels with  $\leq 19$  gCO<sub>2e</sub>/MJ, tightening to  $\leq 14$  gCO<sub>2e</sub>/MJ by 2035, and exceeding direct compliance, providing rewards valued between \$30 and \$228/tonne CO<sub>2e</sub>, funded through tradeable surplus units and the IMO Net-Zero Fund.

The framework's aggressive reduction timelines surpass previous regulations. Unlike earlier approaches targeting only pollutants or efficiency, this framework mandates annual GHG reductions backed by strict financial penalties. The direct compliance route incentivises rapid green technology adoption, while base



CMEC's seminar on Maritime Sustainability.

targets provide a fallback with stiffer penalties, driving economic viability for sustainable solutions. Approved by 63 of the 103 member states at MEPC 83, including India, the regulation awaits formal adoption at MEPC. The framework will undergo a tacit acceptance period of at least ten months, scheduled to enter into force by March 2027, with mandatory compliance to be implemented from January 2028. Detailed IMO guidance is awaited on fuel definitions, methodologies, and governance.

The lecture highlighted that the framework is expected to drive significant growth in the clean fuel sector, projecting demand for around 65 million tonnes per annum of green ammonia by 2030, as the global shipping industry works toward achieving at least a 10 per cent market share for zero-emission fuels.

The speakers deliberated on the emerging bunkering hubs like Rotterdam and Singapore, which are

expected to set standards for global green ammonia infrastructure. Australia will likely become the top exporter, controlling nearly half the global supply due to renewable energy resources and favorable shipping geography. India's plans to build green bunkering facilities at Tuticorin and Kandla, supported by the ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund, demonstrate strategic intent to become a competitive supplier and bunkering hub for green fuels.

The session also discussed the successful pilot projects at ports worldwide and the ongoing transformation, including Egypt (East Port Said's 2M tonnes/yr project), Japan (first dedicated large ammonia bunkering ship by 2027), and advances in port readiness for green bunkering operations which collectively indicate rapid global movement toward zero-carbon shipping logistics.

India's decisive vote in favour at MEPC 83 positioned it for leadership

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# Global Uncertainties and the Role of FTAs: An Indo-Pacific Perspective



*Dr. Rahul Sen, Senior Economist, sharing his view during a presentation at RIS.*

RIS invited Dr. Rahul Sen from the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Business School, New Zealand, for a presentation on evolving global uncertainties and their impact on reshaping economic strategies across the Indo-Pacific, with a particular focus on India's emerging approach to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The session was conducted on 20th November 2025. During the presentation Dr. Sen argued that post-COVID disruptions, geopolitical tensions, supply chain vulnerabilities, and rising protectionism have accelerated the need for countries to recalibrate their trade policies. He observed that FTAs are increasingly being used not only as tools for market access but also as frameworks for long-term economic and strategic cooperation.

Dr. Sen highlighted four broad trends that define the current Indo-Pacific geopolitical environment. The first trend he talked about was the geopolitical rivalry, particularly between the U.S. and China, which is creating instability and compelling countries like India to seek strategic autonomy. The second trend, the protectionist trade

policies and the weakening of the WTO, that according to Dr. Sen, have pushed economies toward bilateral and plurilateral FTAs. The third trend he spoke of was that of the supply chain disruptions that have highlighted overdependence on single sources for critical goods, accelerating regional cooperation for resilience. The fourth trend he underscored comprised of climate, cyber security, and other non-traditional threats have expanded the scope of economic collaboration beyond conventional trade.

Moreover, Dr. Sen also underscored a significant shift in India's trade policy, from defensive to proactive and calibrated. India's new FTA strategy emphasises: quality over quantity; alignment with national initiatives such as Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and Vision 2047; diversification of trade partners across the Indo-Pacific; and integration of supply chain resilience into bilateral cooperation. Modern FTAs now encompass investment, digital trade, skills mobility, climate cooperation, and technology partnerships, marking a significant broadening of India's trade agenda.

Formal negotiations between India and New Zealand on the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have resumed after a long pause. While India-NZ trade remains modest, both the countries see strategic potential in agricultural technology, fintech, and edutech collaboration and labour mobility solutions. However, challenges remain, including dairy sector sensitivities, high travel costs due to a lack of direct flights, and domestic political constraints in NZ.

Dr. Sen concluded that FTAs are becoming essential instruments for navigating global uncertainties and securing long-term economic resilience. India's evolving trade strategy, marked by diversification, deeper Indo-Pacific partnerships, and comprehensive cooperation frameworks, is positioning the country to leverage new opportunities while managing rising geopolitical and economic risks. The future trajectory of India's FTAs with Australia, New Zealand, and other regional partners will be central to shaping its Indo-Pacific engagement in the coming decade.

## Reshaping Value Chains: The Case for Deeper Asia-Pacific Trade Integration



*Dr. Rahul Giri, Senior Economist of IMF, (third from right) sharing his views on Asia-Pacific Trade Integration.*

RIS invited Dr. Rahul Giri, Senior Economist, Asia and Pacific Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF), to present his views on the 'Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and the Pacific', October 2025 issue. Dr. Giri delivered his talk specifically on Chapter 2: 'Reshaping Value Chains: The Case for Deeper Asia-Pacific Trade Integration'. The session was held on 14 November 2025.

Dr. Giri highlighted that trade has been a central driver of Asia-Pacific economic growth, contributing to structural transformation, employment, and poverty reduction. However, the global trading environment has become increasingly uncertain due to tariff shocks, geopolitical realignments, and tightening rules of origin. These developments require renewed strategic action from Asia-Pacific economies to maintain trade as an engine of growth.

A key finding presented by him was the significant heterogeneity in trade openness across the region:

ASEAN economies are highly open and deeply embedded in global value chains (GVCs), while South Asian economies remain comparatively less integrated. China and the United States continue to dominate regional trade flows, with China playing a vital role through its supply of intermediate goods used in regional production networks.

The U.S.-China trade tensions of 2018-19 have accelerated supply-chain reconfiguration. Dr. Giri showed that many Asia-Pacific countries have benefited from a "China-plus-one" strategy, attracting new foreign investment and strengthening their value-added export performance. Gains were most significant for economies with lower labour costs, strong pre-existing supply-chain linkages, openness to FDI, and political stability.

Despite its strong manufacturing and GVC base, the region faces structural barriers to deeper integration. Trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific region remain

fragmented and relatively shallow, lacking modern provisions on investment, competition policy, digital trade, and environmental standards. Additionally, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) remain extensive across the region, even where tariffs are low, restricting final-goods trade and limiting the region's potential for deeper economic integration.

Using quantitative scenario analysis, the presentation demonstrated that reducing NTBs could yield substantial long-run gains in real GDP. Unilateral liberalisation by individual economies would generate most of the benefits, but coordinated regional reforms would produce additional positive spillovers. The results show that smaller, more supply-chain-integrated economies stand to gain the most from access to larger markets and more efficient production networks. Further opening to extra-regional partners such as the EU, CPTPP, and USMCA could amplify these gains.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Giri emphasised that sustaining

growth and resilience in a fragmented global environment will require Asia-Pacific economies to pursue deeper trade integration, attract foreign investment, upgrade

domestic competitiveness, and maintain macroeconomic stability. Reducing NTBs, deepening trade agreements, and effectively

leveraging supply-chain shifts will be essential to ensuring that trade remains a key pillar of the region's development trajectory.

## Maritime India: River Economy Waterways to Prosperity

The Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) at RIS, in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre, organised the 11th Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series titled "Maritime India: River Economy Waterways to Prosperity" as part of the Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series on 18th November 2025. Anchored in the broader discourse on river-based civilisational heritage, sustainable transport, and the blue economy, the event sought to underscore the importance of India's river systems as ecological assets and economic lifelines. The panel included Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Former DG, National Mission for Clean Ganga, as the Lead Speaker; Professor Vinod Tare, IIT Kanpur and Founding Head of cGanga, as the Chair; Shri Ashutosh Gautam, Member Technical, IWAI, as a panellist; and Dr. Shishir Shrotriya as the moderator.

The speakers highlighted that Indian rivers are, foremost, living ecological systems with dynamic hydrology, sediment behaviour, and biodiversity patterns. The presentation drew attention to India's long-standing riverine heritage in navigation, community water governance, hydrological knowledge, riverine trade, wetland use, and cultural relationships with water.

However, unlike European systems, India never formalised these traditions into official documentation. Much of the

intangible heritage related to floodplain management, boat-building, sediment understanding, and riparian negotiations remain undocumented. The speakers emphasised that reclaiming this knowledge is vital for shaping modern river governance and redefining the concept of "heritage" to include hydrology, flow regimes, and ecological processes beyond monuments and rituals.

During the discussion, it was noted that India's governance remains fragmented, historically organised around sectors such as irrigation, hydropower, urban supply, fisheries, navigation, and pollution control, without a unifying framework. While recent attempts to introduce basin-level planning mark progress, institutionalisation is still limited. The speakers emphasised that

India must move from individual projects to basin-scale thinking supported by hydrological mapping, wetland inventories, environmental-flow assessments, and inter-state coordination. Without this approach, river interventions risk duplication, conflict, or ecological degradation.

The speakers explained that sedimentation is not merely a river engineering issue, but also a catchment management issue. Rapid runoff, hill degradation, vegetation loss, and altered land use accelerate silt flow. It was noted that to reduce siltation, rapid flows in upper catchments must be converted into sluggish, dispersed flows. This requires upstream interventions, such as check dams, vegetation recovery, soil conservation, wetland restoration, and terrain management.



Experts at CMEC at RIS seminar on River Economy.

The experts cautioned against viewing channelisation or river "control" as a long-term solution. The presentation stressed that stabilising rivers through heavy engineering is neither ecologically desirable nor financially feasible in most of the Indian contexts. Instead, navigation should be developed as an activity that depends on and reinforces the river's health.

The lecture highlighted that India's Inland Water Transport (IWT) potential is significant: it is cost- and energy-efficient, and environmentally favourable. However, the actual share of IWT remains marginal.

A central argument put forth during the lecture was that navigation and ecology are not opposites. Navigation requires stable flows, clean channels, and healthy river systems; therefore, its success is inherently linked to ecological well-being. The speakers emphasised that the rivers must not be treated solely as transport corridors, but as ecosystems that

support biodiversity, aquatic life, groundwater recharge, floodplains, and cultural identity.

It was also underscored that the environmental flows are critical not only for ecology but also for navigation, groundwater replenishment, and river self-purification. The lecture called for shifting from "wastewater economy" thinking to "river economy" thinking, focusing on circularity, reuse, and maintenance of base flows.

The discussion emphasised that community participation must go beyond token consultations. Riverfront users, fishermen, boatmen, local traders, and residents must be integrated as stakeholders in planning terminals, ghats, biodiversity parks, and flow management strategies.

The speakers mentioned that multimodal connectivity linking waterways with road, rail, and coastal routes is essential for attracting cargo. Nevertheless, such integration requires long-

term planning, cooperation across central and state agencies, high-quality terminals and handling facilities, financial models that ensure viability, trust-building between industries and waterway authorities, waste-to-wealth initiatives, and integrated contracts that enable waste utilisation and recycling.

The panel also emphasised the need for continuous dialogue, evidence-based planning, and culturally sensitive interventions. Incentives are helpful, but integration that enables communities to participate in decision-making and benefit directly from river-based development is far more critical.

As the lecture drew to a close, the panel reiterated that the future of India's river economy lies in holistic, science-driven, and culturally grounded river basin management. Navigation, tourism, fisheries, water security, biodiversity, and cultural heritage must be addressed together, not in isolation.

## Decoding Quality Control Orders (QCOs)



*Panel of experts convened on QCOs.*

RIS brought together policymakers, industry leaders, trade experts, standards professionals, and consumer advocates for a focused

conversation on India's rapidly evolving quality regulation landscape and the need for a more coherent, proportionate, and

globally aligned approach as it hosted a seminar "Decoding Quality Control Orders (QCOs)" on 18th November 2025 at New Delhi.

Setting the context in his welcome address Shri Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow at RIS drew upon the Gauba Committee report of NITI Aayog on QCOs & recently released RIS discussion paper 311 'Decoding QCOs: Do We Need a Rethink?'. He underscored that India is currently witnessing a "season of QCOs," with growing debate over their purpose, design, and economic impact. He highlighted that while QCOs were introduced to strengthen consumer safety and product credibility, institutional inconsistencies, protectionist impulses, and regulatory preparedness gaps have created significant challenges. He stressed that India's aspiration for Viksit Bharat requires a deeper national conversation on standards and quality, far beyond QCOs alone.

This was followed by a detailed presentation of the discussion paper by Mr. Anil Jauhri, Visiting Fellow, RIS. He argued that QCOs are necessary in principle but must be designed with a clear understanding of risk, sectoral priorities, and global practice. He pointed to systemic issues such as India's regulatory deficit, over reliance on stringent BIS schemes, absence of Regulatory Impact Assessments, and conflicts of interest arising from BIS's multiple roles. He called for delinking regulation from standard-setting, adopting OECD-style impact assessments, expanding conformity assessment options, and strengthening SME support mechanisms.

The technical panel titled "Reimagining India's Regulatory System", chaired by Shri Sudhanshu

Pandey, Election Commissioner for UTs, examined how India's QCO regime can be made more predictable, trade-compatible, and industry-friendly.

Other speakers included Mr. Ashim Sanyal (CEO VOICE), Mr. Anil Bhardwaj (Secretary General, FISME), Dr. Harsha V. Singh (Former Deputy DG of WTO) and Mr. Anupam Kaul (Independent Expert on Quality). Across discussions, several themes emerged: India requires a coherent regulatory architecture, separation of roles across institutions, risk-based CAP models, internationally credible certification, and systematic support for SMEs. Participants agreed that QCOs, while important, must be nested within a broader, future-ready quality governance framework.

## Growing Protectionism and Agricultural Trade

At the 85th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), hosted by Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, on 26th November 2025, the RIS organised a thematic session examining the evolving intersections between sustainability,

protectionism, and global agricultural trade.

The session was moderated by Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, and brought together a distinguished panel of experts to deliberate on the question: how are sustainability imperatives, rising protectionism, and shifting

trade regimes reshaping global agriculture?

The panel comprised Amb. Jayant Dasgupta, Former Ambassador of India to the WTO; Mr. Abhijit Das, Independent Trade Expert; Mr. Sajal Mathur, Counsellor, WTO, Geneva; Mr. Aashish Chandorkar, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of



*Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, DG, RIS at ISAE's 85th Annual Conference.*

India, Geneva; and Ms. Ranja Sen Gupta, Senior Researcher, Third World Network.

Structured in two rounds, the session addressed key contemporary issues in agricultural trade, including the proliferation of unilateral green measures, the future of Public Stockholding for food security, the emergence of climate-linked non-tariff barriers, India’s negotiating position at the WTO, and strategic considerations in the lead-up to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14). The deliberations were followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment, reflecting

strong engagement from the academic and policy community.

Key insights from the discussion emphasized that sustainability frameworks must integrate environmental, social, and economic dimensions, while cautioning that several emerging sustainability-related trade initiatives risk evolving into forms of green protectionism. Panelists further underscored that, despite current challenges, the World Trade Organization remains central to the global trade architecture, particularly for protecting the interests and policy space of developing countries.

In conclusion, the session underscored that sustainability must function as a catalyst for equitable transformation in global agriculture, rather than as a mechanism that reinforces structural inequalities or constrains the development policy space of the Global South. Advancing this objective will necessitate greater coherence, fairness, and a clear development-centric approach to international trade governance, particularly in the context of intensifying negotiations leading up to the 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (MC14) in Cameroon.

## Changing Dynamics on Trade and Sustainability

RIS convened a panel session titled “Growing Protectionism and International Trade: Fork in the Road” during the 33rd Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), hosted by the ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, during 1–3 December 2025.

The panel addressed a critical and timely question confronting the global trading system: how developing countries can collectively respond to the resurgence of protectionism while reinvigorating the multilateral trading framework. Structured in two rounds, the discussions enabled a focused and rigorous examination of policy, institutional, and developmental dimensions of international trade. Deliberations emphasized the strategic importance of coalition-building among developing countries within the WTO, the continued relevance of Special and



*RIS convening a panel discussion at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.*

Differential Treatment, and the need to reconcile trade disciplines with imperatives of food security, rural livelihoods, and inclusive development.

The session was moderated by Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, who also felicitated Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, and other distinguished participants. The panel comprised Shri Ravi Dammu, Former Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs; Dr.

Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP; Mr. Abhijit Das, International Trade Expert; Dr. Devesh Roy, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI; and Ms Paavni Mathur, Consultant, RIS.

The discussions facilitated a substantive, evidence-based exchange on the evolving architecture of global trade governance. The panel reaffirmed the necessity of development-oriented, inclusive, and rules-based

trade frameworks that adequately reflect the concerns and priorities of

developing countries, particularly in the context of agriculture,

food systems, and sustainable development.

## Soil and Water Conservation for Resilient Agriculture under Climate Change Dynamics in Latin America

DAKSHIN, the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, organized a virtual workshop on Soil and Water Conservation for Resilient Agriculture under Climate Change Dynamics in Latin America, in partnership with the Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo (INESAD), Bolivia, on 10 December 2025.

The workshop explored how climate change is increasing extreme weather events, droughts, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and water scarcity, all of which directly affect agricultural productivity. It highlighted best practices and adaptive soil and water management solutions from Latin America and the Global South. Opening remarks emphasized that soil and water are fundamental to agricultural resilience in the region. The discussion underscored the importance of South-South cooperation and ongoing scientific and policy collaboration to strengthen food security and sustainable agricultural development.



Experts at DAKSHIN and INESAD, Bolivia, attending online seminar.

The first technical segment focused on Bolivian practices, where quinoa-based systems face severe soil fertility challenges due to low organic matter, nutrient depletion, and moisture stress under variable climate conditions. Integrated diagnostics and cost-effectiveness analyses showed that regenerative, low-cost interventions can improve resilience for smallholder farms. Comparative experiences from India, Sri Lanka, Guinea, and Ladakh reinforced these findings and demonstrated diverse adaptation strategies. India's watershed models highlighted the benefits of erosion control and

moisture management; Sri Lanka demonstrated gains from precision micro-irrigation; Guinea showcased effective, low-cost community practices; and Ladakh emphasized ecosystem-specific restoration in cold-arid areas. Across regions, soil-water systems are vital for resilience, requiring targeted, resource-efficient interventions based on evidence. Shared challenges in Latin America, South Asia, and Africa highlight the need to strengthen South-South cooperation through partnerships like INESAD and DAKSHIN-RIS to scale effective solutions.

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robust institutional frameworks, credible and internationally aligned standards, and appropriate human oversight.

Looking ahead, participants emphasized the need to deepen international cooperation on standards, strengthen capacity-

building initiatives for manufacturers and service providers, and develop interoperable certification and data ecosystems that support trust and traceability. The discussions further highlighted the strategic importance of positioning India not merely as an exporter of traditional medicine products, but as a global

hub for reliable systems, high-quality services, and knowledge leadership. The outcomes of the roundtable are expected to inform future policy deliberations and contribute to India's ongoing efforts to integrate traditional medicine more effectively within global health and trade architectures.

# Digital Innovations for Strengthening Health Security in the Global South

DAKSHIN, the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, convened a hybrid webinar on “Digital Innovations for Strengthening Health Security in the Global South” on 12th December 2025. The event aimed to advance policy dialogue on how digital technologies can enhance disease surveillance, preparedness, and health system resilience in resource-constrained settings, drawing on experiences from the Global South.

While delivering the welcome address, Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, situated the discussion within the evolving global health landscape shaped by emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, environmental pressures, and fiscal constraints. He underscored that digital solutions can deliver impact only when embedded within interoperable systems and supported by institutional coordination.

Special remarks were delivered by Ms. Isabelle Tschan Harada, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, who highlighted India’s experience with digital public health platforms such as eVIN and U-WIN and emphasised the role of digital public goods and South-South cooperation in advancing equitable access to health services. Mr. Dadang Hidayat, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, shared Indonesia’s experience in operationalizing the SATUSEHAT national digital health ecosystem, highlighting interoperability, reduced reporting burden, and citizen-centric data governance.



Webinar organised by DAKSHIN at RIS in progress.

The technical session, moderated by Mr. Akul Kaushik, GDC Fellow, RIS, featured expert interventions from senior representatives of government, research institutions, and global health organizations, including Dr. Sadek Abdelaal (Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Tigi Ashengo (Jhpiego, Indonesia), Dr. Pranay Verma (NCDC, Government of India),

Mr. Richard Lepardo (Jhpiego Philippines), Dr. Parag Govil (Wadhvani AI), Dr. Mitra Aminlou (Iran), Dr. Mona (ICMR), and Dr. Virgile Madua Kikaya (Democratic Republic of Congo). Discussions focused on AI-enabled surveillance, digital diagnostics, data governance, community engagement, and mechanisms for cross-border data sharing.

## Visit to Thailand, 6-8 November 2025

An RIS delegation headed by Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, DG, RIS visited Bangkok on 6-8 November 2025. Dr. Prabir De also accompanied the RIS DG. The delegation had meetings with (i) International Trade and Development Institute (ITD), (ii) Chulalongkorn University, (iii) JETRO Bangkok Research Centre, among others. The delegation also met Indian Ambassador to Thailand and the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM).

## Visit to Indonesia, 8-11 December 2025

RIS team, headed by Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, visited Jakarta on 8-11 December 2025. Other two RIS delegates were Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS and Dr. Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS. The purpose of the visit was to attend ADBI Policy Dialogue Roundtable entitled ‘Shaping Asia’s Future Prosperity with Quality Growth’, which was held in Jakarta. Besides, RIS team called on Indian Ambassador to India, Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty; heads of think-tanks and policy research institutes; and Mr. Srinivas Gotru, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN; in Jakarta

The deliberations underscored that digital innovation is foundational to health security but must be embedded within ethically governed, interoperable systems that strengthen frontline capacity and public trust. The Global South

emerged as a source of scalable, context-driven digital solutions, with regional collaboration identified as essential for managing transnational health threats.

The webinar concluded with closing remarks by Dr.

Monika Kochar, who reaffirmed DAKSHIN's commitment to fostering cross-country learning and evidence-informed policymaking. The outcomes of the webinar will inform a forthcoming analytical report and policy paper.

## An Economist's Approach to South Asia: When South Asia Is Barely Mentioned

RIS hosted a talk by eminent economist Dr. Sanjay Kathuria on 15th December 2025, addressing South Asia's current relevance in global economic and policy discussions. The lecture explored the paradox of the region's significant economic and demographic weight alongside its marginalization in international debates.

Dr. Kathuria noted that South Asia has lost prominence in global narratives as attention shifts to the Indo-Pacific, global value chains, and great power competition. He argued that this shift has relegated South Asia to a peripheral status, affecting policymaking, regional cooperation, and development strategies.

Dr. Kathuria highlighted structural constraints limiting South Asia's economic potential, including persistently low regional integration and intra-regional trade.



*Dr. Sanjay Kathuria, Senior Economist*

He identified political tensions, weak connectivity, inefficient border procedures, and restrictive trade policies as key barriers to economic cooperation and growth.

The speaker emphasized that fragmentation in South Asia imposes significant economic costs, reducing productivity, competitiveness, and welfare. He argued that deeper regional integration is a development imperative, highlighting the need

for trade facilitation, better logistics, cross-border connectivity, and regional value chains to unlock growth.

The talk addressed South Asia's global economic engagement. Dr. Kathuria stressed the need for outward-oriented policies and domestic reforms to boost competitiveness, cautioning against inward-looking approaches and emphasizing evidence-based policymaking.

In conclusion, Dr. Kathuria called for renewed analytical and policy focus on South Asia. He encouraged stakeholders to move beyond political pessimism and pursue pragmatic economic solutions. The session highlighted the need for sustained efforts to re-center South Asia in global economic and development discussions.

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in maritime decarbonization, ensuring a voice in implementation negotiations. The alignment of the IMO regulation with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, Maritime Vision 2030, and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 supports ambitious green fuel production and export targets.

India's integrated approach to maritime decarbonisation combines strong policy measures, industrial collaboration, and strategic incentives to accelerate the transition toward green fuels. Under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and Harit Sagar Framework, all major ports are mandated to

establish green fuel capabilities by 2035, aligning with global net-zero objectives. Complementing this, the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore, provides production-linked incentives and transmission charge waivers to enhance green hydrogen and ammonia adoption.

## Maritime India: Next Gen Ports and Infrastructure

The Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series session on Maritime India - Next Gen Ports and Infrastructure, held on 16th December 2025, brought together policymakers, economists, industry practitioners, and students to discuss India's maritime future amid expanding economic ambitions. The lecture supported ongoing capacity-building efforts aligned with the Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. The session emphasized that ports and maritime infrastructure are now central to India's transition from a developing to a developed economy.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist at Dun & Bradstreet India, framed the maritime sector through a macroeconomic lens. He noted that India has already emerged as the fourth-largest economy and is on a credible trajectory to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, roughly equivalent to the size of the United States economy today.

Dr. Singh identified a key structural issue in India's maritime demand: the export basket is dominated by high-volume, low-value goods, leading to higher container throughput per unit of GDP than high-value manufacturing. As more MSMEs enter global markets, container intensity will likely increase, putting additional pressure on ports. Projections suggest container throughput could reach 114 to 248 million TEUs by 2047, with total maritime trade exceeding 7,100 million tonnes annually. At a 65 per cent utilization rate, this would require port capacity of over 11,000 million tonnes per year.



Speakers at CMEC deliberations on maritime infrastructure.

A key concern is the imbalance between major and non-major ports. While major ports are expected to double capacity by 2047, non-major ports must expand nearly sevenfold to meet the demand. This poses challenges in infrastructure, governance, financing, and coordination. India's limited presence among the world's top 50 container ports highlights a competitiveness gap that must be addressed.

Limited draft depth is a significant bottleneck. As vessel sizes increase, many Indian ports cannot accommodate large next-generation ships, leading to reliance on foreign transshipment hubs. Addressing this requires dredging, port redesign, and developing new deep-draft ports to strengthen India's position in global shipping.

The lecture also focused on technology as a key driver for capacity creation. Dr. Singh emphasized that India must boost productivity from existing infrastructure, not just build new ports. Digitalization, automation, and green transition

are transforming global maritime operations. Technologies like IoT-enabled quays, AI analytics, automated cranes, autonomous vehicles, digital twins, and blockchain documentation are already in use at leading ports, enabling real-time decisions, reducing turnaround times, lowering emissions, and improving asset utilization.

The session cautioned against focusing only on current technologies, as infrastructure can quickly become obsolete. Policymakers and planners were urged to adopt a long-term perspective, planning for 2050 and beyond, to avoid missing future waves of digital and green transformation, as happened in past industrial revolutions.

Policymakers noted that India is already advancing in this direction, with initiatives like one-nation-one-process documentation, port community systems, digital twins at select ports, and new green and digital corridors with international partners. However, scaling these

efforts across the port ecosystem remains challenging, especially in aligning private operator incentives and ensuring cost-effective technology adoption.

Legal and institutional reforms are also essential. Recent legislative updates, including new and amended maritime laws, are foundational for a modern, flexible, and competitive legal framework. These reforms support ship registration, dispute resolution, investment, and alignment with international conventions,

enhancing India's maritime attractiveness.

The session emphasized the human dimension of maritime growth. Automation and technology should augment, not replace, human skills. Sustained growth depends on skilled manpower, specialized training, institutional capacity, and talent retention. Achieving India's maritime vision will require integrating infrastructure, technology, law, finance, and human capital into a cohesive ecosystem.

In conclusion, the session highlighted both opportunity and responsibility for India's maritime sector amid rapid economic expansion and transformation. Achieving the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 will require major investments, operational innovation, technology adoption, sustainability, and workforce development.

The event underscored that ports are not just supporting India's growth but are essential to sustaining it.

## Global Trade and Chemical Industry

RIS co-hosted a Policy Roundtable with the Asian Chemicals Forum on 7 October 2025, bringing together experts, industry leaders, and policymakers to deliberate on the evolving global trade dynamics and their implications for the chemical sector.

In his welcome address, Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, highlighted the changing landscape of global trade. He noted that while non-tariff barriers once dominated international commerce, tariff-

related risks have re-emerged in recent years. Professor Sharma also added that in today's globalised economy, standards have become the actual passport to access international markets, underscoring the growing importance of quality, compliance, and sustainability benchmarks.

Shri Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS and Former Commerce Secretary, Government of India, shared perspectives on how India can strengthen its competitiveness through strategic policy frameworks

and enhanced institutional mechanisms. Shri Anil Jauhari, Visiting Fellow, RIS and Former CEO, NABCB, provided insights into the role of accreditation, conformity assessment, and regulatory coherence in enhancing India's global trade presence.

The roundtable facilitated a constructive dialogue on aligning trade policy, regulatory standards, and industrial innovation to ensure India's effective integration into the evolving global value chains of the chemical sector.

### ADBI Policy Dialogue Roundtable, 9-10 December 2025

- This Roundtable was the first programme under the new ADBI flagship Project that aims to stimulate discussions on country's strategies to gradually become high income economies. This roundtable brought together leading national think-tanks and researchers from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, India, and Thailand, alongside international experts from Asia, Europe, and the Americas to explore the drivers of economic transformation, lessons from successful transitions, and strategies for achieving sustained productivity, innovation, and resilience.
- RIS has been invited to contribute to this programme. RIS, DG chaired the Session II: Implementing National Economic Growth Strategies, which was held on 9 December 2025. The Session was attended by four speakers from AMRO, UNIDO, ERIA and KDI. A copy of the Agenda is attached.
- Dr. Prabir De presented the country paper on India's Journey to Viksit Bharat and Challenges faced by lower middle-income countries and likely solutions.
- RIS and ADBI will organize more roundtables, produce joint research papers and conduct training and capacity building in coming months.

### **Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma** Director General

- Made a presentation on Agricultural Agreements in the session on 'Introduction to Agriculture Agreements' in the Digitalisation of Capacity Building Programme on WTO Issues for WTO Accession Countries organised by Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, 6 October 2025, New Delhi
- Made a presentation on Session on Free Trade Agreements & Tariff Wars: The India-Germany Advantage at the Second edition of Global Summit on Democracy, Demography, Development: The India-Germany Connect organised by News9 on 9th October 2025 at Stuttgart, Germany
- Participated in the Session on Economic & Trade Ties: Broadening Pathways for Cooperation, at the High-Level Track II Dialogue on China-India Relations organised jointly by the MP-IDSA and Sichuan University on 15th October 2025 at Chengdu, China
- Panelist in the session on Connecting the dots between different triangular co-operation processes globally - next steps and agenda for action until 2026" at the 9th International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation organised jointly Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) on 30 October 2025, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Made a presentation on Session on Technology Rivalry: Re-evaluation of Digital Transformation and Innovation at the Asia-Pacific Forum 2025 organised by Japan Economic Foundation on 7 November 2025 at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Participated in the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Agriculture for India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 Organised by Ministry of Agriculture on 10 November 2025.
- Made a presentation in the sessions on 'OCOP Market Intelligence Series (MIS) for Pacific Islands' and 'Capacity building on methodology to conduct Market Intelligence for Special Agricultural

Products', organised at the Launch Event for the Global Project on Sustainable Development of Cocoa in Samoa under of FAO-China SSC Programme and Technical Workshop on the Implementation of OCOP Initiative for the Pacific & 3rd FAO OCOP Regional Organizing Group (ROG) Meeting in Asia and the Pacific organised during 18-20 November 2025, Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia, Samoa.

- Moderated the Technical Panel on 'Sharing Futures: Building an Ethos of Sustainability for All' during the SaGAA VIII Leadership Conference - "Confrontation to Collaboration in a Fractured World: Science, Business, Policy" on 25th November 2025, New Delhi.
- Delivered Keynote Address on Evolving Trade Regimes: Multilateral Stalemates and Emerging Challenges in Agricultural Trade at the 85th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics organised jointly by Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University and Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Hisar, Haryana.
- Facilitator in the session on Introduction to Agreement on Agriculture organised by Centre for WTO Studies, CRIT on 27th November 2025 (Online)
- Panelist in the Special session on 'Climate and Agriculture' organised during the 26th AASSREC Biennial General Conference on Social Science Research in the Indo-Pacific for Sustainable Futures organised jointly by AASSRC and ICSSR on 5th December 2025, New Delhi.
- Chaired the session on 'Implementing National Economic Growth Strategies' of the first policy dialogue roundtable on "Shaping Asia's Future Prosperity with Quality Growth", organised jointly by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Institute for Economic Development (IED), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Korea Development Institute (KDI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD), and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on 9 December 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Prof. S. K. Mohanty** Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in the 24th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) as a speaker in Plenary Panel on Managing Current Challenges in Trade and Tariffs and made a presentation on Tariff Shocks and India's Trade Options in a Changing Global Order organised by IASSI and Doon University, Dehradun on 12th October 2025.
- Participated as a commentator for the presentation on "Canadian Trade Relationship with the Global South," offering insights on international trade dynamics, development cooperation, and emerging South-South economic partnerships organised by IDRC, New Delhi on 14th October 2025.
- Submitted paper on Dredging for Competitiveness to Steer India's Port-led Industrialisation in the India Maritime Report 2025-26, India Maritime Week 2025: Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision - India's Maritime Strides.
- Participated in the ISID's Third Conference on India's Industrial Transformation: Towards a Manufacturing Strategy to Navigate Global Shifts and made a presentation on Trade Policy in Trump 2.0 Policy Options for India in Session on High-Level Policy Roundtable on India's Manufactured Exports and GVCs Meeting the Challenge of Trump Tariffs, New Delhi on 30th October 2025.
- Participated in the 105th Foundation Day from 29th October 2025 to 03 November 2025 organised by Jamia Millia Islamia University and delivered a Lecture under the banner of Extension Series Lecture on The New Tariff Regime with Trump 2.0: Policy Options for India at the University Campus, New Delhi on 3rd November 2025.



- Participated in Live TV discussion on DD News to share views on India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, on 22nd December 2025.

### **Dr. Priyadarshi Dash**

#### **Associate Professor**

- Made presentation on "Financial Markets and Policy" at Third KIEP Visiting Fellow Workshop organised by KIEP New Delhi on 2nd December 2025.
- Panelist in the webinar on 'Indo-Russia Economic Relations' organised by EGROW Foundation on 28th November 2025.
- Made remarks at the Roundtable on "Enhancing India's Economic Engagement in Africa: The Way Ahead" organised by Vivekanand International Foundation in New Delhi on 24th November 2025.
- Made online presentation on "Women-Led Development and Empowerment from Financial Inclusion Perspective" at Third Research Scholar Meet organised by Central University of South Bihar on 17th November 2025.
- Discussant in the session 'Access to Credit and Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs' at the Third ISID Conference on 'India's Industrial Transformation: Towards a Manufacturing Strategy

### **Dr. Pankaj Vashisht**

#### **Associate Professor**

- Delivered special lecture on Studying the Labour Market Impact of Technology: Methods and Data Sources, delivered at 10 days Research Methodology Course (RMC) on Large-Specialized Datasets and Econometric Applications, organized by ISID, 14th November 2025.
- Moderated roundtable discussion on 'Advancing South-South Cooperation for a Sustainable Future' jointly organized by UNDP India and DAKSHIN, 11th November 2025
- Participated a Panelist in a panel discussion on Rise of Miniletrals in Indo-Pacific, organized by ICWA, 06th November 2025

- Delivered on special remarks India and Global South at International Conference on 'Reimagining the Global South: Opportunities and Challenges for India' organized by the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 15th October 2025

### **Dr. Amit Kumar**

#### **Assistant Professor**

- Delivered a talk as a panelist on "Regulations of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Impact on Digital Trade" at 2nd Asia Pacific E-commerce Policy Summit organised by ICRIER and UNESCAP at New Delhi on 4th November 2025.
- Delivered a talk as an invited speaker during a High-Level Anticipation International Conference organised by GESDA (Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator) on Post-Synthetic Biology Era and AI at Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, China on 27th November 2025.

### **Dr. Pankhuri Gaur**

#### **Assistant Professor**

- Presented on India-ASEAN Trade Relations Among Global Turmoil: Towards a Fair and Comprehensive Trade Agreement In RIN Online Workshop 2025 on 17th October 2025 organised by IDE-JETRO
- Addressed a session at the 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Central & South America and Caribbean Islands on the topic 'Blue Economy' on 6th November 2025 at SSIFS, New Delhi

### **Mr. Rajeev Kher**

#### **Distinguished Fellow**

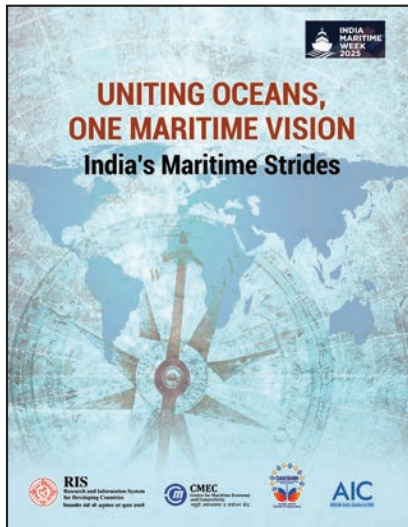
- Participated in the closed-door roundtable on Goeconomics and Technology in a World Between Orders organized by Chintan Research Foundation and Koan Advisory Group on 09 October 2025.
- Participated in the online Discussion on How are US Tariffs likely to Impact India? What can India do? organized by the Indian Express on 9th October 2025.

- Participated in the Vimarsh on Challenges of Governance for Viksit Bharat 2047 organized by Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) on 27th October 2025.
- Participated in the PEG-Solidaridad meeting organized by WWF-India on 3 November and 1st December 2025
- Participated in the Summit on India and Sustainability Standards 2025 organized by Centre for Responsible Business on 12th November 2025.
- Panelist in the Session on Strategic Trade Issues & Geopolitics at the Senior Executive Development Programme on Global Trade Strategies organized by Dhirubhai Ambani University - School of Law on 12th November 2025.
- Participated in the session on Driving the Pathway towards Sustainable Oil Production in India: Checks and Balance organized by I-SPOC on 15th November 2025.
- Participated in the Discussion on Reflections from COP30 - the Board Perspective organized by Deloitte on 19th November 2025.
- Participated in the closed-door Interactive Session on Key Developments in Corporate Governance organized by PwC India on 19th November 2025.
- Participated in the Core Group Meeting of WWF-India on 2nd December 2025.
- Participated in the Policy Engagement Group Meeting organized by Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) on 3rd December 2025.
- Participated in the online Discussion on What will it take to give India Clear Air? organized by the Indian Express on 15th December 2025.

### **Cmdr Sujeet Samaddar**

#### **Visiting Fellow**

- Conducted four workshops for Diplomats at SSIFS on Maritime Connectivity and Security.



**REPORT**

- *Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision: India's Maritime Strides*, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.

**JOURNAL**

*Traditional Medicine Review*  
Vol. 5, No. 2, October 2025

**RIS POLICY BRIEFS**

- #124 *Mexico's Tariff Shift: What is Changing and Why it Matters* by Sachin Kumar Sharma, Alisha Goswami and Paavni Mathur, Dec, 2025.
- #125 *COP 30: Diverging Optics and Reality* by Anshuman Gupta, Dec, 2025

**RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS**

- #312 *Flag in India: A Proposal for the India International Ship Registry* by Sujeet Samaddar and Anushka Tripathi
- #313 *Financial Inclusion in India Progress, Issues, and Policy Options* by Pami Dua, Deepika Goel Neeraj Kumar, Neha Verma
- #314 *Collaborative Agricultural Development Framework for the Global south* by A. Sivasena Reddy

- #315 *Rethinking India's Bilateral Investment Treaties: Balancing Investor Protection with Policy Space* by Atul Kaushik and Yashwi Saini
- #316 *Enhancing National Shipping Tonnage : Proposals for Tonnage Tax Reforms* by Sujeet Samaddar and Vanshika Goyal
- #317 *From Shared Aspirations to Shaping Futures: Evolving Modalities of the Global Development Compact* by Atul Kaushik and Sanim H

**AIC COMMENTARY**

- #57: *Ten Years of Act East Policy: Reflections from Philippines* by Joeef B. Santarita

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTSIDE PUBLICATIONS BY RIS FACULTY**

- Sharma, Sachin Kumar et.al. (2025). 'Evolving Trade Regimes: Multilateral Stalemates and Emerging Challenges in Agricultural Trade.' *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 80:3
- Sharma, Sachin Kumar et.al. (2025). 'Green Transition or Green Tension?', *Diplomatist*, Annual Edition 3 December.

De, Prabir et al. (2025) "The Global Impact of Trump 2.0: Tariffs, with a Special Focus on India", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 60, No. 43-44, November 2025

Shrotriya, Shishir and Srimal, Richa (2025). Book Chapter: 'India and Indian Ocean (VIF publication): Translating India's Maritime Trade Strategy for the Indian Ocean Region: Addressing vulnerabilities & Building Resilience, November.

Nair, Arun, Arun, Thankom, Garcia, Ana and Dash, Priyadarshi (2025). "Empowering Fintech Growth: Secure Data Portability and Trustworthy Interoperability in G20 Countries", T20 South Africa Policy Brief.

Saha, Sabyasachi, Dua, Pami and Allamraju, Ashita (2025). "Enhancing Livelihood and Promoting Wellbeing: Reframing Development through LiFE" in *IASSI Quarterly*, Vol. 44, No. 4, Oct-Dec.

**POPULAR ARTICLES**

- De, Prabir (2025). "India's Paperless Trade Imperative", *Hindustan Times*, 20 November 2025
- Kher, Rajeev and Gupta, Anshuman (2025). US exit from COP 30 puts onus on EU, China, India to drive climate action. *Business Standard*, 25 November.



# RIS

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FIRD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.



DST-Satellite Centre for Policy Research on STI Diplomacy at RIS aims to advance policy research at the intersection of science, technology, innovation (STI) and diplomacy, in alignment with India’s developmental priorities and foreign policy objectives.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda —

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