



Health Diplomacy Futures: Capacity Building in the Global South



Inaugural of Health Diplomacy Futures: Opening Remarks by Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, DG, RIS

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS in collaboration with the NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance, NIMS University Rajasthan organised a high-level consultation on “Health Diplomacy Futures:

Capacity Building in the Global South” on Tuesday, 30 September 2025. The event witnessed good participation from government officials, international organisations, policy makers, academicians and seasoned health experts.

Dr Angela Lusigi, UNDP Resident Representative, India delivered the keynote address, underscoring that health diplomacy is the best medicine, bringing trust among people and equity between nations. She

Continued on page 12

Message from Director General



It is a matter of immense pleasure to present this edition of the RIS Diary, the Institute's flagship publication and a window into our recent research and policy engagements. As a leading think tank for development research and policy dialogue, RIS continues to contribute meaningfully to debates shaping the evolving development agenda of the Global South. This issue highlights a selection of our recent analytical and outreach initiatives.

During the period under review, RIS strengthened its activities on South–South and Triangular Cooperation, deepened its support to the India–UN Development Partnership Fund, and convened substantive consultations under the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). Our specialised centres advanced their mandates with renewed focus. The ASEAN–India Centre (AIC) enhanced regional dialogue on value chains, digital transitions, and sustainability. Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) expanded research on Indo-Pacific connectivity and maritime resilience, while DAKSHIN: Global South Centre of Excellence advanced work on development pathways, traditional knowledge, and grassroots innovation. Moreover, the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) deepened research and policy engagement on traditional medicines diplomacy, regulatory coherence, and South–South collaboration.

I hope this edition provides a meaningful reflection of our collective endeavours and reinforces RIS's role as a trusted institution shaping debates on development cooperation and global governance. We would be grateful for feedback, if any, that may help strengthen our future editions.

Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma
Director General, RIS



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



EAS Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs – Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

The East Asia Summit (EAS) Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs – Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was held on 17-19 September 2025 at Nalanda University, India. Organised jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), the event brought together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from EAS countries to deliberate on advancing regional collaboration for sustainable energy transition.

The workshop focused on decarbonising energy-intensive industries, promoting sustainable lifestyles, and sharing national success stories in energy efficiency across ASEAN and partner countries. It also aimed to foster policy exchange, identify new areas for cooperation, and develop



Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS delivering keynote address.

capacity-building mechanisms for regional sustainability.

RIS and AIC played a central role in conceptualising, organising, and steering discussions throughout the three-day event. Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, delivered welcome remarks at the inaugural session alongside leaders from

TERI and Nalanda University. Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, RIS, served as a key speaker in Session 2 on Sustainable Lifestyles and Behavioural Change, contributing insights on India's LiFE initiative and the role of regional collaboration in promoting behavioral transformation toward sustainability.

Continued on page 11



Secretary (East), MEA; DG RIS, VC Nalanda University and the delegates.

High-Level Brainstorming Workshop on Changing Landscape of Global Trade



Participants of the Workshop.

The global trading environment is undergoing an unprecedented transformation, marked by rising protectionism, unilateral trade actions, and weakening multilateral dispute settlement mechanisms. These disruptions have fragmented established supply chains, introduced significant volatility, and disproportionately affected developing economies that rely heavily on external markets. In this context, a renewed focus on South-South trade and regional economic cooperation has emerged as a critical pathway for building resilience. To deliberate on these evolving challenges and opportunities, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), in collaboration with the Centre for Economic and Sustainable Development (CESDAsia) and the UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, convened a High-Level Brainstorming Workshop on “Changing Landscape of Global Trade – Opportunities for Promoting South-South Trade and Cooperation.”

The workshop brought together leading policymakers, trade experts, and scholars from India, Malaysia, and international institutions. The Opening Session featured remarks by Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS; Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna of UNESCAP; Mr. Datuk Lim Sue Beng, Chairman, CESDAsia; and Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairperson, RIS. Speakers highlighted the urgency of collective action among developing countries to mitigate the adverse impacts of global trade disruptions and shape a more equitable, multipolar trade order.

The main thematic session, moderated by Mr Rajeew Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, generated rich insights from a distinguished panel that included former senior government officials, trade economists, and private-sector representatives. Discussions underscored that the current environment, while challenging, also offers new opportunities for the Global South to recalibrate its trade strategies, strengthen regional value chains, and explore pragmatic avenues for cooperation.

The deliberations were particularly timely in light of recent India-China interactions at the SCO Summit 2025, where both countries signalled cautious intent to revive commercial engagement and collaborate on emerging areas such as digital technology, clean energy, and logistics. Participants emphasised several priority areas for strengthening South-South trade. A central recommendation was the need for developing countries to collectively negotiate emerging sustainability-related standards to avoid unilateral cost burdens. The proposal to establish a Southern Green Standards Group received strong support. The workshop also underscored the importance of restoring the core principles of multilateralism—including Special and Differential Treatment—and revitalising mechanisms such as the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP).

Strengthening regional and proximate value chains emerged as another major theme, with experts identifying significant complementarities across agriculture, manufacturing, and

Continued on page 12

Strengthening Agricultural Resilience for the Global South

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS together with ICRISAT’s Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA), organised a virtual conference on 31st July 2025, on “Strengthening Agricultural Resilience for the Global South.” The event brought together leading experts, policymakers, and researchers to explore collaborative pathways for sustainable agricultural transformation.

The conference featured thematic insights from prominent institutions across five key areas: Digital Agriculture, Crop Improvement and Production Technologies, Livestock Improvement and Production Technologies, Agribusiness and Market Systems, and Natural Resource Management & Climate Resilience.

Opening the conference, Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General of ICRISAT, along with Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of RIS, and Dr Rebbie Harawa, Global Research Program Director and Director - Africa at ICRISAT, laid out ISSCA’s vision – fostering South-South cooperation to enhance food security, build climate resilience, and promote inclusive growth. The session, moderated by Mr Ramon Peachey, Director - Communications, ICRISAT, set the tone for a day of dynamic discussions focused on strengthening institutional collaboration across the Global South.

Key sessions showcased scalable solutions from CGIAR centers, including ICRISAT, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and the



International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). Experts such as Dr Smita Kaul (ICARDA), Dr Rabe Yahaya (IRRI), and Dr Ramesh Singh (ICRISAT) presented climate-smart technologies, resilient farming practices, and policy frameworks specifically designed for vulnerable agro-ecological zones.

A dedicated Global South Dialogue, moderated by Prof Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator at DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence (RIS), explored the technology needs of the Global South. The session featured rich insights from Ms Zambia Shingwele (Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research), Dr Jerome Queste (Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa), Dr Javier Aliaga Lordemann (Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo, Bolivia), Dr Aliou Barry (Stat View International, Guinea), and Dr Lalith M. Rankoth (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka).

Speakers shared practical strategies and ground-level innovations from their respective regions. Technology was framed as a key driver for change – ranging from digital platforms and climate-smart production practices to the strategic management of agricultural resources. Financing adaptation emerged as a recurring theme, with discussions centred on cost-effective mechanisms to mitigate the economic impacts of climate change. Speakers highlighted their countries’ efforts, such as combining traditional tank-based irrigation systems with modern technology, implementing e-voucher platforms for input distribution, and rolling out national mechanization strategies. Other critical priorities included reversing land degradation, promoting nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems, generating jobs through value chains, and improving livestock systems while managing wildlife-livestock interactions and overgrazing.

Continued on page 12

Maritime Dispute Resolution: India and Global Perspectives

India's geographical location naturally positions it as a maritime hub. The Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) at RIS organised a lecture titled 'Maritime Dispute Resolution: India and Global Perspectives' on 9 July 2025 to explore the existing state of maritime dispute resolution in India, examine the matter from academic as well as practical perspectives, and outline global best practices in this area. The lead Speaker was Professor Ratan K. Singh Sr. Adv. Supreme Court of India; Member of Keating Chambers (London) ; Honorary Professor of Law at Manipal Law School and the session was chaired by Professor Risham Garg,



Lecture by Professor Ratan K. Singh.

NLU (Delhi), Executive Director of the Centre for Transnational Commercial Law (CTCL); Head of Centre for the Centre of Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE). The discussion found

that there is significant scope for improvement in India's maritime dispute resolution frameworks and processes, and made several recommendations on the issue. ■

Role of P&I (Protection and Indemnity) Clubs in Shipping

The CMEC at RIS hosted a public lecture on the Role of P&I (Protection and Indemnity) Clubs in Shipping as part of its Maritime Knowledge Lecture Series on 13th August 2025.

The Lead Speaker for the lecture was Mr George Jacob, Executive Director, James Mackintosh & Co. Pvt. Ltd. The Chair was Shri Sanjiv Singh, Former Head of Marine Insurance, New India Assurance Co. Ltd., and the convener was Dr Shishir Shrotriya, CMEC at RIS.

Protection and Indemnity (P&I) cover is a special form of maritime insurance that gives coverage for shipowners against third-party liabilities. Often, this insurance is managed through "clubs" also



Lecture by Mr George Jacob.

known as "P&I clubs", which are owned and managed by their membership of operators and owners. Early roots of marine

insurance date back to the ancient Babylonians, Phoenicians, and possibly the Indians. In 215 B.C., the concept of 'bottomry' emerged

in Rome, where the Roman government accepted "all risk of loss" for military supplies on ships.

With the onset of the 20th century, P&I clubs gained international recognition, pooling resources over Asia, America and Europe.

Globally, the primary insurance markets are in the UK, Japan, France and Scandinavia, and therefore widely accepted standard terms have been developed and accepted by all. Law and legislation are fundamentally governed by the English Law Marine Insurance Act of 1906, and on similar principles,

India codified the Indian Marine Insurance Act of 1963 to provide statutory support for P&I cover within national jurisdiction.

P&I clubs are mutual, non-profit entities that pool from members and collectively manage and govern liabilities. For large ships, Comprehensive cover for P&I risk at a fixed price is available, and for small, medium boats and the offshore sector, lower limits are in vogue, compared to mutual insurance for large ships, often up to US\$500 million, though some providers may offer limits up to

US\$1 billion. A unique feature of P&I is the "pay-to-be-paid" rule, which directs that members resolve liabilities among themselves before claiming indemnity.

The speaker highlighted the complete ecosystem requirements to support the P&I insurance, which includes even trusted agencies for accident/fallout assessments. He provided details of a few notable maritime incidents and how the various naval stakeholders addressed them. ■

Ancient Trade Corridors: Reflections for IMEC



Interaction with RIS Faculty.

RIS organised an interactive session with Dr Sriram Balasubramanian, on "Ancient Trade Corridors: Reflections for IMEC", on 18 August 2025, where the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), a multimodal trade and connectivity corridor linking India, the Arabian Peninsula, and Europe to reduce transit time and costs, its strategic relevance, and historical lessons were examined. Mr Rajeev Kher chaired the session.

Dr Balasubramanian emphasised the role of Dharmaconomics as dharma-centred value creation aligned with societal welfare and long-term stewardship, founded on trusteeship, restraint, decentralisation, reciprocity, and fairness. He highlighted that ancient trade connections, from the monsoon trade to the Silk Routes, such as the IMEC, are not new, and such routes have historically enhanced industrial

capacity in surrounding regions. The speaker also highlighted Sreni's role in corridor financing, which is comparable to corporate guilds.

Dr Balasubramanian outlined the challenges involved in IMEC as requiring management through diversified routes, climate-proofing, financial safeguards, and secure data systems. Success was suggested to be measured through reduced transit times, greener corridors, greater MSME participation, and enhanced local skills.

Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, as discussant, highlighted that the concept of Dharmanomics is challenging to promote among IMEC partner countries due to differences in historical frameworks, discontinuity in governance, and its possible perception as being linked to religion.

Furthermore, RIS faculty engaged in elaborate discussion on the concept of the role of Dharmanomics in IMEC.

In conclusion, the speaker suggested that further discussion on IMEC would be beneficial, and that IMEC's success will be marked by faster and cheaper trade,

greener transport, stronger MSME participation, skill development, and efficient dispute resolution, all enabled through dharma-aligned cooperation, robust soft infrastructure, inclusive finance, and sustained global engagement. ■

Second BIMSTEC Ports Conclave



Union Shipping Minister and other dignitaries on the Inaugural Session.

India hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave in Visakhapatnam on 14-15 July 2025. The theme of the Conclave was "Navigating the Future: Blue Economy, Innovation and Sustainable Partnerships". Organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India, and the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), the Conclave brought together high-level government officials, maritime experts, port authorities, private sector stakeholders, and leading academic voices from all seven BIMSTEC Member States – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Minister of Ports, Shipping

& Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and saw participation of delegations of the BIMSTEC member States, comprising officials, maritime experts, port authorities, private sector leaders, and regional development partners. The Conclave discussed diverse issues such as harmonising customs procedures and enhancing logistical links to boost intra-regional trade, port-linked industrial zones, cruise tourism, digital integration, upskilling maritime workforce, industry-academia ties, green shipping, etc. This initiative by India, in line with its Neighbourhood First policy, will further strengthen maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region.

The Inaugural Ministerial Session of the 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave marked a strong reaffirmation of regional commitment to maritime integration and cooperation across the Bay of Bengal. The CMEC at RIS was the knowledge partner of the 2nd BIMSTEC Ports Conclave. Coordinated by Dr. Shishir Shrotriya, Coordinator, CMEC, the CMEC played a lead role in organizing the Conclave. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS attended the conference as a speaker in the Session 5: Enhancing Intra-regional Trade through Harmonizing Customs and Logistics for Regional Port Efficiency. Ms Shagun Verma and Ms Namita Mittal, both are Research Assistants of CMEC, also attended the Conclave. ■

Interaction with H. E. Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC



Interaction with Secretary General of BIMSTEC.

RIS hosted H. E. Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of BIMSTEC, for an interactive session with RIS faculty on Tuesday, 9 September 2025. The Secretary General's address provided an insightful overview of the current priorities of BIMSTEC and the evolving agenda for strengthening regional cooperation among its seven member states.

In his remarks, Mr. Pandey underlined the strategic importance of BIMSTEC as a bridge connecting South and Southeast Asia. He noted that BIMSTEC has, over the years, expanded its scope to include a diverse set of cooperation areas, but is now striving to ensure that its work is focused, deliverable, and aligned with the pressing needs of the region.

The Secretary General elaborated on the lead sectors assigned to each

member state, highlighting how this structure encourages ownership and specialization. Bangladesh has taken the lead in trade and investment, with new proposals emerging on skill development and the blue economy. Nepal is championing people-to-people contact, culture, and tourism, while Thailand is advancing work on public health and tropical diseases. Sri Lanka leads on science, technology, and innovation, Myanmar on energy cooperation, and Bhutan on environment and climate change.

An important new area under discussion is the creation of a BIMSTEC Food Reserve to strengthen regional food security, as well as an Expert Group on Intra-BIMSTEC Agricultural Trade to facilitate smoother flows of essential commodities.

The major emphasis of the

Secretary General's remarks was on the role of knowledge institutions, think tanks, and centers of excellence in shaping the organization's agenda. He underlined India's initiatives in agriculture research, disaster risk management, and traditional medicine as strong contributions to this ecosystem.

DG, RIS said that RIS has been a valuable partner of BIMSTEC in this regard, through its policy research, dialogues, and capacity-building initiatives. The BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT), coordinated by RIS, continues to serve as an important platform for intellectual exchange. The Secretary General encouraged RIS to further deepen its engagement in areas such as fiscal and monetary policy, digital payments, and women-centric development models, where expert groups are being constituted.

On the issue of climate change, Secretary General stressed the importance of regional resilience-building and noted that BIMSTEC is seeking to forge synergies with global and regional partners. He cited the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as key partners already engaging with BIMSTEC. Upcoming initiatives, such as the BIMSTEC Ports Conclave, aim to expand connectivity and logistics integration.

He also underscored the value of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) and cultural exchanges.

The programme concluded with H. E. Mr Pandey reaffirming BIMSTEC's commitment to becoming a more action-oriented, people-centric, and result-driven organization. He stressed that the regional grouping must not only strengthen connectivity and trade linkages but also foster a sense of shared cultural and civilizational heritage that binds the Bay of

Bengal community together.

RIS Director General Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma thanked the Secretary General for his visit to RIS. He assured that RIS would continue to collaborate closely with the BIMSTEC Secretariat and member states to advance regional cooperation. The interaction was both forward-looking and substantive, highlighting the enormous potential of BIMSTEC in shaping the future of the Bay of Bengal region. ■

Marine Spatial Planning: Role of Remote Sensing, GIS & DEM



Lecture by Professor D. Nagesh Kumar.

CMEC organised a lecture on “Marine Spatial Planning: Role of Remote Sensing, GIS & DEM in Development” on 12 September 2025 as part of CMEC Maritime Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Professor D. Nagesh Kumar from IISc Bangalore and

Professor A K Gosain from IIT Delhi chaired the session.

The lecture examined the role of MSP and different tools such as Geographic Information System (GIS), Digital Elevation Models (DEM) & Remote Sensing (RS), their individual contributions, the

significance of their integration, and the developmental related aspects of the emerging decision-making tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM).

The speaker explained that MSP is defined as a systematic process

Continued on page 14

Development Finance, Triangular Cooperation, and TICAD: Issues and Way Forward



Speech by Mr. Abe Noriaki.

A seminar on “Development Finance, Triangular Cooperation, and TICAD: Issues and Way Forward” was held on September 22, 2025 at RIS. It was attended by RIS faculty members and external participants. The seminar under Chatham House Rules started with welcome remarks by the DG, RIS.

Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma which set the context of the seminar. The presentation on the TICAD process was given by Mr. Abe Noriaki, Political Minister at the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi. The panelists included Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguish Fellow, Gateway House; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS; Mr Deepak Pareek, Director - Global Trade, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture; Dr Sushil Kumar, Assistant Professor, RIS; Mr Nadeem Panjetan, Executive Vice-President, Shapoorji Pallonji; and Dr Pratyush Sharma, Consultant, RIS.

The seminar was able to take stock of TICAD-9 commitments and their alignment with Africa’s priorities along with discussion on the complementarities between

Japan’s and India’s approaches to development cooperation. The discussion attempted to explore practical pathways for Triangular Cooperation in critical areas such as agriculture, digital economy, renewable energy, resilient supply chains, skill development and capacity building, and entrepreneurship. Another practical suggestion came in the form of setting up of a Planning Forum to strengthen networks among policymakers, academics, private sector actors, and civil society stakeholders from Africa, Japan, and India.

Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS moderated the session and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr Pratyush Sharma. ■

Slovenian-Indian Festival of Science, Innovation, Smart Technologies, and Economy

First Slovenian-Indian Festival of Science, Innovation, Smart Technologies, and Economy was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 25-26 September 2025. RIS, as an MoU partner with the Slovenian Science Foundation, participated in the programme. The Festival brought together multiple stakeholders, including the Embassy of India, Ljubljana, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia, RIS, Slovenian Science Foundation for the inaugural Indian-Slovenian Science Festival.

The Festival focused on India-Slovenia cooperation in science, innovation, smart technologies, and economy, reinforcing science

and technology as a key pillar of the bilateral partnership. It featured discussions on a broad spectrum of new ideas to further elevate the bilateral science partnership.

The opening remarks were delivered by Dr Edvard Kobal, President of the Slovenian Science Foundation, and His Excellency Mr. Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to Slovenia. Ambassador Narang shared India’s significant advancements in science and technology and expressed optimism for deepening future collaborations between the two nations. The Festival honoured NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, of Indian-Slovenian heritage, as

its Honorary Patron. In her video message, Ms. Williams lauded the Festival as a “beautiful example of the spirit of cooperation” between two countries working together for a brighter future.

RIS delegation comprising Dr Sanjeev K. Varshney, Dr Amit Kumar and Dr Sneha Sinha participated in the Festival. They presented India’s vision and experience in multilateral science cooperation, revitalising innovation potential, and science diplomacy. The Festival catalysed opportunities for collaboration in critical sectors such as space, energy, information technology, and artificial intelligence, encouraging joint research projects of strategic

Continued on page 12

Interaction with Professor Mahendra Dev, Chairman, EAC-PM



Professor Mahendra Dev, Interacting with RIS Faculty.

RIS hosted Professor Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), for an enriching and engaging interactive session at RIS on 22 July 2025. The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on the ongoing research and policy initiatives undertaken by RIS and their alignment with the national priorities outlined by EAC-PM. During the session, the RIS faculty presented an overview

of key focus areas, including sustainable development, regional cooperation, global value chains, and digital transformation among others. Emphasis was placed on evidence-based policy research and the role of RIS in supporting India's development agenda through international collaboration and thought leadership.

Professor Dev appreciated the wide-ranging work being pursued and offered valuable insights on

bridging research with actionable policy. He also encouraged greater engagement on issues such as inclusive growth, employment, and technological innovation in policymaking.

The session concluded with a shared commitment to deepen collaboration and ensure that research outcomes continue to contribute meaningfully to the national policy discourse. ■

Continued from page 2

AIC, under RIS, coordinated closely with ASEAN Member States' Energy Efficiency Sub-Sector Network (EE&C-SSN) to ensure strong ASEAN participation. It also contributed to the design of the workshop's framework, ensuring alignment with the ASEAN-India partnership priorities under the EAS energy cooperation agenda.

Through this initiative, RIS and AIC reaffirmed their commitment to promoting evidence-based dialogue,



Speech by Dr Sabyasachi Saha, RIS.

policy exchange, and institutional collaboration toward achieving



Speech by Dr Pankaj Vashisht, RIS.

energy efficiency and sustainability across the EAS region. ■

Continued from page 10

importance to both countries. The sessions also featured Indian researchers sharing their experiences and insights of pursuing their Ph.D.

research at Slovenian universities. The First Indo-Slovenian Science Festival also laid the foundation for sustained scientific cooperation and

mutual growth, reflecting a shared commitment to innovation-led development. ■

Continued from page 3

services. Participants stressed the need to map product-level opportunities, enhance MSME capacity, and improve physical and digital connectivity—including air routes—among developing regions. Proposals to promote national-currency settlements, develop capital markets in the Global

South, and encourage outward FDI were highlighted as essential to deepening economic integration. Digital public infrastructure (DPI) was recognised as a transformative enabler of inclusive growth. The workshop recommended sharing India's DPI architecture across developing countries and

establishing a South-South Data and Digital Forum to coordinate positions on emerging digital norms. Enhancing services trade, fostering B2B linkages through delegations, and recalibrating India-China economic engagement were also identified as key enablers of long-term resilience. ■

Continued from page 1

mentioned that contemporary key health priorities include investing in public health preparedness, real-time and transparent data sharing, South-South Cooperation, a One Health approach, and building institutional capacities to strengthen global health equity and support the SDGs.

The day-long programme was divided into four themes; Health Diplomacy as a Catalyst for Global South-South Solidarity, Building Institutional and Human Capacity for Health Diplomacy, Leveraging Multilateral Platforms for Building Capacity in Health Diplomacy and Financing the Future: Mobilizing Investments in Health Diplomacy.

The experts highlighted the multifaceted nature of health diplomacy, the challenges of mobilizing resources, and the

importance of building capacities in India while channelling them to global partners. They emphasised policy research, capacity building, and health tourism, underlining the significance of regional leadership in strengthening multilateral health cooperation. Emphasis was also laid on interdisciplinary training combining health, global research alliances and interdisciplinary networks and digital health and AI interventions. Deliberations revolved around the important role that multilateral institutions have to play in strengthening health systems and institutionalising technical expertise. The need for innovative financing through democratisation and entrepreneurship, and leveraging domestic resources to catalyse global health partnership was underscored. Another point

that was particularly underlined related to providing opportunities for shared leadership, which would provide scope for the Global South countries to increase influence in multilateral health governance.

These discussions were critical and timely in terms of reflecting and emphasising on commitments concerning the global health diplomacy, the Global South's growing role in shaping the global agenda, and the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement across diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals. It noted the pertinence of the intersection of health, peace, and sustainability as a foundation for inclusive governance. The consultation concluded with thanks to all speakers, partners, and delegates for their invaluable contributions. ■

Continued from page 4

Unlocking finance was recognized as vital to agricultural resilience. Several proposals were discussed, including the establishment of regional finance observatories, agri-tech investment platforms, seed insurance schemes, and blended finance toolkits. The need for robust institutional mechanisms to support South-South knowledge

exchange, benchmarking, and technology transfer was consistently underlined. Participants called for the creation of a Global South Cooperation Fund and urged deeper engagement with national parliaments and ministries to scale innovations.

The conference concluded with thoughtful reflections on

the importance of peer learning, cross-regional dialogue, and institutional networking as enablers of transformation. Throughout the event, discussions reaffirmed a shared commitment across the Global South to drive agricultural resilience through cooperation, innovation, and mutual support. ■

Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma Director General

- Panelist in the “Scalable Solutions for Crop Improvement and Production Technologies for the Global South” ,Celebrating United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2025 organized by ICRISAT on 12 September 2025.
- Panelist in the Dialogue Among the ASEAN Plus One Centres organized by the ASEAN-Japan Centre on 25 September 2025 in Osaka, Japan.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty Distinguished Fellow

- Participated in the discussion meeting on “China’s Share in World Manufactured Exports,” organised by NITI Aayog, New Delhi, on 3 July 2025.
- Prepared and submitted a detailed Note on “Chinese Exports in the World Economy” along with HS 6-digit data (5,385 records) on China’s exports for the ongoing study Strategic Trade Ties between India and China in a Slowing World Economy, submitted to NITI Aayog on 17 July 2025.
- Participated in the 9th Meeting of the Academic Council of Nalanda University organised by Nalanda University at University Campus, Rajgir, Patna on 25 July 2025
- Participated in the Round Table on “Agenda and Approach for Nalanda University” and engaged in discussions regarding the future working programme of the University, organised by Nalanda University, New Delhi, on 10 August 2025.
- Participated in the EAS Conclave of Heads of Higher Education Institutions & EAS Knowledge Exchange Workshop on “Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs – Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE),” and chaired the session on Exploring Collaborative Research Opportunities between Universities from India and East Asia, organised by Nalanda University, Patna, on 19 September 2025.

Dr Priyadarshi Dash Associate Professor

- Panelist in the session on ‘Goeconomic Fragmentation and the End of Globalization’ at the workshop on ‘Goeconomics and India in a Multipolar World’ held at O.P. Jindal Global University on 24 September 2025.
- Delivered lecture to the participants of the 3rd Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) on the topic “Connectivity for Economic Empowerment” on 11 September 2025 at SSFSI, New Delhi.
- Panelist in the session on ‘Supply Chain Cooperation amid Green and Digital Transformation’ at the 13th CICA Think Tank Forum held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 9-10 September 2025.
- Panelist in the Side Event on ‘Financing for Development and the Debt Crisis in the Global South: Implications and Way Forward’ organised by Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria; University of South Africa and Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation on 28 August 2025 (Online).
- Delivered invited special lecture on “India’s Evolving Geopolitical Challenges: Lessons for Navigating a Changing Global Order” at the International Seminar on ‘Exploring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s Legacy: Lessons for Contemporary India’ organised K.R.B. Girls’ College, Guwahati on 24 July 2025.

Dr Sushil Kumar Assistant Professor

- Delivered a lecture on “Global Development Compact for South-South Cooperation” to participants of the 1st Special Course for Foreign Diplomats from Central and Western African Countries, organised by SSIFS, New Delhi on 16 July 2025.

Dr Pankhuri Gaur Assistant Professor

- Addressed a session at the 1st Special Course for Diplomats North & East Africa (Eritrea, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan) on the topic ‘Blue Economy’ on 06 August 2025 at V. V. Rao Hall, SSIFS, New Delhi
- Addressed a session at the 1st Special Capacity Building Programme for the Mid-Career Civil Servants of Mauritius on the topic ‘Blue Economy’ on 9 September 2025 at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand (Virtually)
- Addressed a session at the 3rd Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) on the topic ‘Blue Economy’ on 11 September 2025 at SSIFS, New Delhi

Dr Sneha Sinha Consultant

- Historicizing Science Diplomacy in India, paper presented virtually at the 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 29 June–5 July.
- Science for Shared Futures: India’s Science Diplomacy in a Global Context, presented at the First Slovenian-Indian Festival of Science, Innovation, Smart Technologies, and Economy, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 25-26 September 2025.

Dr Pratyush Sharma Consultant

- Panellist at ICRIER hosted roundtable discussion on ‘Reflections on the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)’ in the context of the recent TICAD 9 summit, where Japan proposed an “Indian Ocean-Africa Economic Region Initiative” encouraging regional integration and industrial development through public-private partnerships.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated as an Independent Director in the meetings organized by Airtel Bank on 6-7 August 2025.
- Participated in the 4th Policy Engagement Group meeting constituted by the Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC) on 8 August 2025.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Audit Committee

and Board Meetings of Alkem Laboratories Limited on 11-12 August 2025.

- Participated in the webinar on India's Free Trade Agreement Revival: Opportunities, Risks, and Strategic Impact on Global Business organized by Dezan Shira & Associates on 20 August 2025 (Online).
- Participated in the 22nd Meeting of the Governing Board and 8th

Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of ICAI RVO on 8 and 18 September 2025.

- Participated in the Roundtable with RRA on Art of Chairing organized by Russell Reynolds Associates on 9 September 2025.
- Participated in the Orientation Session on DPDPA & AI organized by Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. on 17 September 2025.

Continued from page 9

that allocates spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, social, and economic objectives. It helps balance competing demands such as port operations, fisheries, tourism, energy generation, and conservation.

The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) follows a structured, iterative process starting with the definition of vision and objectives, followed by initial assessment, planning process, implementation and final assessment and reporting. It involves legal frameworks, environmental and socio-economic assessments, stakeholder consultations, zoning, and management planning. The cyclical nature of MSP ensures adaptive and sustainable use of marine resources.

For India, MSP is especially relevant for expansion of coastal and inland cargo movement, developing economic zones, harnessing renewable energy from offshore / onshore wind and even tidal energy, fishing zones and advisories, strengthen military defence, systems approach to aquaculture and to promote eco-tourism while conserving marine habitats.

Remote Sensing is the acquiring of information from a distance. It has four characteristics spatial resolution, spectral resolution,

radiometric resolution, temporal resolution. RS provides synoptic and continuous monitoring of coastal and marine environments.

The speaker explained how Spatial resolution provides high-resolution satellite imagery from sensors such as MODIS, Landsat, IRS, and IKONOS enables mapping of land use/land cover (LULC), coastal morphology, and water quality. Temporal Monitoring is the time-series data track dynamic events such as cyclones, floods, river meandering, and shoreline changes. For example, MODIS provides near-global coverage every 8-16 days. Event Detection like RS captures changes such as the course shifts of the Kosi River (1998-2008), which are critical for disaster preparedness. Role of Altimetry in MSP, satellite altimeters measure sea-surface height and wave conditions, supporting port operations, renewable energy assessments, and navigation safety.

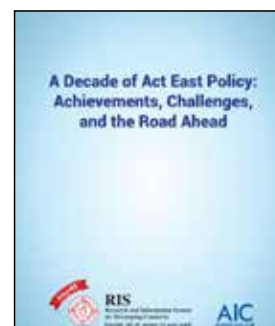
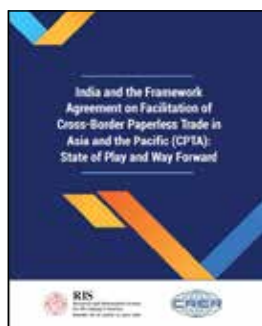
The speaker also referred to Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite, for detailed mapping and monitoring of water bodies and ocean features using advanced satellite technologies. It is a joint mission by NASA and CNES, and it uses KaRIn radar interferometer. It focuses on measuring water levels, flow, storage, and movement in rivers,

lakes, reservoirs, and oceans. By providing high-resolution spatial and temporal data, SWOT helps in understanding hydrological cycles, climate change impacts, flood forecasting, sediment transport, and ocean circulation patterns. This information is critical for sustainable water management, disaster preparedness, and advancing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) by linking inland hydrology with coastal and marine systems. IIRS (Indian Institute of Remote Sensing) and other Indian organisations are using the SWOT data. Recently, IIRS published a study using SWOT data to measure continuous water heights and elevation changes along the Ganga River.

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system that analyses and displays geographically referenced information. It uses data that is attached to a unique location. Strength of GIS comes from its ability to analyze data representing a particular point, line, or polygon. GIS complements RS by enabling the integration, storage, analysis, and visualization of spatial data. Its applications include data integration, spatial analysis, marine zoning, & decision-making. The strength of GIS lies in its ability to transform raw data into actionable insights, making it indispensable for MSP.

REPORTS

- *India and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA): State of Play and Way Forward*, by Prabir De, Arpita Mukherjee, and Tahseen Ahmad Khan, RIS-ICRIER, New Delhi, 2025.
- *Foundations of Digital Public Infrastructure* by Rajeev Chawala, Arun Iyer, RIS, New Delhi, 2025.
- *A Decade of Act East Policy: Achievements, Challenges, and the Road Ahead*, RIS-AIC, New Delhi, 2025.



JOURNALS

Development Cooperation Review
Vol. 8 No. 2, April-June 2025

Journal of Asian Economic Integration
Vol. 7, No. 2, September 2025

RIS POLICY BRIEFS

- #121 : *Enhancing National Registered Tonnage: Tweaking Tonnage Tax* by Sujeet Samaddar and Vanshika Goyal
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#307: *Advancing Women's Work in South Asia: A Pathway to Empowerment* by Beena Pandey

AIC COMMENTARY

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

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

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- De, Prabir (2025), "Assessing the Productivity of Indian Ports", in Dibyendu Maiti, Biswanath Golder and K L Krishna (eds.) *75 Years of Growth, Development and Productivity in India: Issues, Measures, Causes and Impacts*, Springer Nature, Singapore
- De, Prabir (2025) "Dealing with US tariffs", *Financial Express*, 27 August 2025
- De, Prabir et al. (2025) (eds.) *The Changing Profile of India's Trade Relations: A Partial and General Equilibrium Analysis*, Routledge, New Delhi
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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.



FISD 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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