

Global South and Triangular Cooperation



Distinguished dignitaries at the launch of RIS Report on Triangular Cooperation.

RIS with DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence, the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GOI) organised a major "Conference on Global South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Facets" on 3-4 June, 2025 at New Delhi. The conference was unique in significance beyond a routine Think Tank engagement as it brought together senior most policymakers, international organisations, scholars and academics from the Global South, think tank leaders, civil society and entrepreneurs at



H. E Mr Santiago Pena Palacios, President of Paraguay sharing his vision of the future and reaffirming values of collaboration in the Global South.

a single platform to discuss, deliberate, and provide a way forward for the Triangular Cooperation. The participants from all different regions starting with Latin America, MENA, Sub-Saharan Africa, South and South East Asia



Signing of MoUs.

and the Pacific gave the conference a true global character. The purpose, direction and eventual roadmap with which the conference was conceived was bolstered many times over when the audiences heard H.E. Mr Santiago Pena Palacios, Hon'ble President of Paraguay sharing his vision of the future and reaffirming values of collaboration in the Global South.

He categorically suggested Triangular cooperation works best when it reflects the foundational values of South-South cooperation, which he further went on to suggest that Paraguay and India proudly



Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairperson RIS.

uphold. He said that these are not just ideals - they are safeguards



Shri Pabitra Margerita, Hon'ble Minister of State, MEA

as they ensure that cooperation builds capacity - not dependency, and strengthens states. India's own transformations and growing economic capabilities under the guidance of the Prime Minister was presented by Shri Pabitra Margerita, Hon'ble Minister of State, MEA who also highlighted the various areas of cooperation as agreed between India and Paraguay. Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary, Economic Relations, MEA, congratulated RIS for organising this timely and important conference and shared his opinion that now the time is right to have a North-South Conference which would bring in influential and important voices to deliberate



Distinguished Speakers at the Conference.



Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), MEA.

on issues of development, and cooperation.

All participants, reconnected with issues and delved deeper and presented valuable perspectives and roadmaps in panel discussions on Bandung and Beyond – Collective Will and Collective Action; Knowledge Forums on New Development Strategy and

Scope for Partnerships, Norms and Modalities for Triangular Cooperation, and Preparing for Future – Global South IOs and Triangular Cooperation; dedicated Actions labs covering the sectors of Agriculture, Health, SMEs, Entrepreneurship, Digital Solutions, Energy, Gender, Biodiversity, and Disaster Management; and Solution hubs on LiFE and Sustainable Development Partnerships, and Development of the North-East of India alongside focused partnership sessions with Universities, ITEC Alumni and colleagues from the North East for allowing diversity of perspectives and enabling localisation of development.

The conference made significant efforts to bring in concrete action be it signing of MoUs between DAKSHIN and ICRISAT, and signing of MoUs between RIS and 25 Indian Universities under



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

the University Connect Hub for carrying forward transformative development ideas emerging from India's G20 Presidency and embed them with India's efforts of knowledge sharing with the Global South. ■



Eminent participants at the Conference.

India and the CPTA: Moving Towards Cross-border Paperless Trade



Participants at the session.

RIS organised a seminar on 'India and the CPTA: Moving Towards Cross-border Paperless Trade' at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok on 11 June, 2025 in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ICRIER, as part of the United Nations Paperless Trade Week 2025.

India has made significant strides in trade facilitation in recent years, with implementing paperless trade at the core of logistics and trade facilitation policy for India. The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) is a UN treaty aimed at accelerating the implementation of trade digitalization measures. It is designed as an inclusive instrument accessible to countries at all levels of development to develop their capacity to more effectively engage in cross-border paperless trade. India actively participated in the development and adoption of the

treaty and has shown interest in accession of the CPTA.

In this context, this session discussed the current status of India's paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade measures and its global position in trade facilitation, and how the CPTA may be leveraged to further accelerate the progress. Dr Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation, ESCAP and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the opening remarks. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS made the lead presentation on India's paperless trade facilitation, followed by a panel discussion on 'Way Forward', which was moderated by Dr Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER. Panelists were Dr Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP; Amb. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Counsellor/ Advisor, Department of International Trade & Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia, and Former Mongolian Ambassador to

India; Professor Somnuk Keretho, Director, Institute for Information, Technology Innovation, Kasetsart University, Thailand; Mr Dushyant Mulani, Chairman, Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAL); Dr Sang Won Lim, Special Advisor, United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT). Ms Anastasia Maga, Statistics Division, ESCAP made a presentation on 'Leveraging the framework agreement on addressing trade misinvoicing'.

Discussants of the seminar were Ms. Tshering Choden, Trade Officer, Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan, Mr Sanjeewa Pattiwila Kankanamalage, Acting Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka; and Mr Tahseen Khan, Advisory Committee Member, UNNExT and former Vice President, UN-CEFACT. The ESCAP thanks RIS for taking the lead in organizing an important dialogue on the trade facilitation. ■

BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks



Participants at Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT).

The Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 30–31 May 2025. It emphasised the vital role of tourism and cultural cooperation in fostering people-to-people connectivity, promoting a shared regional identity, and enhancing sustainable development across the Bay of Bengal region. The Indian delegation comprised Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Dr Beena Pandey, and Dr Sampa Kundu from RIS.

Drawing from extensive deliberations, BNPTT proposed the creation of a BIMSTEC Tourism and Culture Charter to formalise regional collaboration. Other proposals included a Tourism Task Force and a Cultural and Tourism Council to harmonise

policy, strengthen coordination, and promote evidence-based policymaking.

BNPTT advocated for regional tourism circuits like the Buddhist Circuit, Ramayana Trail, and Maritime Heritage Routes, alongside infrastructure enhancement, visa simplification, and public-private partnerships. Cultural diplomacy initiatives such as BIMSTEC Cultural Festivals, a Cultural Heritage List, Food Festivals, and film/media collaboration were also recommended.

Community-based and inclusive tourism was prioritised, with a focus on empowering local communities, promoting sustainability, and developing creative economies. Academic and youth exchanges were encouraged, including suggestions to integrate

BIMSTEC content into education and establish a Creative Economy Fund. The group recognised digital transformation's importance and proposed initiatives such as virtual tourism, digital storytelling, and a multilingual Visit BIMSTEC campaign. Capacity-building and disaster-preparedness strategies for tourism were also highlighted.

Presentations by the BIMSTEC Secretariat and member think tanks focused on progress and future steps. Participants agreed that effective implementation requires strong institutions, stakeholder engagement, and sustained political will.

A unanimous agreement was reached to incorporate a “zero tolerance” stance against terrorism in the final recommendations. ■

Advancing India-Japan Economic Partnership: Imperatives, Opportunities and Challenges



Participants at the programme.

The Seminar on “Advancing India-Japan Economic Partnership: Imperatives, Opportunities and Challenges” was jointly organised by RIS and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on 9 April 2025 at New Delhi. The event brought together senior policymakers, industry leaders, and experts from academia and think tanks to deliberate on actionable strategies to scale up India-Japan economic partnership, positioning India as an export hub for Japanese companies, and deepening collaboration in regional economic development in Asia and Africa.

In his keynote address, H.E Keiichi ONO, Japan’s Ambassador to India, stated that “Japan-India

relations are at an all-time high, and we are committed to further accelerating this momentum”. He added that with the year 2025 designated as the “Japan-India Science, Technology and Innovation Exchange Year”, Japan aims to invigorate Japan-India cooperation in various fields, including space, oceans, healthcare and energy.

The seminar featured interventions by several eminent speakers from NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India, Zeta-V Technology Solutions Ltd., IDE-JETRO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Nomura Research Institute Consulting and Solutions India Pvt Ltd, Daikin India, and,

Maruti Suzuki India Limited. The participants emphasised that against the backdrop of shifting global supply chains, evolving trade alignments, and geopolitical uncertainties, a deeper and more resilient economic engagement between India and Japan is imperative.

The deliberations also underscored the importance of leveraging complementarities between the two economies, encouraging investments in high-value sectors, and enhancing cooperation in third-country development initiatives. These efforts are seen as pivotal in ensuring shared prosperity, regional stability, and future readiness in the global economic landscape. ■

Enhancing Connectivity and Economic Growth

The India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Conclave

RIS, in collaboration with the Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU) and Dalberg, organised an IMEC Conclave in New Delhi on 16 April 2025. The Conclave aimed to provide a platform to the political leadership, officials of various ministries/departments, academics, bankers, development finance practitioners, and business leaders to deliberate upon the possibilities within the framework of IMEC. The Conclave addressed a wide range of issues, including geopolitics, financing, skilling, sustainability, trade and investment, digital connectivity, and the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), among others.

Senior ministers Government from the Government of India including Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry; Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Dr Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports graced the Conclave with their inspiring words mentioning specific fields of cooperation with the IMEC partner countries. Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, Former Minister of State for External Affairs, also shared her perspectives and experience in dealing with some of the IMEC countries in the past.

In addition, among other esteemed speakers were the top officials of the Government of India who brought rich sectoral knowledge to the Conclave, including Shri Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to the Prime Minister; Ambassador Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs; Mr N.K. Singh, Former Chairperson of the Fifteenth Finance Commission; and Shri Amitabh



The inaugural session of the IMEC Conclave 2025.

Kant, G20 Sherpa, Government of India. The contributions of former diplomats of India like Ambassador Shyam Saran, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Former Foreign Secretary, India; Ambassador Sudhir Devare and Ambassador Amar Sinha to different sessions of the Conclave were noted with emphasis. Ambassadors and representatives from the Indian Missions of Italy, Germany, France, Greece, and Israel shared their national visions for the Corridor. Eminent speakers from industry and academia included Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar (former UGC Chair), Mr Ajai Chowdhry (HCL, Quantum Mission), Dr Sanjaya Baru, Dr Ila Patnaik, and senior executives from NIIF, NaBFID, EIB, World Bank, Adani Ports, RITES, and others.

The Corridor was viewed with greater interest as a possible route for global supply chains diversification and decongestion of Suez Canal traffic. Political leadership of India indicated interest in IMEC, and it was equally stressed upon by the missions of other countries such as Italy, France, Greece, Germany and Israel. It is quite

possible that Europe could also gain significantly from IMEC. In terms of economic benefits, it is estimated that IMEC has the potential to reduce logistics costs by up to 30 per cent and transportation time by up to 40 per cent for the participating countries, thereby unlocking significant trade potential between India, West Asia, and Europe.

Sessions further explored strategic dimensions of IMEC - emphasising clean energy integration (green hydrogen, "One Sun, One World, One Grid"), digital public infrastructure (UPI, DPI, MAITRI), and the role of skill development and scientific collaboration. Financing imperatives were also discussed, estimating a requirement of USD 500 billion over the next decade, with MDBs, blended finance, and PPPs identified as key enablers. To sustain momentum, the establishment of a Joint IMEC Coordination Forum, greater engagement with industry, harmonisation of standards, and institutional collaboration were recommended. IMEC was ultimately envisioned as a modern Silk Route - enhancing not only connectivity but also fostering shared growth and cross-cultural cooperation. ■

One Nation One Subscription Scheme



Professor Devika P. Madalli

RIS organised the 53rd Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum Public Lecture on 3 April 2025. The lecture was delivered by Professor Devika P. Madalli, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar, on the “One Nation One Subscription” (ONOS) Scheme. The event was chaired by Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS, delivered the welcome remarks. Announced by the Government of India on 25 November 2024, ONOS aims to provide nationwide access to international academic journals and research publications for students, faculty, and researchers with the aim

of improving the quality of India’s research output.

The initial part of the lecture sought to introduce INFLIBNET and its institutional background as well as its various initiatives that have sought to boost India’s research ecosystem. Dr Madalli mentioned that INFLIBNET initiated research support initiatives, including the ShodhGanga and ShodhChakra repositories and networks, including IRINS and SheRNI (She Research Network India) and Vidwan.

Key platforms focused on know-how, including the Startup Metadata Platform, were also discussed along with research outcomes and impact measurement through mechanisms such as the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). She described ONOS as a key step towards our national goals to enhance equity in access to knowledge resources. In particular, she termed ONOS as an instrument to implement the objectives envisioned under the New Education Policy, 2020, which

seeks to facilitate a multidisciplinary and holistic education system and the newly launched Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

She noted that the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme functions as a National Consortium for journal subscriptions. It centrally negotiates and funds national subscriptions for e-journals, ensuring access to scholarly resources for students, faculty, and researchers across India. In doing so, it seeks to promote a research-oriented culture in tier 2 and tier 3 cities while enhancing India’s overall research capacity. She also highlighted the divide between the Global North and Global South in terms of access to research. Major ongoing initiatives that are being undertaken by the INFLIBNET, including the Bharat Impact Factor (BIF) index, which is being tailored to capture research impact in the Indian context, were also discussed. The lecture concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session. ■

Social Implications of AI

RIS, in collaboration with the Deendayal Research Institute, organised a one-day conference on “Social Implications of AI” on 5 April 2025. The conference was attended by stakeholders hailing from the academic, research, policy and political community who highlighted the positive and negative impact that AI and its integration are having on multiple walks of society.

The event started with a welcome address from Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS. In setting the context, Professor Chaturvedi highlighted the need for AI deployment in India to align with

cultural values, while contextualising its positive effects on the future of work. In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairman, RIS highlighted the significance of AI ethics and noted that it is imperative for India to invest in indigenous datasets that reflect its linguistic diversity, socio-cultural realities and other day-to-day practicalities.

The Special Remarks by Dr V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog shed light on the economic and security implications of AI deployment. Mentioning cybersecurity as a major challenge,

Dr Saraswat recommended for mechanisms including an AI testbed for cybersecurity and an AI Cybersecurity threat observatory to be set up. Delivering his Keynote Address at the inaugural session, Shri Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology identified education, health and agriculture as priority sectors from the point of view of the government, while also noting that the government’s focus is on demonstrating how AI can improve things at the practical level. The inaugural session was

also graced by the presence of Shri Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, as the Chief Guest.

The prospects and challenges emanating from AI were explored in the second and the third session respectively. In particular, the discussions revolved around leveraging AI, robotics, and blockchain innovations for rural development and democratising AI. Details on the implementation of the Rural Smart Village Centers which improve farmers' access to harness AI to yield economic gains was elaborated by Dr Sapna Poti, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India. Speakers also discussed the use of AI to improve soil and water monitoring.

Discussions at the event further laid strong emphasis on the significance of achieving Bharat-specific AI standards to reflect India's diversity and values to ensure inclusivity and avoid biases from global datasets.

Speakers also highlighted that important question has to do with what kind of knowledge system should be used to train AI models and emphasised that local knowledge should not overwhelm AI. While delivering his Special Remarks at the concluding session, Dr Ajai Chowdhry, Co-Founder, HCL and Member, Advisory Board on India's Semiconductor Mission, noted that India can evolve unique solutions to overcome constraints in terms of computing capacity. He called on Indian researchers to

innovate in this direction while also discussing how substantial research is going into how AI models can be made to work on CPUs.

The conference concluded with a discussion on India's role in setting international AI norms and achieving self-reliance. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi summarised the key highlights from the event from a policy point of view including skilling, ethics, and the potential applications of AI in multiple domains including the finance sector and smart cities. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Atul Jain, General-Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute. ■

Germany as a Development Partner: Distinctive Approaches and Global Contributions

RIS hosted Mr Uwe Gehlen, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in India on 4 April 2025. Germany's development partnership, particularly through agencies such as GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) reflects a distinctive model rooted in its post-war reconstruction, emphasis on social welfare, and commitment to multilateralism. Speaking on recent trends, Mr Uwe Gehlen highlighted that Germany approaches development not merely as financial assistance, but as a long-term, values-based collaboration that promotes sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience.

A major area of India-Germany collaboration is the energy sector, with Germany providing significant technical and financial assistance



Mr Uwe Gehlen, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany at RIS.

for India's renewable energy transition. Mr Gehlen noted that this cooperation aligns with shared climate goals and India's ambition for a green and sustainable future. Germany's holistic development model blends physical infrastructure with investments in education, health, social protection, and skill development. Mr Gehlen underlined

that the ultimate goal is to empower individuals and communities, making development cooperation not just effective, but also equitable and enduring. Germany's experience offers valuable insights for global development strategies that are inclusive, locally owned, and globally responsible. ■

AI and Ethics



(From Right to Left) Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS; Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Mexico's Candidate for UNESCO Director-General; Dr V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India; and H.E. Mr Federico Salas Lotfe, Ambassador of Mexico to India

RIS, in partnership with the Embassy of Mexico in India, organised a public lecture on the topic “AI and Ethics” on 23 April 2025 at the Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Mexico's Candidate for UNESCO Director-General, and highlighted the need for ethical, inclusive, and sustainable and trustworthy AI governance, with a focus on India's role and multilateral cooperation, especially led by the UNESCO.

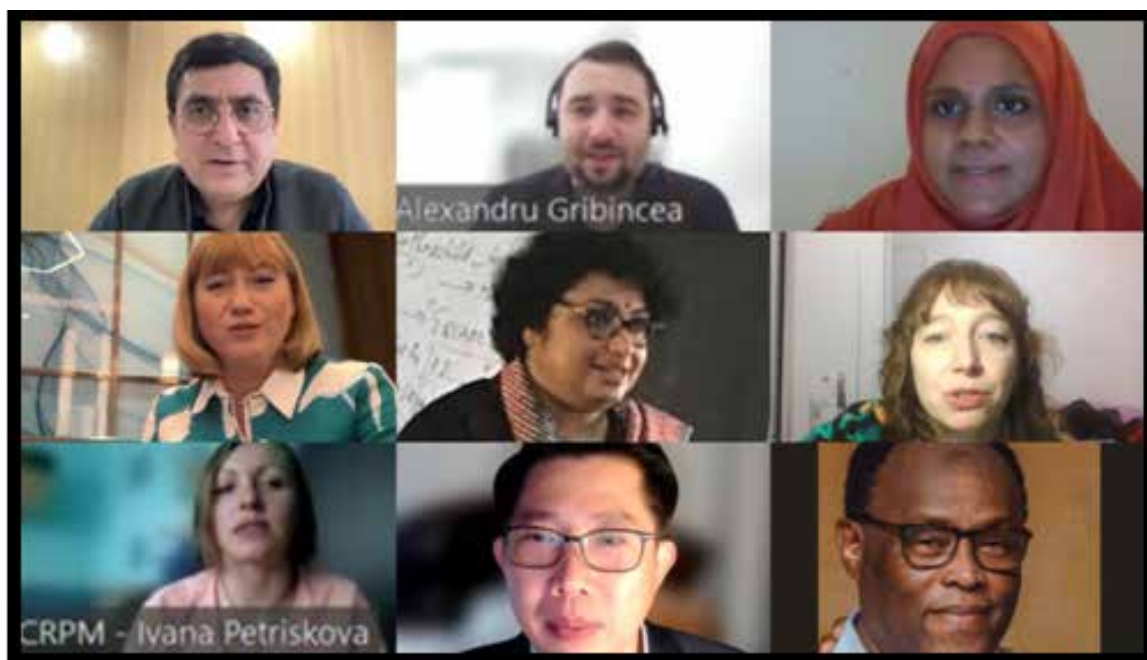
The event was graced by Dr V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India, H.E. Mr Federico Salas Lotfe, Ambassador of Mexico to India, and Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Mexico's Candidate for UNESCO Director-General. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, in his welcome remarks stressed the values of access, equity and inclusion (AEI) while elaborating

on the significance of AI ethics. Dr Saraswat chaired the event and highlighted AI's economic potential for India and its applications across key sectors, while warning against misconceptions about its impact on jobs. He outlined concerns evolving around AI, particularly their ethical, social, and security implications, while stressing the need for Responsible AI grounded in inclusivity, transparency, and legal compliance. He also mentioned about the upcoming India AI Act, focused on risk-based regulation, data protection, and ethical AI governance. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr Federico Salas Lotfe, emphasized the need for innovative leadership and global cooperation in AI governance, highlighting UNESCO's role and stressing the shared responsibility to align AI with human values and sustainable development.

The lead speaker, Ms. Gabriela Ramos, highlighted UNESCO's role in shaping the global AI ethical principles grounded in human values. She stressed the need to translate UNESCO's AI Ethics Framework into actionable policies and address non-inclusivity by democratizing access to technology. She highlighted three “I”s- Inclusiveness, Innovation and Impact as pillars which should guide the integration of AI going forward. She further called for quality education, scientific recognition, and adaptive policies. Urging greater global cooperation, she expressed hope that the India's AI Impact Summit would have momentous significance for the future of the technology. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS. ■

DAKSHIN

Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in the Global South



Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is a powerful approach for promoting equity, accountability, and inclusive development. In recognition of its significance, the DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence and the Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia jointly organised a workshop titled Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in the Global South on 22 May 2025. This event brought together experts and practitioners from multiple countries to share experiences, innovations, and challenges in advancing GRB.

The workshop unfolded in two parts. The first round centred on the Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN), an initiative led by CRPM that spans seven countries and engages over 100 civil

society organisations. Key speakers included Dr Marija Risteska and Ms Ivana Petrisková from Macedonia, and Mr Alexandru Gribincea from Moldova. The GBWN plays a vital role in equipping grassroots actors with tools and training to analyse budgets through a gender lens, advocate for equitable resource allocation, and promote transparency and accountability in public finance. The second part featured a panel discussion moderated by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, with panellists including Professor Lekha S. Chakraborty (India), Dr Chheng Kimlong (Cambodia), Professor Jorgelina Loza (Argentina), Ms Safaath Ahmed Zahir (Maldives), and Mr Edward H. Mhina (Tanzania).

The workshop also addressed governance challenges including limited coordination between national and local governments, political instability, and weak institutional memory. However, advances in political representation and gender mainstreaming within public institutions offer hope for progress. Some experts proposed reframing GRB as “citizen-responsive budgeting” to reduce resistance and expand its appeal, particularly in politically or culturally sensitive environments.

The workshop concluded by affirming the critical role of South-South collaboration in sustaining GRB reforms. Knowledge-sharing initiatives like DAKSHIN facilitate solidarity, innovation diffusion, and collective learning. ■

Egypt's Development Experience: Dialogue with the Ambassadors of the Global South

DAKSHIN at RIS hosted H.E. the Kamel Zayed Galal, Ambassador of Egypt to India on 17 June 2025. This was the inaugural session of DAKSHIN's "Dialogue with the Ambassadors of the Global South" and marked an important beginning in facilitating mutual learning and cooperation among countries of the Global South. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, in his introductory remarks emphasized that the initiative is not merely about promoting India's development story, but about engaging in serious exchanges of ideas and experiences with other countries from the Global South.

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, in his remarks as the Chair, underlined the critical need for the Global South to unite in a rapidly changing and uncertain international environment. India, he noted, has taken a leadership role in this regard by convening the Voice of the Global South Summits during its G20 Presidency, and by securing African Union's inclusion as a permanent G20 member.

Ambassador Kamel Zayed Galal, the Ambassador of Egypt to India, noted that the Global South must come together, not just in response to geopolitical challenges, but also anchored firmly in its own principles. He cautioned against aligning solely on the basis of shifting national interests, urging instead a principled solidarity rooted in historical experience, shared values, and the long struggle against injustice. He began with a powerful quote from the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead which they consider as the Book of Life,



H.E. Mr Kamel Zayed Galal, Ambassador of Egypt to India at RIS.

underscoring the importance of self-awareness, imagination, and cause-effect thinking in development.

Egypt, he explained, has long drawn on its civilizational legacy and historical lessons in pursuing national development. He then traced the evolution of Egypt's development journey across distinct phases. The first began after the 1952 revolution, focused on institution-building in the context of Cold War politics. The second phase followed the 1973 Yom Kippur War, after which Egypt negotiated peace with Israel and sought regional stability. The third phase, beginning in the 1980s, was marked by the rise of religious and sectarian regional actors. In the 1990s, Egypt embarked on liberal economic reforms that achieved high growth but failed to trickle down to the majority, contributing to the unrest of 2011 and 2013.

He observed that since the election of President El-Sisi in 2014, Egypt has launched an ambitious and transformative reform agenda. These reforms aimed to address macroeconomic instability, attract investment, increase resilience to external shocks, and lay the

foundations for inclusive growth. The ambassador elaborated on Egypt's large-scale infrastructure and connectivity projects, which aim to unlock the full potential of its geography and population.

Ambassador Galal also emphasized that digitalisation is another core theme in Egypt's development approach. Through initiatives like Digital Egypt, the government is transforming governance and service delivery. Digital infrastructure investments—such as data centers and submarine cable landing stations—are also positioning Egypt as a key data and communication hub between Africa, Asia, and Europe.

He concluded by reaffirming Egypt's belief in South-South Cooperation as a foundational principle of its foreign policy—not one driven by charity or conditionality, but by partnership, equality, and mutual respect. Egypt and India, with their rich civilizational legacies and modern reform experiences, can together lead this transformative journey for the Global South. ■

When the Tables Turn: The Global South in an Era of Instability



Professor Amrita Narlikar delivering the lecture.

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence initiated its inaugural lecture as a part of its 'Special Lecture Series on the Global South' on 25 April 2025 at RIS. Professor Amrita Narlikar Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF); Honorary Fellow, Darwin College, University of Cambridge delivered the inaugural lecture.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS inaugurated the lecture series under DAKSHIN, a new initiative led by RIS, aimed at sharing India's development experiences with fellow Global South countries—an outcome of India's G20 commitment at the Voice of the Global South Summit. He emphasised agriculture, health, and digital solutions as key sectors for knowledge sharing and highlighted the role of evidence-based research in theorizing the Global South narrative. He called for greater academic engagement in shaping the discourse beyond diplomatic rhetoric and underlined the need for conceptual clarity amid changing geopolitics, such as the demise of the Washington Consensus and supply chain monopolies. He commended

India's institutional innovations like Aadhaar-enabled payments, UPI, Digital Public Infrastructure, and initiatives like LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), advocating for the inclusion of equity, access, and inclusion in the developmental framework.

Professor Chaturvedi referenced the N.K. Singh-Larry Summers Report on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), highlighting its relevance in securing capital access for Global South countries. He concluded by praising DAKSHIN's outreach through MoUs with Global South think tanks to build a robust network.

Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, Chair, noted the Global South as a contemporary and evolving construct, in contrast to older categorisations of developed and developing nations. He acknowledged India's G20 Presidency for mainstreaming the Global South narrative, while also pointing out the diversities and divergences among Global South countries.

Dr Amrita Narlikar in her keynote titled "When the Tables Turn: The Global South in an Era of Instability",

lauded RIS contributions to T20 during India's G20 Presidency and to the conceptualization of DAKSHIN. She defined the Global South as nations from Asia (excluding China), Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East with shared colonial legacies, advocating for reform in global governance for equitable resource distribution. Dr Amrita Narlikar highlighted four themes: Global challenges exacerbating North-South divides; Governance deficits in global institutions; Improved bargaining power of the Global South; and Need for Southern-led policy paradigms.

She urged cross-disciplinary collaboration, connectivity, and South-South cooperation, warning against technocratic silos and Western ideological dominance. She also emphasised the Global South's role as agenda-setters for an inclusive global order amid geopolitical shifts.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, with Ambassador Sibal reaffirming the importance of security and governance reforms and Professor Gulshan Sachdeva gave vote of thanks to the participants at the inaugural DAKSHIN lecture. ■

Enabling Circular Economy for a Sustainable Global South

DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence, in collaboration with the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), hosted the tenth edition of its workshop series titled "Enabling Circular Economy for a Sustainable Global South" on 11 April 2025. The event focused on how circular economy practices can drive sustainability across the Global South.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, inaugurated the session, highlighting the urgency of South-South cooperation amid growing barriers to technology transfer and financing. He emphasised the transformative potential of circular models in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ICCE's Managing Director, Ms. Shalini Goyal Bala, outlined key initiatives supporting decentralised waste management and integration of informal sectors, stressing the need for equitable development and regional knowledge-sharing.

The panel discussion, moderated by Mr Piotr Barczak (ACEN Foundation, Netherlands), featured key insights from several experts. Mr Wekesa Zablon (Kenya)

highlighted the gaps in waste recovery systems, calling for improved infrastructure, design, and investment. Mr Wale Arewa (South Africa) highlighted the Global South's ongoing reliance on Western trade markets and urged a shift towards regional trade networks.

Ms Ni Lu Putu Yunari (Indonesia) emphasised the need for regulatory reforms and better cross-border cooperation to support circular economy practices. Lastly, Mr Pravashen Naidoo (South Africa) focused on the importance of building local e-waste management capacity within the Global South. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator of DAKSHIN, emphasised the centre's extensive collaboration across 86 countries to address global challenges, particularly advocating for responsible product design and sustainable consumption.

The workshop featured thematic presentations from several key speakers. Ms. Neha Vyas from the World Bank underscored the crucial role of public-private collaboration in advancing circular economy strategies. Mr Reza Bath, E-waste Management Expert, Indonesia introduced "Redonic," an app for safe e-waste recycling, and

discussed the potential of bio-based metal extraction. Professor Shannon Olsson from The Echo Network presented the concept of "knowledge circularity," stressing the importance of trust-based knowledge sharing among stakeholders.

Dr Biljana Matevska from North Macedonia shared a case study on repurposing winery biomass waste, demonstrating its potential to reduce pollution and stimulate local economic growth.

Dr Glenn Aguilar, Costa Rican Researcher Central America Academy (CAA), Costa Rica highlighted the significance of strong policy frameworks and investment in fostering circular economies in Latin America. Lastly Dr Myriam Blin, Head, The Charles Telfair Centre, Mauritius outlined the country's national circular economy strategy, emphasising governance, regional partnerships, and financial incentives.

The workshop, as a whole, emphasised the power of collaboration, innovation, and robust policies in advancing circular economy goals and promoting sustainable development in the Global South. ■

Women-Led Development for Inclusive Growth in the Global South



DAKSHIN- Global South Centre of Excellence organised a workshop titled "Empowering the Future: Women-Led Development for Inclusive Growth in the Global South," to bring together policymakers, academics, and practitioners from India and other countries of the Global South to share experiences, challenges, and solutions around gender equality and women's leadership on 30 April 2025.

The event aimed to highlight the vital role women play as agents of change in shaping inclusive and sustainable development pathways, particularly in the context of the Global South's unique socio-economic realities. By facilitating cross-country dialogue, the workshop sought to promote cooperation, identify best practices,

and strengthen political and policy-level commitment to women-led development.

Professor Anuradha M Chenoy, Professor Pami Dua, Ms Nandita Baruah, Ms Veena Bandyopadhyay participated from India and Dr Marija Risteska (Macedonia), Mr Gregg C.E. Rawlins (Saint Lucia), Mr Mahamoud Ahmed (Djibouti), Dr Myriam Blin (Mauritius), Ms Safaath Ahmed Zahir (Maldives), Ms Sofia Fernandez Crespo (Argentina), Mr Salim Said Salim (Somalia), Dr Madina M. Guloba (Uganda) participated from the Global South.

Key discussions highlighted the disproportionate impact of global shocks on women, particularly in the Global South, and the misallocation of resources hindering women's empowerment. The importance

of fair compensation, social protection, and gender-sensitive systems to improve women's labor force participation was emphasised.

Gender equality's role in achieving all SDGs was stressed, with specific focus on women's contributions to climate resilience, peace building, and leadership. Solutions proposed included adopting an intersectional approach, empowering marginalised women, and bridging the gender digital divide.

Other key points included addressing structural barriers in labor, especially in agriculture and tech sectors, through policy interventions, mentorship, and digital inclusion. The need for supportive care giving policies,

Continued on page 23

Roundtable on India-Vietnam Bilateral Relations



Participants at the discussion meeting.

RIS organised a discussion meeting on India-Vietnam Relations: Strengthening Trade, Technology, and Defence Cooperation on 16 May 2025. The programme brought together diplomats from the Vietnamese Embassy, senior government officials, scholars, and industry experts.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, who highlighted the growing breadth of India-Vietnam relations. He pointed to initiatives such as the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and DAKSHIN, which promote South-South cooperation and India's Act East Policy. He emphasised supply chain resilience and emerging domains like fintech, EVs, AI, and digital learning.

RIS Chairman, Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, in his inaugural address, underlined the geo-economic scope of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (established in 2016).

He called for deeper collaboration under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), especially in clean tech, digital connectivity, and smart infrastructure.

Secretary (East) Mr P. Kumaran traced civilisational ties back two millennia and cited cultural cooperation, such as India's support for heritage restoration at My Son. He detailed collaboration in digital transformation, cross-border payments, and defence, including gifting of INS Kirpan and the \$300 million defence credit line.

H.E. Mr Nguyen Thanh Hai, Vietnamese Ambassador to India, praised long-standing bilateral ties and India's support in cultural and defence spheres. He suggested exploring a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and reviewed the stagnation in bilateral trade despite potential.

Dr Amit Kumar spotlighted technological cooperation, especially in agriculture and fisheries. He noted India's digital public infrastructure models

(e.g., IndiaStack) as scalable frameworks for joint innovation. Ambassador Preeti Saran and others recommended strengthening people-to-people ties through language exchange, Indian cinema, OTT content, and Quick Impact Projects (QIPs).

Commodore Sujeet Samaddar discussed defence collaboration since the 1994 MoU, including submarine warfare training and maritime logistics. He proposed joint production, research, and cooperation on maritime domain awareness and global issues such as the Plastic Pollution Treaty. Dr Pankaj Vashisht analysed trade imbalances and structural challenges like poor FTA utilisation and non-tariff barriers. He recommended MRAs, digital integration of trade platforms, and trade facilitation as higher-impact strategies. Improved maritime connectivity was also noted as a key development.

The roundtable concluded with an interactive Q&A session. ■

Reaffirming ASEAN-India Partnership in a Multipolar Indo-Pacific



Participants at the session.

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS convened a high-level dialogue to explore and reaffirm the strategic partnership between ASEAN and India within the evolving context of a multipolar Indo-Pacific. The event, held on 14 April 2025, was structured around an inaugural session followed by a panel discussion and brought together eminent diplomats, government representatives, and scholars from India and Southeast Asia.

Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairman of RIS, in his opening remarks, positioned the Act East Policy as the most definitive expression of India's contemporary foreign policy vision. Highlighting its evolution from the Look East Policy, he underscored the 2014 shift as a strategic reorientation, marking India's deeper engagement with Southeast Asia. The policy, he noted, is anchored in the principles of peace, security, connectivity, and partnership, and is intrinsically linked with regional and global frameworks such as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans

Initiative (IPOI). He reiterated India's commitment to a multipolar Asia and its aspirations for shared prosperity and regional leadership.

Ms Nabanita Chakravarty, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, emphasised the critical role of multi-dimensional connectivity in deepening ASEAN-India relations. Highlighting projects such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), she noted their potential to physically and economically connect ASEAN with Europe. She also announced the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism in 2025, positioning it as a platform to enhance people-to-people ties and cultural engagement.

Ambassador Josel Francisco Ignacio of the Philippines highlighted ASEAN's sustained engagement with external partners, noting India's role as a vital strategic partner in the region. He underlined ASEAN's inclusive and balanced approach to regional cooperation.

Ambassador Dato' Muzafar Shah Mustafa of Malaysia reflected on the strategic upliftment in bilateral

and regional relations, especially in the wake of the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to India in August 2025. He emphasised that ASEAN and India are not just partners, but co-architects of the evolving regional order, committed to a rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Moderated by Ambassador Suchitra Durai, the panel featured distinguished speakers including Professor Prabir De, Dr C. Raja Mohan, Dr Amitendu Palit, Dr Joefer B. Santarita, Dr Rahul Mishra, and others. Discussions centred around strengthening maritime connectivity, expanding cooperation under the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund, and addressing shared concerns such as cybersecurity, capacity building, and sustainable development. The panel acknowledged both the opportunities and challenges in realising the full potential of the ASEAN-India partnership, particularly delays in connectivity projects and the complexities of regional geopolitics. ■

India-Vietnam Bilateral Relations



The session on India-Vietnam Bilateral Relations.

RIS hosted a Vietnamese delegation led by Hon'ble Mr. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on 24 June 2025 at New Delhi.

The Vietnamese delegation was in India for the 13th Political Consultation and 10th Strategic Dialogue between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of India that took place in New Delhi from 22 to 26 June 2025. The delegation included H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hai, Ambassador of Vietnam to India; Ms. Tran Thi Thu Trang, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Southeast Asia

– South Asia – South Pacific; Mr. Nguyen Hai Luu, Deputy Director-General, Department of Policy Planning; Mr. Tran Van Thuy, Vice Chairman, National Border Committee; Mr. Do Thanh Hai, Deputy Director, East Sea Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam; Mr. Tran Thanh Tung, Counsellor, Embassy of Vietnam in India; Ms. Quan Phuong Thuy, Assistant Director General, Department of Economic Diplomacy; and Mr. Nguyen Luong Duc, Official, Department of Southeast Asia – South Asia – South Pacific.

Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairman, RIS, chaired the session. Discussions covered

the full range of bilateral issues including strategic cooperation, regional connectivity, and global partnerships. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of elevating ties under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework.

Presentations made by RIS faculty members focused on the issues related to shared commitment to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; Enhanced focus on defence and maritime security cooperation, Expansion of economic and investment partnerships; and Strengthening of collaboration in science, technology, and innovation (S&T). ■



Participants at the session.

Arctic: Routes, Resources and Services



Dr Vijay Sakhuja, Reva University, Bengaluru delivering the CMEC lecture.

CMEC at RIS hosted a seminar on Arctic: Routes, Resources and Services as part of their Maritime Knowledge Lecture series on 12 June 2025. Dr Vijay Sakhuja, Reva University, Bengaluru delivered the lecture and Professor PK Joshi, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU chaired the session.

The Arctic, though smaller than other oceans, is emerging as a vital epicentre of geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geostrategic shifts. The lecture highlighted the strategic ambitions of Arctic states, the rise of new shipping lanes, the scramble for energy and minerals, and India's growing involvement in this icy expanse.

The lecture emphasised India's maritime aspirations outlined in Maritime Vision 2030 and Maritime

Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. India is working on building non-nuclear icebreakers, developing ice-class ships in domestic shipyards, and collaborating with Russia's Far Eastern Shipping Company for container transport logistics. India is also investing in training Arctic-ready seafarers and strengthening its participation in international polar programs.

A proposed joint feasibility study for operationalising the Northern Sea Route (NSR) includes collaboration on R&D in Arctic shipping, navigational technology, and Polar Research vessels etc. India's aim is to ensure safe, secure, and sustainable Arctic shipping while aligning this initiative with her strategic maritime vision.

The Arctic is no longer a remote, desolate ice desert. It is a dynamic region where climate science, maritime innovation, global trade, and geopolitical rivalries intersect. Often referred to as the "White Eldorado," the Arctic's resource wealth, new shipping lanes, and strategic positioning make it crucial for the 21st-century global order.

For India, the Arctic presents not just scientific opportunities but also economic, environmental, and diplomatic stakes. As the nation seeks to realize its Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision by 2047, its Arctic engagements will be central to securing its role as a global maritime power in an increasingly multipolar world. ■

Multimodal Cargo Operations and Global Perspectives



The lecture programme in progress.

The lecture on Multimodal Cargo Operations and Global Perspectives, hosted on 20 May 2025 by the Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity, RIS, and the India Habitat Centre, featured two eminent speakers - Professor Mukesh Parikh and Mr Arun Kumar - who provided a comprehensive overview of the multidimensional growth and modernisation of India's logistics and maritime transport sector.

Mr Arun Kumar, with his background in supply chain management and leadership position at the Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI), outlined the evolution of multimodal logistics embracing technology, regulatory frameworks, and integration efforts. Professor Mukesh Parikh, a maritime logistics veteran, emphasised the growing significance of multimodal transport in global

trade and economic development, highlighting the distinction between intermodal and multimodal systems and the rising opportunities in logistics careers.

The session detailed the impact of major government initiatives such as India's National Logistics Policy, PM Gati Shakti, and infrastructure projects like Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) and Multimodal Logistics Parks (MMLP), aimed at cost optimisation and enhanced operational efficiency.

A key focus was on the consolidation of a unified regulatory and operational framework under the Multimodal Transport Act, 1993, and digital systems like the Indian Customs EDI System (ICES), which have revolutionised customs processes.

The speakers also highlighted global trends in integrated logistics, including shift towards value-added services diversification

strategies to meet global demands. The discussion underscored the increasing role of cross-border connectivity and Free Trade Warehousing Zones.

Policy's critical role in infrastructure development was reiterated, with a vision for a sustainable, efficient, and resilient multimodal transport network positioning India as a global logistics leader.

The main takeaways included the need for continuous integration of infrastructure and operational activities, along with legal, policy, and standardisation measures. The importance of data-driven platforms for long-term growth in the multimodal cargo sector was also highlighted.

The programme was streamed live on the RIS YouTube channel and attended by experts, government officials, and stakeholders. ■

Technology Enablers for Ocean Sustainability - Policy, Coastal Community and Citizen Science

The fourth talk under the RIS-IHC Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series was conducted on 22 April 2025. The talk was given by noted expert Dr R Venkatesan, Former Scientist, NIOT and Former Consultant UNESCO, on the topic, 'Technology Enablers for Ocean Sustainability - Policy, Coastal Community and Citizen Science'. The talk was curated to convey the theme of Earth Day (22 April), 'Our Power, Our Planet', signifying the collective power to chart a path towards an equitable and sustainable future.

The session was chaired by Professor Rajendra Bahl, Emeritus Professor, CARE, IIT Delhi, who was invited after a brief introduction by Dr Shishir Shrotriya, Head, CMEC. The Chair gave a comprehensive account of the technology initiatives by CARE, IIT Delhi, over the last 50 years and brought to focus a large number of unsung heroes who have contributed to the maritime technologies in India.

This public lecture explored the transformative role of technology enablers in advancing ocean sustainability, focusing on policy frameworks, coastal community participation, and citizen science. From satellite-based monitoring and AI-driven analytics to low-cost sensors and mobile applications, emerging tools are reshaping our capacity to understand, monitor, and manage marine ecosystems. The speaker also brought to focus that marine plastic pollution remains a critical environmental threat, affecting biodiversity, food security, and ocean health. Addressing this issue



Dr R Venkatesan, Former Scientist, NIOT and Former consultant UNESCO delivering the lecture.

requires high-resolution monitoring and grassroots involvement. Innovations such as ocean cleanup robots, remote sensing, and citizen science platforms play a vital role in tracking and mitigating pollution while fostering public awareness and collective responsibility.

The speaker highlighted that India has emerged as a proactive leader, advancing its Blue Economy strategy with a strong emphasis on science, technology, and sustainable development. The speaker also highlighted the related global frameworks and institutions, notably the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the Sustainable Development Goal SDG-14 (Life Below Water).

This lecture explained the critical role of tools such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Ocean Accounting, which could enable transparent, data-driven, and ecosystem-based decision-making. The key takeaway of the talk was learnings from the global and national case studies and how technology enablers play a pivotal role in transforming ocean sustainability efforts, when combined with multi-stakeholder collaboration, youth and community level engagement, industry participation, and grassroots level innovation. The lecture highlighted the strength of collective citizen power and technology to achieve sustainable growth and utilisation of the oceans and marine resources. ■

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Made a presentation in the Panel Discussion on “Trump Revolution in US Foreign Policy: Implications for India & World” organised by India Habitat Centre and The Indian Futures on 11 April 2025 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on “Leveraging Science for Economic Development: New Options and New Realities” at the INSA-Leadership Development in Science and Technology (LEADS) Program organised by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) on 11 April 2025.
- Participated in an interview-based study on the Impact of the “EU and EU Member States on Global Health and How” organised by the Robert Koch Institute on 14 April 2025. (Online)
- Made a presentation on “Are Indian Banks Ready for a Viksit Bharat@2047” at the DSE Diamond Jubilee Lecture, organised by the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi on 23 April 2025.
- Made a presentation on “Emerging Trends in International Trade in Resource based Value Chains: Role of States” at the Odisha Economic Association (OEA) Foundation Day Lecture on 27 April 2025. (Online)
- Panelist in the session on “Structural approaches for the achievement of the SDGs” and Setting the Scene at the “Roundtable International Cooperation Policy for Sustainability Transformations in Disruptive Times” organised

by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) on 28 April 2025. (Online)

- Panelist in the session on “Flourishing-Centered Growth and Development Model” and “Think20 Session: Global Alliances in a Fragmented World” at the Global Solutions Summit (GSS) 2025 organised by Global Solutions Initiative Foundation on 5-6 May 2025, Berlin, Germany.
- Panelist in the session on “South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa: Geopolitical Transformation and new Global Financial Architecture” at the Third Africa High-Level Forum on the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (HLFSSTrC) organised by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) from 7 to 9 May 2025, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Panelist at the EGROW Webinar Series on Tariff Warfare and Globalization on 6 June 2025. (Online)

Professor S. K. Mohanty

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in the meeting to review the status of improvement of trade statistics with the Secretary, (MoS&PI) and submitted inputs related to improvement of trade statistics organised by National Accounts Division, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, New Delhi on 16 April 2025.
- Participated in the 4th Research and Advisory Board (RAB) meeting of CMEC/RIS organised by the Ministry of

Ports Shipping and Waterways, New Delhi on 17 April 2025.

- Participated and Chaired Special Course for Diplomats from IORA Countries, organised by Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 29 April 2025.
- Participated in the discussion meeting with the Commerce Secretary regarding China related issues organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industries, New Delhi on 20 May 2025.
- Participated as a Distinguished Panel Speaker in the 3rd International Conference on Indian Cultural Heritage and made a presentation on Revival of Odisha-ASEAN Trade Linkages: Reimagining Bilateral Trade organised by Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 25 May 2025.
- Participated in the Global South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Facets and Chaired the session on Solutions Hub II: Engagement with NETRA for Development of North-East organised by RIS, New Delhi on 4 June 2025.
- Submitted paper on ‘Trump’s Return: Trade Implications for India and the Global Economy’ for the issue of the India Foundation Journal (Vol VI, Issue No 4, July-August 2025), New Delhi on 24 June 2025.
- Participated in the interactive session with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, New Delhi on 24 June 2025.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Associate Professor

- Panelist in the session on 'Trade, Investment and Finance' and represented India on behalf of RIS in the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance (BTTNF) Annual Meeting at BRICS Academic Forum held in Brasilia, Brazil on 25-26 June 2025.
- Panelist in the panel discussion on 'Financing Sustainable Development' at T20 Mid-Term Conference held in Pretoria, South Africa on 19-20 June 2025.
- Made presentation on "IMEC Financing and the Regulatory Frameworks: Options and Recommendations" at International Conference on 'IMEC: Connecting Continents, Unlocking Opportunities' organised by Chintan Research Foundation in New Delhi on 4 June 2025.
- Led RIS Delegation representing India in the Seventh BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 29-31 May 2025.

- Made presentation on "Economic Cooperation in BIMSTEC and Indo-Pacific" at Third International Conference on Kalinga and Southeast Asia: The Civilisational Connect (ICICH) Conference held in Bhubaneswar on 24-25 May 2025.
- Made presentation on "South-South Cooperation: India's Thrust on Building 'Partnerships', Not Perpetuating Dependence" at Jinjiang Oriental Forum held in Meishan City, China on 14-16 May 2025.
- Made presentation on "Regional Economic Corridors: India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor" and "Role of Digital Technologies in Promoting Inclusive Growth" at the workshop titled 'Towards a New Discourse of Global Connectivity: The Gulf's New Horizons in Strategic Corridors and Partnerships' organised by the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Gulf International Forum in Istanbul, Turkey on 6-7 February 2025.
- Delivered online lecture on "Emerging Socio-Economic Development Issues and

Priorities: Databases and Methodologies" to the participants of the Short-Term Programme on 'Teacher Effectiveness and Professional Development' organised by Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak on 3 February 2025.

Dr Pankaj Vashisht

Associate Professor

- Made a presentation on 70 years of India-Mongolia Economic Relations at International Conference on "India-Mongolia: Celebrating Seven Decades of Diplomatic Relations and a Decade of Strategic Partnership", jointly organised by ICWA and Embassy of Mongolia, 17 June 2025.
- Participated in discussion on India Economic growth on Sansad TV, 17 May 2025.
- Participated in Sansad TV Show 'Mudda Apaka' to 'Discuss World Bank Report on Poverty Reduction in India, 10 June 2025.

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such as paid parental leave and flexible work arrangements, was also discussed.

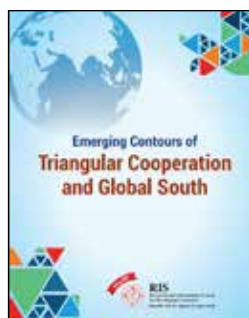
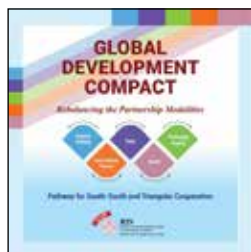
Challenges related to gender-based violence, under-representation in leadership, and limited political and economic inclusion was highlighted, particularly in countries like Maldives and Uganda. Legal reforms, better data collection, and societal norm shifts were seen

as crucial to increase women's workforce participation.

Further discussions included gender-responsive budgeting in development aid, and proposals to measure care work through tools like Argentina's "Basic Care Basket." The vital role of women in agriculture, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean, and the importance of microfinance and infrastructure for sustainable value chains were also explored. The

workshop concluded by stressing the need for equal pay, career opportunities, and leadership roles for women in various sectors.

The workshop emphasised the critical role of women-led development in driving inclusive growth, advocating for structural changes and collaborative efforts to ensure sustainable and equitable progress. ■



REPORT

- *Emerging Contours of Triangular Cooperation and Global South*, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.

BROCHURE

Global Development Compact

JOURNAL

Development Cooperation Review

Vol. 8 No. 1, January-March 2025

Journal of Asian Economic Integration

Vol. 7, No. 1, April 2025

Traditional Medicine Review

Vol. 5 No. 1, April 2025

Science Diplomacy Review

Vol. 7 No. 1, April 2025

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AIC COMMENTARY

- # 56: *Assessing the Act East Policy – A Perspective from Southeast Asia & Malaysia* by Thomas Daniel

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

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- De, Prabir et al. 2025. "Regionalism and Polycrisis: How to Promote Regional Integration in the Face of Global Fragmentation". Policy Brief, 04/2025, United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), Belgium, May.



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