



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

New Opportunities & New Partnerships Post-BAPA+40 **Delhi Process Fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivering the Keynote Address at the Plenary Session I.

RIS has been on the forefront of bringing all stakeholders together to deliberate on South-South Cooperation (SSC) for a better understanding of the global development architecture. In order to carry forward this process and generate a balanced and well informed debate, RIS initiated the Delhi Process conferences. The first conference in 2013, provided an international platform for such a deliberation. Subsequent conferences (2016, 2017 and 2018), highlighted the plurality and diversity of SSC, its linkages with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and looked at SSC through a theoretical lens in the light of empirical realities and emerged with a narrative asserting the

'uniqueness' of SSC. Deliberations during the Delhi Process helped contribute significantly to the Second United Nations High

Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), held in March 2019.



Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with fellow distinguished panelists at the Inaugural session.



Dr Pierre Jacquet

In partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), RIS organised the Delhi Process fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards “Exploring New Opportunities and New Partnerships Post-BAPA+40”. The conference was held on 22-23 August, 2019 at New Delhi. The aim of the conference was to assess the future implications, identify challenges and develop a roadmap for SSC in tune with the consensus arrived at BAPA+40.



H.E. Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Rim Association, Mauritius, delivering the inaugural address

H.E. Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Rim Association, Mauritius, delivered the inaugural address, Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, made the welcome remarks. Mr Jorge Chediek, Director, UNOSSC; Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Chairperson, FIDC; and Professor

Li Xiaoyun, Chairman, NeST made key observations on behalf of partner Institutions and Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, honored the conference with special remarks. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, extended the vote of thanks and welcomed participants from over 53 countries that included 16 international institutions and major SSC stakeholders.



Dr Andre de Mello e Souza

Experts deliberated on issues related to scaling up of SSC in the face of Industry 4.0; evolving an impact assessment framework that captures the unique features of SSC; the diversity of actors and role of institutions in actualising the aspirations of the South; the role of SSC for global financial governance and simultaneously engaged in exploring the potential of Triangular Cooperation (TrC). The discussion explored the need for sharing

and co-creation of technology for strengthened cooperation and presented a space for emerging agencies of the Global South to come together to share experiences, knowledge and mechanisms for the institutionalisation of SSC.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, gave the keynote address for the challenges and opportunities faced by the South in respect to financial governance, underscoring India's vision of 'reformed multilateralism'. Dr Rajat Kathuria, Chief Executive, ICRIER highlighted the need for skilling and reskilling in the South as it continues the feat to catch up to Industrial Revolution 3.0 while preparing for Industrial Revolution 4.0.



Dr Rajat Kathuria, Chief Executive, ICRIER

The conference also evolved a broad consensus on assessing SSC against the non-negotiable principles, on one hand, and the



Dr Banchong Amornchewin

modalities with its variations in operation, on the other. The idea of 'Development Compact' as a complementary set of interdependent modalities received considerable appreciation from the participants. The experts articulated the responsibility of Southern partners to share the impacts – positive or otherwise –with peers in the spirit of solidarity so as to help them identify best practices that may be implemented with necessary adjustments to contribute



Ms Sachiko Imoto

to their developmental aspirations. The purpose of SSC assessment should then be driven by the desire to enhance mutual learning and experience sharing.

Furthermore, the conference opened avenues for a continued dialogue as we march towards strengthening Southern engagement and initiating triangular



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister with the Exhibitors

partnerships for the achievement of Agenda 2030. This was underlined by Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in India, in her special remarks and Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Government of India, in his valedictory address.

Delhi Process Fifth Conference further took the much needed steps to strengthen knowledge linkages initiating a Think tanks-University Connect and a Young Scholars Forum. The Think tanks-University Connect created a collective platform for knowledge creators inaugurated by the Professor V.K. Malhotra, Member Secretary,

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission. This new initiative aimed to further feed in teaching and research at



Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Government of India

various institutes of higher learning, bringing in the disciplines of international relations, international



Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan with fellow panelists at the Young Scholar's Forum

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De-Briefing Session on G20 Osaka Summit

The G20 Leaders' Summit took place in Osaka, Japan on 28-29 June 2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Summit and contributed to the G20 process in a substantive way. Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Minister of Commerce and Industry and was India's G20 Sherpa at the Summit. The Summit was a much-awaited event for the member countries given the growing influence of G20 in global economic and political affairs. Like previous summits, India actively participated in the Osaka Summit and contributed in the form of flagging global issues of common interests to the member states.

Since India is going to assume G20 presidency in 2022, it is important to collectively deliberate upon the road map from the Osaka Summit. In order to generate informed debate among the thinkers, policy makers, academics, businesses and other stakeholders, RIS organised a 'De-Briefing Session on G20 Osaka Summit'.

Hon'ble Shri Prabhu, G20 Sherpa and Former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India delivered Special Address. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS Chaired the session. The Sous Sherpa Mr Suresh Reddy, Joint Secretary, Multilateral Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs also joined the deliberations. Mr Augustine Peter, Visiting Fellow, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

In his address Shri Suresh Prabhu, highlighted that since there are so many global issues which need to be discussed at the G20 platform and exclusion of any particular issues may arouse criticism, there should be continuity of issues taken up in



Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Minister of Commerce and Industry addressing the participants.

the previous presidencies along with appreciation of new issues in the subsequent presidencies. India not only participates in G20 for its own interests but it also tries to put aspirations of the other developing countries upfront in G20 deliberations. Moreover, India feels its own responsibility in global affairs as one of the largest developing countries in the world and ensures that developing world's perspectives are respected in G20.

The importance of trade at this point of time is important as higher trade can contribute to higher economic growth. But global trade cannot grow unless the WTO becomes strong and functional. India has taken a number of initiatives to ensure that WTO becomes a centrality to the global trading system. After the disappointing outcome of Argentina Ministerial in 2017, India organised a mini-ministerial on 19 March 2018 to make sure that the WTO becomes more effective. The participation of 57 countries manifested the success of this event which implies that most of the member states favour reforms in the functioning of WTO.

Infrastructure can act as a catalyst for global economic

growth. Many countries benefit from investments in infrastructure happening in different parts of the world. Infrastructure has a potential to pull economic activity globally. India has taken initiatives under the Prime Minister's leadership on International Solar Alliance (ISA), which in fact, will significantly contribute to the changing global energy mix.

India strongly supports the G20 stand on ocean economy and the role of oceans for economic prosperity and environmental conservation. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework has to be strengthened to seize the arbitration opportunities and locating the tax heavens.

G20 must provide the vision to bind all the countries especially the emerging markets like Indonesia, India, Brazil and Mexico which are new actors in global governance to support coordinated actions on major global issues and promote global public goods.

A large number of former diplomats, policy makers and representatives from academia, business and civil society participated in the programme.

High-Level Political Forum 2019

In continuation of RIS close association with the SDG deliberations at the United Nations, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) process and the UN Office of South-South Cooperation – Director General Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi led a two-member RIS delegation to the UN that included Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor to participate in the HLPF 2019 in New York during 13-19 July 2019

As in the previous years, RIS also organised two thematic side events on the side-lines of the HLPF 2019 in New York, jointly with prominent international organisations and agencies to contribute to the debate, understanding, and narrative on SDGs, particularly SDG 17. Director General was invited to speak in the Session on “Effectiveness in South-South Co-operation” at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) Senior Level Meeting (SLM) on 13 July 2019. Dr Saha was also invited to participate in the SLM. In his remarks, Prof. Chaturvedi highlighted distinct perspectives on effectiveness in South-South Cooperation with regard to efficiency and convergence.

RIS organised two thematic side-events on the side-lines of HLPF 2019 first was on “Financing of SDGs” with RIS-UNOSSC-UN India-South Centre on 16 July 2019. With rising aspirations linked to the SDGs, commitments of developing countries have multiplied. However, at the operational level major challenges include: managing capital inflows efficiently; domestic resource mobilisation; and addressing capital flight. Developing countries are also challenged by the inadequacy of long term development finance hindering rapid expansion in capacities to take care of the needs



Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog delivering the Special Address.

of social sector development, infrastructure, industrialisation and also climate change mitigation.

Emergence of new institutions along with old actors is a crucial development in this regard. Further, new paradigms of sustainable development have to be mainstreamed in all forms of development financing; and domestic institutional capacities and preparedness have to be revisited. The fulfilment of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) should be central to the implementation of the SDG 17. In this context, the constant and difficult challenges with regards to capital flight; and responding to specific needs of developing countries in areas like industrialisation, SMEs, trade facilitation, skilling and gender, renewable energy and sustainable urbanisation should be prioritised.

The special address in this side-programme was delivered by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India and the session was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi. The distinguished panellists included Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN

Resident Coordinator in India; Mr Jorge Chediek, Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation; Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair and Distinguished Fellow, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Dr John W. McArthur, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development program, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC and Dr Manuel F Montes, Senior Advisor on Finance and Development, South Centre, Geneva.

In his special address Dr Rajiv Kumar emphasized on innovative use of resources, embedded application of technology and endogenous development models for developing countries.

The second programme on “Strengthening SDG 17 through South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Plurality and Way Forward from BAPA+40” was organised with Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST), UNOSSC, OECD and BRICS Policy Centre on 18 July 2019. Development experiences in the South are leading

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US-India Trade Relations

India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a "global strategic partnership", based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. The US and India are long-standing partners in trade. RIS has been engaged in conducting research on US-India economic relations. As part of this work programme, RIS organised a Seminar on US-India trade relations on 25 July 2019 at RIS. Dr Surupa Gupta, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, USA, was the main speaker.

In her presentation, the speaker highlighted that under the Trump administration, many of the United States' bilateral relations have seen dramatic disruptions. Against this backdrop, strategic relation with



Dr Surupa Gupta, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, USA, at the seminar on US-India Trade Relations

India has stayed on an even keel. However, trade relation between the two democracies has taken a beating as a result of several of the current US administration's initiatives including the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminium, ending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme for India and threatening India's interests in service sector trade. It

was also argued that the trade spat is a part of a longer-term, normative battle between India and the United States over global norms on trade. At the same time, while further escalation of the trade conflict is possible, its impact on the overall strategic partnership is likely to remain small. A large number of participants took part in the discussion that followed.

Future Orientation of BIMSTEC

RIS has been actively associated with the work programme of BIMSTEC since its inception. Recently, there has been added emphasis on strengthening our ties with BIMSTEC member countries. In this context, RIS organized a talk by Hon'ble Mr M. Shahidul Islam, Secretary General, BIMSTEC on the theme of 'Future Orientation of BIMSTEC' on 24 July 2019 at RIS. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired. H.E. Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador, Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi and Shri Seshadari Chari, Member, RIS, Governing



Mr M. Shahidul Islam, Secretary General, BIMSTEC making presentation

Council were the Distinguished participants took part in the open discussion. A large number of discussion.

Science Diplomacy and Capacity Building in Space Application

RIS, under its Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD), launched a monthly Lecture Series on 18th September 2019 with the lecture by Dr A Senthil Kumar, Director, Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia-Pacific (CSSTEAP) (a UN Centre), Dehradun on “Science Diplomacy and Capacity Building in Space Applications”. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, delivered the introductory remarks highlighting the crucial role of STI in addressing various societal challenges as well as SDGs. The invited speaker, Dr Senthil Kumar dwelled upon various facets on Indian space science and technology education and applications. He highlighted the nine societal areas which are benefited from the space data.



Dr A. Senthil Kumar, Director, Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia Pacific delivering FISD lecture at RIS.

These are namely disasters, health, agriculture, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, space data are very useful in city planning, transportation and communication network.

On the role of CSSTEAP, a unique regional centre set-up by

the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OSSA) in 1995, Dr Senthil Kumar elaborated upon the various capacity building and training programmes (including MEA’s ITEC programmes) that the Centre conducts for both national and international professionals, particularly from developing

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STIP Lecture Series

As part of the STIP Lecture Series, the following lectures were organised:



“Why India Needs to strengthen its Quality Infrastructure?”, delivered by Dr Dinesh K. Aswal, Director, CSIR-National Physical laboratory (NPL) on 12 July 2019. Shri Gauhar Raza, Leading Science Communicator and Former Scientist, CSIR, Chaired.



“Financing Renewable and Clean-tech”, delivered by Mr Manish Chourasia, Managing Director, Tata Cleantech Capital Limited on 12 August 2019. Shri R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI, Chaired.



“Science, Technology & Innovation for Society”, delivered by Dr Shekhar C. Mande, Secretary, DSIR & Director General, CSIR on 19 September 2019. Dr Chandrima Shaha, Professor of Eminence and Former Director, National Institute of Immunology and President-Elect, Indian National Science Academy, chaired.

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Delhi Process Fifth Conference ...



Distinguished Panelist at Parallel Session IA.

economics, development studies, and their interface with public policy formulation process into a collective platform.

The Young Scholars Forum highlights another vertical of strengthened SSC as it tapped into the alumni network of ITEC participants continuing the processes of knowledge exchange. It aimed to engage an increasing number of researchers from the South in unravelling the

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High-Level Political Forum 2019

to unique narratives that would impart rigor and robustness to the evolving global partnerships. Experience sharing on development and resource management in the South is a crucial consideration to fulfill the aspirations of equitable development in the South.

The existing gaps can be bridged not only through timely and adequate provision of financial resources but also through building robust institutional frameworks on knowledge sharing, technology transfer, absorptive capacities and technical support. Keeping these objectives in mind, the roadmap emerging from BAPA+40, therefore, should be linked with wider partnerships between development actors and agencies, convergence of modalities as well as forging collaborations in the spirit of triangular cooperation. The key issues for deliberations were: the state of SSC in different regions for

complexities and pluralities of SSC. On this occasion, RIS also held a special exhibition with the participation of 27 partner countries and institutions, showcasing their contributions towards fortifying South-South Cooperation.

The fifth conference under



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS at the launching of the Think-Tank University connect.

experience sharing; challenges for SSC in fulfilling the Agenda 2030; the Roadmap from BAPA+40.

The session was moderated by Mr Jorge Chediek, Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The distinguished panellists included Amb. Nagaraj Naidu, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of India to the UN; Ms. Ana Ciuti, Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina, Mr Robin Ogilvy, OECD Special Representative to the UN, Dr Paulo Esteves, Director, BRICS Policy Centre, Brazil, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, UNOSSC. Prof. Chaturvedi emphasised on sector

the Delhi Process moved towards creating a network of policymakers, civil society and academic to bring various stakeholders together in a call for collective action and fortifying partnerships for collective development. The conference facilitated the exchanges of ideas and initiatives taking steps towards achieving the global goals for sustainable and inclusive development. The detailed agenda and key takeaways of the Conference are available on RIS website for ready reference.

specific cooperation for South-South Cooperation as way forward from BAPA+40, and the key transformative initiatives taken by India for leaving no one behind with reference to financial inclusion. Prof. Chaturvedi also highlighted NeST's efforts in shaping SDG 17 indicators.

During the above visit, there were other engagements and outreach activities also as part of the RIS's new research initiative on role of social enterprises, private sector, and innovative financing for the SDGs, RIS delegation interacted with Dr Sten H. Vermund, MD, Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Public Health and Dean, Yale School of Public Health and his colleagues. RIS also hosted a dinner meeting in Honour of Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-chairman, NITI Aayog and head of the Indian delegation to the HLPF on 16 July 2019 in New York.

The meeting deliberated on the aforementioned subject and

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Third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Thailand, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi organised the third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 12 September 2019 in Bangkok

Dr Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered the Opening Remarks. The Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Ms. Suchitra Durai, Ambassador of India to Thailand. The Workshop was attended by ASEAN Member States, senior officials and about 100 participants from ASEAN and India.

The workshop was divided into four sessions to facilitate

an in-depth discussion on Blue Economy and to identify specific areas where ASEAN and India can cooperate and work together. The four sessions were (1) Development in the Blue Economy; (2) Sustainable Harnessing of Marine Resources; (3) Maritime Connectivity and (4) Maritime Safety and Diplomacy.

The Third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy raised an in-depth discussion on the blue economy, which is increasingly seen as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

In ASEAN and India, Blue Economy has been identified as a new pillar of economic activity in the coastal areas and linked hinterlands through sustainable tapping of oceanic resources. Blue Economy is knowledge intensive with expertise required from many resources, and, thus, there is a need for collaboration between India and ASEAN in terms of pooling in

expertise. As maritime neighbours sharing a common maritime domain, a common dependence on the oceans and seas and a common understanding of the importance of sustainable utilisation of ocean resources, ASEAN and India are the ideal partners in taking further the agenda of the Blue Economy. With a view to promoting the development of Blue Economy in the region and enhancing ASEAN-India cooperation in Blue Economy, participants suggested several policy recommendations. Finally, Mr Asi Mamane, Deputy Director General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered the Closing Remarks. Mr Nikhilesh Giri, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific Division, Ministry of External Affairs, India delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Yasuhiro Yamada, Special Assistant to the President of ERIA gave Special Address. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks.



Participants at the 3rd ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy.

Delegation from Institute of Trade and Development (ITD) and Indian Study Centre of Chulalongkorn University

About 12 members of delegation of ITD and the Indian Study Centre of Chulalongkorn University from Thailand visited AIC at RIS on 15 July 2019. Dr Surat Horachaikul, Director, Indian Studies Center, Faculty of Political

Science, Chulalongkorn University was leading the delegation from Thailand. Delegation interacted with us on BIMSTEC and India's approaches to Bay of Bengal cooperation. Dr Prabir De made a presentation on "BIMSTEC: Current

Status and Opportunities", followed by an interaction with the delegation members on Thailand perspectives on BIMSTEC and other global issues. Mr Mahesh Arora, Director (Finance and Administration), RIS also participated in the discussion.



Delegation from ITD and Chulalongkorn University with AIC at RIS faculty members.

Delegation from Yunnan University

A three-member delegation from Yunnan University, China visited AIC at RIS on 9th August 2019. Visitors discussed several bilateral and regional topics of mutual interests, particularly BIMSTEC, ASEAN-India cooperation, and India-China Cooperation. Delegation was headed by Dr Li Chenyang, Professor and Vice President, Yunnan University, and other members were Dr Lu Guangsheng, Professor, Center for China's Neighbor Diplomacy Studies, Yunnan University; Dr Liu Peng, Associate Professor, Institute of Myanmar Studies, Yunnan University, Yunnan Province, China; and Mr Zhang Liang, Counselor, Head of Policy Planning Section,



Delegation from Yunnan University with AIC at RIS faculty members.

Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in India, New Delhi. Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made

a presentation on Indian foreign policy and highlighted the potential areas of cooperation between India and China.

Sustainable Development Goals

In order to create knowledge, awareness and simultaneously exploring the implementation strategies on the SDGs at the national and international level, RIS conducted the second edition of two-week training programme on SDGs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, at New Delhi on 5-16 August 2019.

The programme had 33 participants from 24 countries. The group had the benefit of interaction and discourse with eminent experts from the fields of academics and policymaking.

The participants also engaged in group deliberations for preparing analytical position papers reflecting on national and global progress on SDGs. These papers were published in the Report entitled “*Localising SDGs Perspectives from Developing Countries*”.

Apart from having thematic sessions, study tours were also organised for participants to visit Parliament of India and other line ministries. They also had the opportunity to have interactive session with the Hon’ble Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Dr Rajiv Kumar, Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the

Ministry of Housing, and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (who is also Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Shri Pravin Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). They also visited to historical and popular sites in Delhi and Agra.

The detailed agenda of the programme is available on RIS website.



Participants of the RIS-ITEC Capacity Building Programme on SDGs with the RIS Faculty.

Science Diplomacy and Capacity

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countries in the Asia-Pacific region. So far, 2217 participants from 36 Asia-Pacific countries have benefited from these capacity building programmes. India has also shared its self-learning education dashboard “SWAMI” (System for Weather and Aapdaa Management Information) with its

neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka and Nepal. Dr Senthil Kumar also talked about six dimensions of Indian Satellite Programme viz. Space infrastructure, applications, institutionalisation, ground segment, capacity building and international cooperation. India has cooperation arrangements

with 34 countries in the domain of space. The need for science ‘data’ diplomacy was also stated during the lecture, so that the critical data pertaining to disasters are shared among the countries on time for effective disaster management.

Trade and Sustainability

In order to enhance capacity among officials and scholars working in the field of international trade, RIS launched a specially tailored “ITEC Programme on Trade and Sustainability” in July 2018.

The second edition of the course was organized from 8 to 19 July 2019 with participation of 29 candidates from 16 countries representing South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and the Caribbean.

The programme had four broad pillars: Biodiversity and bio-safety issues including Convention of Biological Diversity, Nagoya Protocol, etc., Trade in environmentally-sensitive goods and services, non-tariff measures, etc., Financing including green finance, climate finance, regulations, business innovations, etc., and Environmental provisions in FTAs and RTAs. The participants had the benefit of attending the lectures, and engaging in group assignments

on Sustainable Exploitation of Biological Resources in Developing Countries: Genetic Resources for Greater Prosperity; Environmental Good and Services: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries; Green Financing in Developing Countries: Experiences from Mongolia, Kenya and Nigeria; and Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements. These were published in the Report entitled “*Emerging Issues on Trade and Sustainability*”.



Participants of the RIS-ITEC Capacity Building Programme on Trade and Sustainability with the RIS Faculty.

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High-Level Political Forum 2019

was attended by representatives of prominent philanthropic foundations based in the US, international agencies, social entrepreneurs and civil society organisations from India. Dr Sabyasachi Saha participated in the side event on Innovating Partnerships with the Private Sector: How to Achieve Greater SDG Impact at the Ford Foundation in New York on 16 July 2019.

Towards the preparation and dialogue on Delhi Process V – South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Exploring New Opportunities and New Partnerships Post-BAPA+40, Director General,

RIS met the Director General of APC Colombia (Cuenta oficial de la Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación – Presidential Agency for Cooperation) H.E. Ms. Angela Ospina on 17 July 2019.

Director General was invited to speak at the following forums: 1) Inequality in human development: consultation with southern-based think-tanks for the 2019 Human Development Report on 18 July 2019; 2) The South-South Global Thinkers Dialogue: Reflection on BAPA+40 Outcome Document 17 July 2019; and 3) Joint Side Event in the High Level Political Forum 2019: Joining efforts: Measurement of South-

South Cooperation contribution to the SDGs on 17 July 2019. In his remarks at the consultation on the Human Development Report 2019, Prof. Chaturvedi elaborated on the importance of issues related to access and basic needs; quality of life and wellness issues with considerations for global biodiversity loss; and FDI and inclusion issues, illicit financial flows, and global tax issues.

RIS delegation also participated in the NITI Aayog Side Event on “From Commitment to Achievement: India's Experience in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals” on 16 July 2019 at the UN Headquarters.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Made a presentation on 'Promoting Innovation and Disruption in 4IR' at the XII South Asia Economic Summit, organised by Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), 27 September 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Panelist at the Book launch of Satish Deodhar's, "ECONOMIC SUTRA: Ancient Indian Antecedents to Economic Thought" organised by India International Centre, 16 September 2019, New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India's Trade Policy' at the High Level Meeting of the Board of Trade (BOT) organised by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 12 September 2019, New Delhi.
- Delivered Remarks on 'Politics of BRI' at the Inaugural Session at the International Conference on Belt and Road Initiative Positioning Bangladesh within Comparative Perspectives organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), 8 September 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Made a presentation on 'Agenda for Future' at the 14th Sustainability Summit organised by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, 29 August 2019, New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the IC Group's meeting on Evaluation of International Cooperation (IC) organised by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), 20 August 2019, New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the General Council Meeting of the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development organised by NITI Aayog on 13 August 2019 at New Delhi.
- Keynote speaker at the Joint Side Event on Joining efforts: Measurement of South-South Cooperation contribution to the SDGs at the High Level Political Forum 2019 organised by Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (APC-Colombia), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) on 17 July 2019 at New York.

- Made a presentation at the Side Event on 'South-South Global Thinkers Dialogue - Reflection on BAPA+40 Outcome Document' organised by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 17 July 2019 at New York.
- Made a presentation on Innovating Partnerships with the Private Sector: How to Achieve Greater SDGs organised by Ford Foundation on 16 July 2019 at New York.
- Participated in the side event on 'From Commitment to Achievement: India's Experience in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals' organised by NITI Aayog at the HLPF on 16 July 2019 at New York.
- Participated in the Interactive meeting on 'Role of Social Enterprises in Economic Development and scaling up of successful developmental initiatives' organised by the Yale University on 15 July 2019 at New York.
- Made a presentation on 'Effectiveness in South-South Co-operation' at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) organised by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) on 13 July 2019 at New York.
- Panelist at the Post-budget Conclave organised by the News Nation Network on 6 July at New Delhi.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the Meeting - "Launch Ceremony of 1000 fellowships to ASEAN students", chaired by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development and organised by the Indo-Pacific Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 16 September 2019.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on 'Study for Unlocking the Export Potential of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)' held in the Development Commission MSME, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 4 September 2019.

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting of Steering Committee, with the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on 22 August 2019.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on 'Progressing Economic Relationship between India and Iran in a Hostile Global Environment' held at the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 20 August 2019.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on 'India's Export Potential in Iran' held at the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 14 August 2019.
- Submitted report on 'India's Export Potential in Iran' to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 14 August 2019.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on 'India's Export Potential in Iran' with the Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi on 13 August 2019.
- Participated in the National Seminar on 'Taking Stock of India-Latin America and the Caribbean Relations', organised by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi on 9 August 2019.
- Participated as a Selection Committee Member of Jawaharlal Nehru University in the 'Career Advancement Scheme Selection Committee/Screening-cum-Evaluation Committee for Documentation Officer', organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 7 August 2019.

Mr Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated on a panel discussion on RCEP recorded by ET NOW on 24 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Nominated as Expert Consultant, Interview Board of UP Public Service Commission on 25-27 September 2019 at Allahabad.
- Delivered a lecture on "Changing Dynamics of Global Trade" to the ITEC participants organized by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade on 23 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a discussion on RCEP organized by CNBC TV18 on 20 September 2019 at New Delhi.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the meeting of True North LLP on 19 September 2019 at Mumbai.
- Chaired the Task Force on AYUSH classification of products and quality road map on 17 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Speaker in the Second RCEP Roundtable Track 1.5 organized by Centre for Research on International Trade (CRIT), MEA on 13 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Was interviewed on RCEP on the NEWS X on 11 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Discussion meeting with Secretary, Department of Commerce on the issue of Capacity Development of the Pharma industry to meet with regulatory challenges in principal markets on 9 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a Consultation Meeting convened by the Department of Commerce on issues before the WTO on 9 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a small Roundtable meeting of 6-7 Senior Thought Leaders organized by CII on 5 September 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the second Meeting of CII International Council 2019-20 held on 28 August 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Indian Advisory Board meeting organized by Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd on 23 August 2019 at Bangalore.
- Participated in a meeting with Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister to present Draft discuss key recommendations of the HLAG on 14 August 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in a meeting on FTA Study organized by CII on 14 August 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in an Interactive Session on 'Creating Conducive Business Environment' organized by Confederation of Indian Industry on 13 August, 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board of Director's meeting of Kirloskar Brothers Limited on 12 August 2019 at Pune.

- Participated in a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee (Bench III) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on 10 August 2019 at Mumbai.
- Addressed the Second Meeting of the CII National Committee on Exports, held on 8 August 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Panelist in the Discussion Meeting on "Challenges and opportunities for India and the US in the emerging global trade scenario" organized by the International Chamber of Commerce India on 7 August 2019 at New Delhi.

Dr P. K. Anand

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the 'Seminar on Issues in State Finances-Analysis of State Budgets 2019-20' on 20th August 2019, organized by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) at New Delhi.
- Participated in the meeting at NITI Aayog on 18th September 2019 to deliberate about SDG Conclave Report for NE States and Agenda for SDGs conclave.
- Participated in the meeting of 'National Coordination Committee for UNES Global Pilot Program on STI for SDGs Roadmap for India' Chaired by the Scientific Secretary, on July 22, 2019 at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi in the context of RIS as a Knowledge Partner.
- Deliberated alongwith the ITEC participants with Hon'ble Minister Urban Development, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, at Niraman Bhavan, New Delhi on 16th August 2019.
- Participating a meeting organized by UN Global Compact Network India with IUCN India Leaders for Nature on 'Circular Economy in Business: A Blueprint for Action Towards SDG-12 Responsible Consumption and Production', focusing on resource efficiency, on 6th September 2019 at UNESCO, New Delhi.
- Participated and chaired a Session in the '12th South Asia Economic Summit' (SAES) XII with the theme 'Shaping South Asia's Future in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)', during 26-27 September 2019 hosted by the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka at Colombo.

Mr Krishna Kumar

Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the "Seminar on Issues in State Finances-Analysis of State Budgets 2019-20" on 20 August 2019 organized by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).
- Participated and made a presentation at the Workshop on "An Efficiency Based Regional Approach to Realize Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", jointly organized on 23rd and 24th September, 2019 by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), in Bangkok.
- Participated in the meeting on 18-09-2019 at NITI Aayog to discuss about SDGs document for NE States and Agenda for SDGs conclave.
- Participated in the meeting of 'National Coordination Committee for UNES Global Pilot Program on STI for SDGs Roadmap for India' Chaired by the Scientific Secretary, on July 22, 2019.

Prof. T. C. James

Visiting Fellow

- Participated as Panellist for sessions on Artificial Intelligence and Patents and the Curious Case of Rasagula on 10 July, 2018 in the WIPO-India Summer School organised by MNLU, Nagpur and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Intellectual Property Management (RGNIPM).
- Participated in the National Symposium on Creating Conducive Environment for Ayurveda Research organized by the Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, Savitribai Phule University of Pune on 18th August, 2018 and made presentations on Governance and Funding and also Social Sciences and Public Health.

Dr Sabyasachi Saha

Assistant Professor

- Contributed as panelist in Parallel Session D1 on Innovation, Connectivity, and Security in South Asia during 4IR at the 12th South Asia Economic Summit - Shaping South Asia's Future in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, 26-27 September 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- Delivered a Talk on “Innovation Systems and Developing Countries” at the Ambedkar University, New Delhi on 20 September 2019.

Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy

Consultant ASEAN-India Centre at RIS.

- Invited as Speaker to present a paper on “Trade and Investment

Opportunities in Services Sector in India” at the International Exchange Centre for Innovative Talents (IECIT), Beijing Municipal UNESCO Club Association, Beijing, China, 14 August 2019.

- Invited as Discussant for Asia Pacific Trade and Investment

Report (APTIR) Expert Group Meetings (EGM) on “Navigating Non-Tariff Measures toward Sustainable Development”, UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand, 11-12 July 2019.

Latest Publications

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS

- #241 **Prospects of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals** by Manmohan Agarwal and Adrita Banerjee
- #240 **Sustainable Agriculture and Nutritional Security: Emerging Policy Options with Production Choices** by P. K. Anand, Krishna Kumar and Shruti Khanna
- #239 **Monetary Policy Effect on Inflation and Growth** by Manmohan Agarwal and Irfan Ahmed Shah

RIS POLICY BRIEF

- #88 **Robotisation of Textile Sector in China: Impact and Imperatives** by Amit Kumar

South Asia Economic Journal Special Issue

Commemorative Issue (2000-2020), RIS & IPS

RIS DIARY

Volume 15 No. 3, July 2019

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REVIEW

Volume 2 No. 2&3 May-June 2019

FITM POLICY BRIEF

- #4 **Special Wellness Zones for Wellness Tourism: Exploring prospects of creating dedicated ISM hubs** by Prof. T.C. James and Apurva Bhatnagar.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY NEWS ALERT

Issue 22: 16-30 September 2019

Issue 21: 01-15 September 2019

Issue 20: 16-31 August 2019

Issue 19: 01-15 August 2019

Issue 18: 16-31 July 2019

Issue 17: 01-15 July 2019

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2019. ‘Technology Assessment in India’ in *Constructing a Global Technology Assessment: Insights from Australia, China, Europe, Germany, India and Russia*, Julia Hahn and Miltos Ladikas (eds.), Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie (KIT), Karlsruhe. (co-authored)

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2019. ‘Identify and promote champion sectors’. *The Week*, 31 August.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2019. ‘Agricultural trade in South Asia: issues, challenges and the way forward’ in Nagesh Kumar and Joseph George (eds.) *Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Food Security in South Asia*, Taylor & Francis.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2019. ‘Introduction: Challenges Confronting a Rising South Asia—Industry and Employment’ and ‘Conclusion: Manufacturing and Employment in South Asia’ in Sachin Chaturvedi and Sabyasachi Saha (eds.) *Manufacturing and Jobs in South Asia: Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth*, Springer.

De, P. 2019 “Connectivity 2.0 for South Asia”, *Trade Insight*, Vol. 15, No. 2, August, 2019

De, P. 2019. “Trade Facilitation Priorities for Landlocked Countries in Eastern South Asia”, *25th Year Special Issue*, Nepal Freight Forwarders Association (NEFFA), Kathmandu, September 2019



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Towards Strengthening South-South Cooperation



Mr T S Tirumurti

Secretary (ER), Ministry
of External Affairs

The Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation commemorating the 40th anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action, often abbreviated as BAPA+40, has come up with an ambitious work plan. The Outcome Document of the Conference underscores the need to give enhanced focus on South-South Cooperation (SSC). IBSA countries also brought out last year a timely declaration on South-South Cooperation, and for reiterating certain principles of SSC that it is a partnership amongst equals guided by principles of respect for national sovereignty; national ownership and independence; equality; non-conditionality; non-interference in domestic affairs; and mutual benefit. These principles provide the blueprint for IBSA partnership with countries of the South, and are part of wider SSC principles. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had also outlined last year ten guiding principles for India's engagement with Africa. These guiding principles may well be the guiding principles for India's engagement with the developing world itself, i.e. South-South Cooperation. The vision which our Prime

Minister outlined is as follows: to intensify and deepen engagement; development partnership to be guided by partners priorities, build on local capacities and create local opportunities; development partnership to be on terms that will be comfortable for partner country so that it liberates their potential and not constrain their future; open up markets and make trade and investment easier; harness India's digital revolution to enhance education, health, public services, financial inclusion etc.; improve agriculture; address challenges of climate change; combat terrorism and extremism including in the cyber sphere; give enhanced focus on youth and their aspirations; keep oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations and together strive for a representative and democratic global order.

No South-South Cooperation can and should result in restricting the space for development or constrain the future of our countries. This may be self-evident but if you start evaluating many of the SSC initiatives on this touchstone, you will find that there are aberrations. These aberrations creep in right at the outset if the terms of engagement in SSC are not reasonable. Further, in order to ensure that development is sustainable, it should naturally fit in with the national priorities of the countries concerned. India has always believed that South-South Cooperation should be demand driven and not supply driven. Creation of local capacity and local opportunities are vital for any success. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC) has completed 55 years since its inception and now has around 10,000 participants every year from more than 160 partner countries. We are now taking this to the next level by rolling out innovative schemes like e-ITEC to reach larger numbers. Further, development partnership should equally be a vehicle for sharing cutting edge technology, especially digital technology and artificial intelligence. Hi-tech is a necessity for developing countries to leap frog into the 4th industrial revolution, as well as directly impact positively the lives of people, especially in delivery of public services, education, health, agriculture, etc. Is South-South cooperation providing that option? If not, its time it did. But it is equally clear that recipient partner countries should carefully evaluate the most appropriate options for them and avoid the digital divide, so that the 4th industrial revolution is an inclusive one.

Further, building sustainable infrastructure is only one aspect of development cooperation, however important they may be. But true sustainability comes in empowering the local population especially the youth. Empowering the youth and creating opportunities for their employment need to go hand in hand. South-South engagement should be also able to leverage trade and investment so that the engagement becomes self-sustaining and helps the recipient partner country to get out of the development partnership cycle and become independent of it. We also need to exercise care and prudence in institutionalisation of South-South Cooperation and developing an impact assessment framework. We have to resist the temptation to construct a structure for South-South assessment which starts resembling structures put together by developed countries for North-South Cooperation. This will go against the principles we have agreed on. Let South-South institutionalisation and framework develop more organically rather than rush to creating an intrusive accounting framework for ourselves.

Triangular cooperation has become another important vehicle to combine the best of North and South for the benefit of the South. India is working actively with countries like Japan, France, E.U., U.S. and others to see how best Africa and Asia can benefit from this tripartite construct. While there are challenges of bringing together two different systems of assistance for a common cause, we are confident that we can overcome such technical hurdles for the larger goal. To expand the idea of triangular cooperation beyond its traditional connotations, India has been instrumental in establishing, with France, the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Prime Minister Modi has announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 2 billion for solar energy projects, an example of how development partnership can venture into new and innovative areas. India is even working with some developing countries like UAE to assist Africa. Contributions from India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) to IBSA-UN Fund in providing development support to least developed countries across the globe is also indicative of our commitment to the expanded idea of triangular cooperation.

Prime Minister Shri Modi has also articulated the importance of "reformed multilateralism". He had proposed this in BRICS Summit last year in Johannesburg and again this year at the G20 Summit in Osaka. He pointed out in the BRICS Summit last year that BRICS had started a decade ago to, inter alia, address the concern that multilateralism did not address and that it needed reform to benefit the developing world. However, ten years later, when we are faced with issues of unilateralism and protectionism, we cannot start reinforcing the status quo of multilateralism - a multilateralism which we had sought to reform ten years earlier. Consequently, instead of reinforcing the status quo of multilateralism as it exists now, we need to bring about "reformed multilateralism". In this "reformed multilateralism", South-South Cooperation has a crucial role to shape it. For this, South-South Cooperation needs to adhere to its unique voice, principles and practices to benefit all developing countries.

Excerpts from the remarks made by Mr T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, at Delhi Process Fifth: South South and triangular Cooperation: Exploring New Opportunities and New Partnerships Post-BAPA+40 on 22 August 2019.