



RIS Diary

— Research shaping the development agenda

RIS Co-hosts Sixth IBSA Academic Forum in Kochi



Distinguished participants at the Sixth IBSA Academic Forum held at Kochi on 3-4 May 2019.

RIS was entrusted with the task to convene the Sixth IBSA Academic Forum alongside the IBSA Sherpas' Meeting on 3-4 May 2019 at Kochi, Kerala. The Forum provided the desired momentum to the IBSA process, and hence reinforced the continued relevance of this unique

trilateral partnership for global governance and development cooperation. RIS is privileged to be associated with the IBSA since its inception.

The first day of Sixth IBSA Academic Forum began with welcome remarks and Context-

Setting by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Amb. Sunil Lal, Former Indian Ambassador to Brazil, Chaired the inaugural session. Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the inaugural

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Improved Access to Medicines and Evidence Based Policy in Health

RIS had coordinated a study on the patient health adherence and monitoring, involving health workers (ASHAs) and their using a mobile app for data management. The study was conducted at five taluks in Ernakulam District, Kerala, covering a population of one lakh. From this, patients with Cardio-Vascular Diseases (CVDs) were identified, and their health and response to health communications were monitored and followed up.

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Lead Presenters of the study done under REWARD project.

Brainstorming Session on External Sector, Skills and Employment

The Government of India has been targeting on employment generation for youths through the development of appropriate skills. In this context, a brainstorming Session at RIS with a group of select experts was organised to deliberate on this and related issues on 17 June 2019.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry chaired the Session. The other fellow participants in the discussion were: Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, RIS Governing Council; Dr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI; Dr Nagesh Kumar, UN-ESCAP, New Delhi; Dr Sunil Shukla, Director, EDI, Gandhinagar,



Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry chairing the roundtable on Skill and Employment at RIS.

Gujarat; Prof. Mukti Kanta Mishra, President, Centurion University, Bhubaneswar; Mr Yogesh Kumar, Executive Director, Samarthan-Centre for Development Support, Bhubaneswar; Professor Pulak Ghosh, Chair of Excellence and Professor of Decision Sciences, IIM,

Bengaluru; Ms Shruti Gonsalves, Managing Director, SEWA Grih Rin Ltd, New Delhi; Dr Gayathri Vasudevan, and Mr Rajesh; CEO; Labournet; Bengaluru; Prof. Anoop K. Satpathy; V.V. Giri National Labour Institute; NOIDA; Mr Ranajit Bhattacharyya, and; Mr

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Approaching African Continent through AAGC

The Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) is multi-country development initiative initiated by India and Japan for strengthening economic linkages between Asia and Africa. RIS, the Indian think tank for AAGC, has provided lead to the process of conceptualisation and formulating the vision document. In order to engage the Indian firms and businesses in this initiative and spreading awareness about the initiative, RIS and EXIM Bank of India jointly organised a one-day seminar on "Approaching African Continent through AAGC" at Mumbai on May 17, 2019. The seminar raised interesting issues relating to the business opportunities for Indian businesses in the African countries, role of the private sector, investment prospects and challenges, financing mechanisms,



At AAGC Consultation, RIS delegation with representatives from the industry and business circles.

institutional facilitation and policy intervention.

The seminar reiterated the importance of AAGC as an innovative model of promoting development partnership among the Asian and African countries. By connecting growth poles in Asia and Africa such as Mombasa port in Kenya, Dawei and Sittwe ports in Myanmar, etc. AAGC aims to

promote local industrialisation and inclusive development in the participating countries. The proposed extension to the Trilateral Highways (TLH) to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam would open the connectivity routes between India's north-eastern region, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Indian firms can focus investments in sectors like automobile especially on passenger transportation, municipal and

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RIS-DST-NIAS Seminar on Science Diplomacy



Distinguished panelists at the RIS-DST-NIAS seminar on Science Diplomacy.

As has been reported earlier, RIS with the support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST) had launched a 'Science Diplomacy Programme' jointly with NIAS, Bengaluru. The programme realize the potential of the Science Diplomacy through capacity-building, developing of networks and for strategic thinking.

As part of this programme, RIS-NIAS also organised Seminar on Science Diplomacy on 22 April 2019 at New Delhi to discuss emerging narratives from India on the theory and practice of science diplomacy and also to present India's successful endeavors in the domain of space, nuclear and aerospace using science diplomacy. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS initiated the programme by welcome address. Thereafter, Special Address was given by Professor V. S. Ramamurthy, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Professor Emeritus, NIAS. Dr Sadhna Relia, Head (International Cooperation), Department of Science and Technology, gave Keynote remarks; which was followed by remarks

of Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Indian Ambassador and of Professor D. Suba Chandran, Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, NIAS and Coordinator, NIAS Science Diplomacy Initiative.

During the seminar, the distinguished speakers highlighted the role of science diplomacy in the present era, and deliberated on emerging issues. The main point that emerged is: Science and Technology cooperation as a formal diplomatic tool has been a very significant development of the twentieth century. However, it was also highlighted that such cooperations have been limited somewhat to the scientific community only with very little involvement of the state. Therefore, is a need for greater engagement of the government in leveraging the potential of science diplomacy to use it for the national development and economic growth of the nation. India's lead role in establishing International Solar Alliance (ISA) at New Delhi, has been seen as a remarkable instance of successful science diplomacy endeavour in recent times.

It was also pointed out during the deliberations that India needs to engage more in S&T partnerships with other developing countries of the neighbourhood. Given India's proven strength in S&T endeavours, its utilisation for diplomatic gains in Asian region and select countries in the other regions, needs to be explored further. Ideas such as establishing an "Open University" catering to all developing countries in the neighbourhood and promoting "Telemedicine" to enable healthcare reach across the wider population across the region, can be taken up to accelerate India's efforts in science diplomacy.

During the seminar, many valuable outcomes emerged towards strengthening India's science diplomacy efforts. Setting-up of a High-technology S&T infrastructure facility and of a High-tech S&T Incubation (Interface) Centre for show-casing S&T products/services, reviewing and facilitating adoption can be explored further in the future. The detailed agenda is available on the RIS website: www.ris.org.in

Seminar on Digital Economy, e-Commerce and the WTO

The Digital Technology has acquired the center stage in the global trade discourse. It has manifested in different ways, such as the proposal on the Permanent Moratorium on Electronic Transmission and constitution of a plurilateral group on e-Commerce in the WTO Ministerial Meeting at Buenos Aires. Lately, India has also drafted an e-commerce Policy to create a regulatory and developmental profile in a rapidly rising sector. India had chosen not to participate in the Plurilateral Discussion on e-commerce in the WTO. Thus, there are several issues in the realm of the digital technology, which are needing apt attention of policy-makers and experts globally.

To deliberate upon some of these important issues, RIS had organised a Consultation on “e-Commerce” on 5 June 2019. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, had chaired the inaugural session. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made introductory remarks. It was followed by inaugural Address by Mr Sudhanshu Pandey,



Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chairing the inaugural session of the seminar.

Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, chaired the first working session on the Moratorium on Electronic Transmission and e-Commerce discussions in WTO in which Ms. Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD was the lead speaker. Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, former Indian Ambassador to WTO and Mr A. K. Garg, Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology were the main interveners.

The next session on Importance of Data Protection, Sharing and Processing: Challenges and Opportunities for India had Mr Kiran Karnik, former President, NASSCOM, as the main speaker. Mr Anand Krishnan, Data Security Council of India and Mr Arvind Gupta, Head, Digital India Foundation, were interveners. The concluding session was on Draft National E-Commerce Policy; in which Mr Shailender Singh, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade was the main speaker

India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture

India and Africa share a long history of friendship and cooperation. While bilateral development cooperation between them is expanding both the regions are facing certain common challenges, particularly in the areas of food and nutrient security and productivity.

The Indian government has been promoting many initiatives to strengthen India-Africa cooperation in agricultural sector. As efforts are being made for the next India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), many issues and opportunities are emerging.

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(From left to right) Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Shri. Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare; H.E. Mr Ben Joubert, Acting High Commissioner, South African High Commission, New Delhi; Dr Abdelbagi M Ismail, Regional Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, IRRI; and Dr Nafees Meah, South Asia Representative, IRRI.

Special Session on Artificial Intelligence

RIS is following closely the emerging global trends in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and governance and the challenges before the policy-makers and regulators especially in India and for developing countries, in general. Keeping this in view, RIS had organised a brief brainstorming session on 23 April 2019 with an objective to map research on AI and society and to identify broad themes and concerns, and then develop a road map for further research on ethical, social and legal implications of AI and its governance.

The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council (RAC) of RIS, chaired the session. The prominent speakers were: Shri Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Shri Amar Sinha, Distinguished



Ambassador S. T. Devare, Chairman RAC, RIS chairing the session on Artificial Intelligence.

Fellow, RIS; Prof. V. Kamakoti, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras; Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, Member, RAC of RIS; Dr V. Siddhartha, former Secretary of Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India; Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Indian Ambassador; Dr Sadhana Relia, Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science & Technology; Dr S.R. Rao, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology;

Ms. Kavita Bhatia, Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; Shri Mayank, Scientist D, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

From RIS, Dr Ravi Srinivas, Consultant; Shri Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor; Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate; Ms. Nimita Pandey, Research Associate and Ms. Geetika Khanduja, Research Assistant also attended the session.

Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India's Northeast Region: Interaction with Tamu Border Authority

RIS has been conducting a new study entitled "Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India's Northeast Region". In connection with this study, a four member study team, led by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, visited Tamu and met with Tamu Border Trade officials at Tamu, Myanmar on 9 April 2019. The meeting was attended by Indian Consul General, Mr Nandan Singh Bhaisora. Besides, Prof. Priyaranjan Singh, Manipur University also attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by District Collector, Tamu; Department of Trade, Customs; Trade Chambers from Moreh and Tamu, and other stake



Mr Nandan Singh Bhaisora, Consul General, Mandaley; India Study Team head by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, AIC and Prof. Priyaranjan Singh, Manipur University with Tamu Border Authority and other stake holders at the meeting.

holders and business community from India and Myanmar. Deliberations were held on border trade, procedures, impediments, setting up a Joint Border Trade

Committee, Rupee Trade, early completion of connectivity projects, e-visa, border pass, air and bus connectivity, Motor Vehicle Agreement and various other issues.

RIS Seminar on Act East: India's Trade at Northeastern Border

RIS organised a Seminar on "Act East: India's Trade at Northeastern Border" on 3 June 2019, New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyay chaired the seminar and made opening remarks. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made a presentation on "Act East: Trade in Northeast India". His presentation broadly covered challenges and opportunities in trade with neighbouring countries under the Act East Policy (AEP).

In particular, Dr De talked about previous and recent field visits to Northeast India and



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivering the Welcome Remarks.

drew several findings and policy recommendations for unlocking the potentials of Northeast region and various border connectivity projects and initiatives. Mr Vanlalruata Fanai, Assistant

General Manager, Research and Analysis Group, EXIM Bank was the discussant. The seminar was attended by research scholars, government officials, diplomats and among others.

India-Central Asia: Traditional Ties and Development Partnership

India has always prioritized strengthening of the development cooperation with the Central Asian Countries.

Considering the need, RIS had organised a Seminar on 'India-Central Asia: Traditional Ties and Development Partnership' on 4 April 2019, chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow. The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Alok Dimri, Ambassador of India to Kyrgyzstan was the lead speaker.

His exposition was followed by discussions by H. E. Mr Asein



Ambassador Alok Dimri, Ambassador of India to Kyrgyzstan, the lead speaker at the seminar with other fellow participants.

Isaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic; H. E. Mr Shalar Geldynazarov, Ambassador, Embassy of Turkmenistan; Mr A'zamjon Mansurov, First Secretary,

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Uzbekistan in India and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

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Improved Access to Medicines....

Findings from an earlier study, that paved the way for this study, have also been published in peer reviewed journals, including *BMJ Open*, *Indian Heart Journal* and *International Journal of Cardiology*.

This study was done under REWARD Project (focuses on Evidence Based Policy Making in Health, and, Access to Medicines

and Incentivizing Innovation in Drug R&D), funded by European Research Council (ERC) with University of Calgary, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), and RIS as the partner institutions.

As the study was conducted in partnership with Kerala government departments and local bodies, the findings are considered relevant

for public health policy-making in Kerala and of course for other states also. In this regard, RIS had organised dissemination workshop at Thiruvananthapuram on 26 June 2019 and a Consultation Meeting at New Delhi on 28 June 2019.

The detailed agendas of these workshops are available on RIS website: www.ris.org.in

FTAs and Indian Economy

A Discussion Meeting on FTAs and Indian Economy was organized on 9 May 2019 at RIS. The eminent persons involved actively in the discussions were: Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(MoC&I); Mr Ashwani Mahajan, National Convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch; ; Mr Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, MoC&I; Dr Rathin Roy, Director, NIPFP; Dr Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; Mr Anilesh Mahajan; and Dr Ram Upendra

Das, Head, Centre for Regional Trade. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, ; Prof. S. K. Mohanty; Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow; and Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow from RIS to part in the deliberations.

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India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture

Keeping this in view, RIS has been actively facilitating discussions on various aspects of the India-Africa cooperation in the agricultural sector. In continuation of this endeavour, RIS, in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) had organised a “Roundtable on India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture” on 7 June 2019.

H.E. Mr Ben Joubert, Acting High Commissioner, South African High Commission, New Delhi, had chaired the inaugural session. It began with the welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Dr Nafees Meah, South Asia Representative, IRRI. Dr Abdelbagi M Ismail, Regional Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, IRRI, gave special remarks. Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare delivered the inaugural address.

Session 1 on India-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture: Prospects and Challenges was chaired by Dr Suresh Pal, Director, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and

Policy Research. Dr Alka Bhargava, Additional Secretary (International Cooperation), Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare was the chairman for the Session 2 on India-Africa Cooperation in Agricultural R&D and Technologies. The concluding session was chaired by Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India. Dr Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary, MEA, delivered the special remarks. Dr Nafees Meah, South Asia Representative, IRRI, presented the Takeaways from the Discussion.

Many new ideas had emerged during the deliberations, which would be very well fed into the wider work programme of the RIS connected with Asia and Africa, where possibilities of sectoral specificities are being explored, as India prepares for the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in the next year.

The first point that need to underlined the significant role of SDGs in helping Africa move forward and how STI can be leveraged for addressing issues in hand. Second issue is in terms

of how India's own development experience, India's own policy fabric, that can be made relevant in terms of carrying forward the partnership between India-Africa in different sectors including agriculture, blue economy, fisheries and livestock. Third key point is the need for scaling-up the successful interventions made so far by the Indian partners in African countries.. The experience of Cotton-4 project carried out successfully by IL&FS is a case in point.

The final key point is in terms of the role of institutions. Indian institutions are getting linked with Africa, and also international institutions and Indian institutions are coming together in the form of support mechanisms, which are very important. This is what India has been emphasising in terms of engagement with Africa. To strengthen the process of institutionalization, successful example of setting- up of thirteen African Centres of Excellence by India in various African countries is a significant endeavour towards strengthening the partnership. The detailed agenda is available on RIS website www.ris.org.in

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Brainstorming Session....

Anant Mani, Pratham Education Foundation, New Delhi; and Mr Harsh Singh, Senior Coordinator, UNDP.

From RIS, Professor Sachin

Chaturvedi, Director General; Dr S. K. Mohanty, Professor; Professor Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor; Dr Sabyasachi

Saha, Assistant Professor; Mr Gaurav Sharma; Project Manager, GDI; Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant; and Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee participated. ■

STIP Lecture Series

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



Nineteenth STIP Forum Lecture was on “Response to emerging infectious diseases in the context of urbanization and global warming: where is the Science gone?” was delivered by Dr Oliver Telle, Researcher at CNRS, France de Sciences Humaines, Embassy of France, India on 22 April 2019. It was Chaired by Dr Dinkar M. Salunke, Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi chaired.



Twentieth STIP Forum Lecture was on “Relationship between S&T and Evolution in Methods of Knowledge Production” was delivered by Prof. Ravi B. Grover, Emeritus Professor and Former VC, Homi Bhabha National Institute and Member, Atomic Energy Commission on 7 June 2019. Prof. Ramamurti Rajaraman, Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, School of Physical Sciences, JNU chaired.

Strengthening India-Africa Economic Relations

RIS has initiated a major substantive research programme on trade, investment, technology and finance related cooperation with Africa. Considering this, a consultation was organised on 27 June 2019 for exploring way forward in identifying key priorities, key challenges and possible institutional cooperations and responses.

A large number of distinguished participants took part in the deliberations were: Amb. Satish Mehta; Amb. Ajit Kumar; Amb. Divyabh Manchanda; Amb.

Ajjampur Rangaiah Ghanashyam; Amb. Radhika Lokesh; Mr G V Srinivas, Joint Secretary, MEA; Mr Mohit Yadav, Director (C&WA), MEA; Mr E. B. Rajesh, International Regional Director-Africa, CII; Dr Milan Sharma, Head-Global Initiatives, IL&FS Clusters Development Initiative Ltd., Mr Nadeem Panjetan, Chief General Manager, EXIM Bank; Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey, JNU; Dr Shahid Ahmed, formerly Professor and Head, Jamia Millia Islamia; Prof. Suresh Kumar, formerly, Dept of

African Studies, University of Delhi; and Dr Ruchita Beri, IDSA.

From RIS Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr S.K. Mohanty; Ambassador Amar Sinha; Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan; Dr P.K. Anand; Mr Krishna Kumar; Dr Ravi Srinivas; Dr Beena Pandey; Mr Arun S. Nair; Dr Sabyasachi Saha; Dr Priyadarshi Dash; Dr Amit Kumar; Dr Sushil Kumar; Ms. Nimita Pandey; Dr Abha Jaiswal; Mr M.C. Arora; and Dr Namrata Pathak took part in discussion. ■



Shri Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS with distinguished participants at the consultation on India-Africa Economic Relations.

RIS Breakfast Seminar Series ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook and India

The 'Indo-Pacific' construct has gained significant attention in the recent years. Both, India and ASEAN, occupy important strategic positions in the region. India believes in an Indo-Pacific that is free, open and inclusive, and one that is founded upon a cooperative and collaborative rules-based order. This finds resonance not just across the region but across the entire world. Indo-Pacific is a region where several Asian powers are again rising; especially in geo-economic terms. While ASEAN centrality has been accepted, ASEAN and India can work together in building the Indo-Pacific. 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 exploitation of ocean resources, ASEAN and India can be ideal partners in advancing Indo-Pacific partnership.

ASEAN countries had presented their respective Indo-Pacific narratives. On 20 March 2019, Indonesia had hosted a High Level Indo-Pacific Dialogue at Jakarta. Thailand, being the ASEAN's Chair, is actively engaged in shaping the Indo-Pacific agenda, and it is important to understand the Thailand's Indo-Pacific strategy.

To analyse these issues in the light of the above backdrop, Dr Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered a RIS breakfast talk on "ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook and India" on 10 April 2019 at RIS. H.E. Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Thai Ambassador to India, also joined in the deliberations. The Seminar was Chaired by Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. A large number of participants took part in open discussion. ■



Dr Suriya Chindawongse delivering a talk at the RIS Breakfast Seminar.

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Approaching African Continent...

ambulance services, agriculture, and renewable energy. Although Indian businesses have significant presence in Africa, the risk perception among Indian investors seems to be very high which needs proactive action by the Indian missions in Africa, EXIM Bank of India, Export Promotion Council (EPC), industry associations like CII, FICCI, and other agencies involved in trade and investment promotion. EXIM Bank of India should spread awareness about investment opportunities in Africa and explore financing schemes along with the Lines of Credit (LoC). Export Promotion

Council (EPC) should organise exhibitions of Indian products in different countries in Africa. In view of high perceived risks handholding of private sector firms by the Government of India needs to be considered.

A large number of representatives from the business and industry circles, including KEC International Ltd; Larsen & Toubro Ltd; Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd; Tata Consultancy; Tata Motors Ltd; Tata Steel Ltd.; Engineers India Ltd; and Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. participated in the deliberations.

Shri Keshav Chandra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce,

Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Mr Prasanna V. Salian, Dy. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, gave their valuable suggestions at the consultation meeting. The EXIM Bank was represented by Mr David Rasquinha, ED; Mr Samuel Joseph; CGM; Mr David Sinate, CGM and Mr Prahalathan S. Iyer, CGM. From RIS Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, RIS, Governing Council and General Body; Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow; Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow; and Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, took part in the consultation meeting.

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Sixth IBSA Academic Forum

address, which was followed by a Panel Discussion on Contemporary Global Governance and the Role of IBSA, which was chaired by Amb. Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), India. The Panelists were: Professor William Gumede, School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Professor Wallace Moreira Lima, Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA), and Visiting Researcher, Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil; and Professor Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA); Executive Director of the Centre for Global Governance and Policy (CGGP), JSIA, India; Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller, Executive Director, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Pretoria, South Africa, was the lead discussant.

The Plenary Session I on Strengthening South-South Cooperation (SSC) through IBSA was Chaired by Mr José Romero Pereira Júnior, Coordinator, International Relations Program, Catholic University of Brasilia (UCB) and Researcher, Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil. Panelists in this session included: Professor Milindo Chakrabarti, Visiting Fellow, RIS, India; Professor Elizabeth Sidiropolous, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa; and Dr Elen De Paula Bueno, University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, India, was the lead discussant.

After this, a Special Session on 'Towards a Collaborative Academic Network among Institutions of Higher Learning in IBSA Countries – Opportunities and Potential Gains'

was chaired by Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Chairperson, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), and formerly Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. In this session, Professor Ahmed Bawa, Chief Executive Officer of Universities South Africa (USAf), South Africa; Professor A. Subramanyam Raju, Coordinator, Centre for Maritime Studies, School of Social Sciences & International Studies, Pondicherry University; India and Mr José Romero Pereira Júnior, Coordinator, International Relations Program, Catholic University of Brasilia (UCB) and Researcher, Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil were the panelists. Prof. Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA); Executive Director of the Centre for Global Governance and Policy (CGGP), JSIA, India, was the lead discussant.

On Day two began with, Plenary Session II on 'Trade Cooperation: Competitiveness and Complementarities' which was chaired by Professor Elizabeth Sidiropolous, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa. Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS, India; Professor Rasigan Maharajah, Chief Director Institute for Economic Research on Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa; and Professor Wallace Moreira Lima, Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA), and Visiting Researcher, Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil were panelists, and the lead discussant was Professor K. J. Joseph, Centre for Development Studies, India.

Mr Sheshadri Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS, Chaired

the Valedictory Session - 'IBSA 2030 – The Way Forward'. Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS and Faculty Coordinator, IBSA Fellowship Programme presented Rapporteur's Report. Representative Institution from Brazil and of South Africa presented their respective views. A special interaction with IBSA Sherpas was also organised.

On this occasion RIS publication entitled "*Dynamics of IBSA Development Cooperation*" was launched. The volume has contributions from the previous years IBSA Fellows.

The final declaration emanating from IBSA Academic Forum called for early convening of the impending IBSA Summit and outlined the role of IBSA with regard to its unwavering commitment to multilateralism, democratisation of the UN, role in promoting world peace and security, and mainstreaming sustainable development. The forum reiterated that the edifice of the IBSA partnership stands on strong pillars of South-South Cooperation with plurality of approaches and convergence of modalities and highlighted the importance of IBSA declaration on South-South Cooperation. The Academic Forum called for deeper trade integration and cooperation on standards, investment and the financial sector. Finally, the Academic Forum recommended strong academic and research linkages in IBSA for strengthening Southern perspectives on the development discourse; and leveraging emerging frontiers like human security, renewable energy and green technologies, blue economy and ocean governance that hold immense significance for IBSA. The complete text is available on RIS website: www.ris.org.in. ■

Capacity Building Programme

Fourth RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practice

RIS jointly with EXIM Bank of India had organised the fourth edition of 'RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on the International Trade Theory and Practices' during 10-19 June 2019. The programme to contribute towards capacity-building of scholars to be specialized in the international trade. The course covered the following themes— recent developments in trade theory; databases and information on International Trade, tools and techniques in trade analysis; understanding FTAs and regional trading blocs; issues of trade in technology; and trade and development: IPR and new issues. There were 49 scholars, including two from BIMSTEC Secretariat and one each from three BIMSTEC countries (Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand who took part).

The programme began with the welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, followed by remarks by Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS. Mr Debasish Mallick, DMD, Export-Import Bank gave the remarks and Inaugural address was given by Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Professor Deepak Nayyar, Professor Emeritus,



Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor Emeritus, JNU delivering the special lecture at the Fourth RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School.

JNU chaired the inaugural session and delivered special lecture.

The programme exposed students to deeper knowledge of quantitative skills by sharpening their knowledge base on various dimensions of trade theory with the help of eminent subject experts, including high-ranking knowledge providers from all over the country. It covered not only well established estimation and interpretation of trade, investment and services data techniques but also enabled them to have a better understanding of evolving trade and finance global architecture. The two-day practical application workshop was also organised to give them hands on

experience to deal with mega data sets for a practical dimension of the theoretical frameworks taught.

The participants were engaged in group assignments on the following themes: India's Trade Performance; Investment, Finance and Exchange Rate; Technology, GVC, Competitiveness; Multilateralism and Regionalism; and Trade and Employment. The short research articles prepared by them have been brought out in the publication: "International Trade Theory and Practice: Contemporary Issues." The detailed agenda is available on RIS website: www.ris.org.in. ■

Consultation on the Study on 'Export Promotion of Medicinal Plants Sector: Strategy for Select Medicinal Plants'

To discuss the issues raised by various Ministries concerned and the stakeholders before taking up the next step, a Consultation on the Study on 'Export Promotion of Medicinal Plants Sector: Strategy for Select Medicinal Plants' was held on 15 April 2019 at RIS.

The meeting began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS. Mr Rajeev Kher, Former Commerce

Secretary and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, delivered the Special Address and Dr Salahuddin Ayyub, Research Associate, RIS, made a presentation on the current status of the study. It was followed by observations made by Mr Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH; Mr Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Mr Anil Kumar Jain, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority;

Ms. Amarjeet Ahuja, IAS Retd, Chairman of Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants, National Biodiversity Authority; Mr Aswin K. Nayak, Chairman, SHEFEXIL; Prof Tanuja Manoj Nesari, CEO, NMPB; Mr Prahalathan Iyer, Chief General Manager, EXIM Bank; and Dr Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL. At the end, Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow extended the vote of thanks. ■

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General

- Made a presentation on 'Institutional Change and RRI: An Indian Perspective' at the joint conference "Pathways to Transformation" of the NUCLEUS and RRI-Practice projects, 20 June 2019 at Brussels.
- Made a presentation on 'Impact of New Financial Institutions in Regional/Global Financial Growth' at the 59th NDC Course during the module on 'Global Issues & Science and Technology' organised by the National Defence College on 19 June 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on at the 5th Economists' Huddle on Accelerating India's Economic Growth, organised by NITI Aayog, 18 June 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'India Kyrgyzstan Development Partnership for Sustainable and Inclusive Development' at the India-Kyrgyzstan Business Forum organised by the Embassy of India, Bishkek on 15 June 2019.
- Made a presentation on 'Leveraging STI for SDGs' at the T20 Summit 2019 organised by The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) on 26 May 2019 at Tokyo.
- Participated in the Interactive Meeting on Agricultural Policies and Action Plan for a Secure and Sustainable Agriculture organised by ICAR-NIAP on 22 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Developmental Dynamics of Tribal and Rural Areas of Central India' at the Sewa International Workshop organised by Sewa International in association with Yojak-Centre for Research and Strategic Planning for Sustainable on 16 May 2019 at Pune.
- Delivered Valedictory Address on 'Resetting the Research Priorities for a New Narrative on Development' at the ICSSR-Golden Jubilee Celebration organised by ICSSR, 13 May 2019, New Delhi.
- Panelist at the panel discussion on the book titled "India's Eastward Engagement: From Antiquity to Act East Policy" organised by ICWA on 1 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on Paradigm Shift: New Context, New Growth Story from India organised by

CNRI National Conclave on Financial Inclusion 2019 on 25 April 2019 at New Delhi.

- Made a presentation on 'Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)' at the 67th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organised by the Foreign Service Institute on 8 April 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Intellectual Property Rights & Technology Transfer' at the ASEAN-India Workshop organised by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) on 5 April 2019 at New Delhi.
- Made a presentation on 'Financing Sustainable Infrastructure' at the NDB Annual Meeting on 2 April 2019 at Cape Town.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty

- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on India's Export Potential in Iran held at the Department of Commerce, New Delhi on 21 June 2019.
- Participated in the Consultation Meeting on "Pre-Budget Meeting 2019-20 with Economist", Chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister at New Delhi on 14 June 2019.
- Participated in the Meeting Chaired by Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog on 'Indo-Russian Economic Cooperation' at New Delhi on 11 June 2019.
- Participated in the Conference on Synergising India Bangladesh Relations for a Mutually Beneficial Future, organised by Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council for International Co-operation) and made a presentation on 'India-Bangladesh Trade Relations: Emerging Possibilities for economic cooperation', at Kolkata on 8 June 2019.
- Participated in the Meeting of Steering Committee - Working Group#1: Economic Advisory Committee to Prime Minister, and made a presentation on 'National Accounting Framework for Blue Economy and Ocean Governance', organised by NITI Aayog, New Delhi on 16 May 2019
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on Negotiations on proposed Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Iran organised by the Department of Commerce at New Delhi on 15 May 2019

- Participated in the Discussion Meeting of Steering Committee, held at the Ministry of Earth Science, Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi on 10 May 2019
- Participated in the programme on Study Report on 'India's Economic Engagement with LAC-Strategy for Trade and Investment', organised by the Department of Commerce at New Delhi on 6 May 2019
- Participated in the Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees (OTs) of 2017 Batch and 2 Bhutanese diplomats and made a presentation on 'A New Paradigm of Development: Blue Economy' organised by the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 18 April 2019.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on 'Stakeholder's Consultation' and made a presentation on 'Iran India PTA: An Analysis for Margin of Preference', organised by the Department of Commerce at New Delhi on 14-15 April 2019.
- Participated in the IORA Workshop on the 'Strategic Planning Workshop and Follow-up on the Institutional Strengthening in the IORA Secretariat Workshop and made a presentation on "Proposal on Reforms in IORA Reinvigorating Economic Dynamism", organised by the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and International Relations & Cooperation Department, Republic of South Africa at Mauritius on 9-10 April 2019.
- Participated in the Discussion Meeting on 'India's Economic Engagement with LAC: Strategy for Trade and Investment', in Department of Commerce at New Delhi on 5 April 2019.

Mr. Rajeev Kher

Distinguished Fellow

- Participated as a Speaker in the Workshop on "Facilitating India's Act East Policy: Gap Analysis in Infrastructure at Land Customs Stations in the North Eastern Region of India" organised by ICRIER on 15 June 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meeting of the CII Core Group on China, organised by CII on 10 June 2019 at New Delhi.

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

- Participated in the joint meeting of the Board of Trade and the Council for Trade Development and Promotion under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, organised by the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 6 June 2019 at New Delhi.
- Delivered a lecture on 'India's Trade Policy-Emerging Challenges and Opportunities at the Reserve Bank of India on 31 May 2019 at Mumbai on Governor RBI's invitation.
- Participated as an Independent Director in the Board of Director's meeting of Kirloskar Brothers Limited held on 16 May 2019 at Pune.
- Participated in the Roundtable Discussion on "Current Trade Issues for Developing Countries" organised by ICRIER on 9 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Delivered a lecture in an interactive session on the topic "WTO: Concerning Issues" at the Foreign Service Institute, MEA on 8 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Panelist in the Book Launch and Discussion on "India and Bilateral Investment Treaties: Refusal, Acceptance, Backlash" organised by South Asian University on 7 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated as a Member in the meeting of the "Academic Advisory Committee", organised by Birla Institute of Management Technology on 27 April 2019 at Greater Noida.
- Participated as a Member in the meeting of High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 24 April 2019 at New Delhi.
- Participated in the Meeting of the India Advisory Board organized by Coca-Cola India on 21 April 2019 at Mumbai.
- Participated in a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on 18 April 2019 at Mumbai.
- Participated in the Conference on "Vision for India: 2030" jointly organized by ICRIER and British High Commission on 16 April 2019 at New Delhi.

- Participated as a speaker and Panelist in the CII Annual Session 2019 on "Future of World Trade" held on 5 April 2019 at New Delhi.

Prof. Amitabh Kundu Distinguished Fellow

- Delivered an Inaugural Address in the Conference on "Implementation of SDGs: Prospects and Challenges", organized by Jamia Millia Islamia on 20 April 2019 at New Delhi.
- Chaired a Session in Conference on "Financial Inclusion" organized by Confederation of NGOs Rural India (CNRI) on 25 April 2019, New Delhi.
- Confederation of NGOs Rural India (CNRI) Conferred Life Time award for research on participatory development on the 25 April 2019.
- Delivered a Keynote Address on "Capacity Building and Consumer Welfare" at Consumer Protection Workshop organized by Institute for Policy Research and Governance at Jammu University on 1 May 2019, Jammu.
- Presented an invited paper in a Seminar on "Migration Trends and Pattern", organized by the Institute for Human Development at New Delhi.
- Panelist to comment on the presentation on "AIIB- Changing Contours of Infrastructure Financing", organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs on 14 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Delivered an Inaugural Address at the Capacity Building Workshop organized by the Institute for Policy Research on 17 May 2019 at New Delhi.
- Delivered a Special Lecture on "Politics and Economics of Inequality" to all Oxfam staff and members on 7 June 2019 at New Delhi.
- Organized a UNESCO-RIS Workshop on Educational Development in North East of India during 19-20 June, 2019 at Guwahati.
- Presented a paper on Urbanization and De-industrialization in South Asian Urbanization at a Conference on 25-26 June 2019 held at Colombo.

Prof. T. C. James Visiting Fellow

- Delivered a talk on 'Border Measures in IPRs under International Agreements' at the Workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer' for ASEAN Member States, organised by Ministry of Science and Technology and the National Research Development Corporation at New Delhi on 2 April 2019.
- Delivered key note address at the National Seminar on Effective Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions: National and Community Experiences at National Law University and Judicial Academy, Guwahati, Assam on 3-4 May 2019.
- Made a presentation on Copyright, Trade Mark and Industrial Designs at Workshop on International Law at the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi on 20 June 2019.

Dr P. K. Anand Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the International Conference on "Training and Dialogue for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda" organized by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI)-German Development Institute/Managing Global Governance (MGG). Discussed and shared the Indian experience of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with particular focus on the role of the civil services on 24-26 April 2019 at Hyderabad.
- Participated and made a presentation at the Workshop on "Climate Change and Disaster Management in BIMSTEC Countries". organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). Concrete suggestions were given for reducing the risks of disasters on 18 June 2019 at Yangon.

Mr Krishna Kumar Visiting Fellow

- Participated in the International Conference on "Training and Dialogue for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda" organized by the Administrative Staff College of

Contributions to Outside Policy Dialogues

India (ASCI)-German Development Institute/Managing Global Governance (MGG). Discussed and shared the Indian experience of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with particular focus on the role of the civil services on 24-26 April 2019 at Hyderabad.

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- Participated in the programme organized by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for celebrating Statistics Day with the theme Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 29 June 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dr K. Ravi Srinivas Visiting Fellow

- Delivered a talk on 'What Role for RRI in governance of synthetic biology?' in a Workshop on 'Assessing the Impacts of Disruptive Technologies', organised by CSIRO on 3 May 2019 at Brisbane.

Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy

Consultant ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

- Made a presentation on 'India-Vietnam Maritime Connectivity: Trade and Investment Opportunities' at the Inaugural Workshop on India-Vietnam Maritime Cooperation organised by National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, 23 April 2019.
- Made a presentation on 'Indian Investment in Vietnam: Scope and Opportunities', at the interaction with Viet Nam Ambassador on 'Investment Opportunities in Vietnam' organised by the Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam and The Policy Times, New Delhi, 25 April 2019.

Launch of Journal of Asian Economic Integration

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) and India Studies Centre at Chulalongkorn University organised the launch of *Journal of Asian Economic Integration* at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand on 6 June 2019. Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) made the Opening Remarks. Dr Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation, UNESCAP, Bangkok gave Special Remarks. The Journal of Asian Economic Integration (JAEI), jointly published by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) of Chulalongkorn University, provides detailed coverage of a wide range of topics in economics relating to Asia, including investigation



Distinguished panelists at the launching session of Journal of Asian Economic Integration.

of current research, international comparisons and country studies. There was a panel discussion on "Asian Integration: Emerging Trends and Challenges", which was moderated by Dr Piti Srisangnam, Director, Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University. The panelist were: Dr Mia Mikic, Dr Charit Tingsadadh,

Associate Professor and former Director, Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University; Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; and Dr Witada Aunkoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP. At the end Dr Prabir De delivered the Vote of Thanks.



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Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre

Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India., Ph. 91-11-24682177-80

Fax: 91-11-24682173-74, Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in

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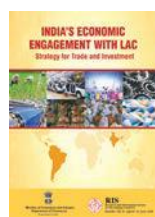


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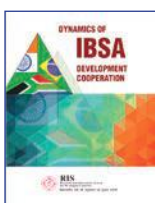


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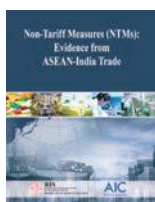
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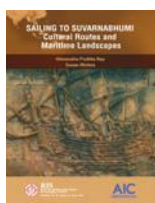
India's Economic Engagement with LAC Strategy for Trade and Investment
RIS, New Delhi, 2019



Dynamics of IBSA Development Cooperation
RIS, New Delhi, 2019



Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs): Evidence from ASEAN-India Trade
AIC and RIS, 2019



Sailing to Suvarnabhumi: Cultural Routes and Maritime Landscapes
Himanshu Prabha Ray and Susan Mishra, AIC and RIS, 2019



India-Central Asia Partnership: Moving for Regional Development and Connectivity
RIS, New Delhi, 2019



International Trade Theory and Practice: Contemporary Issues
RIS-EXIM Bank, New Delhi, 2019



Journal of Asian Economic Integration,
Vol. 1, No.1, April 2019, Sage

South Asia Economic Journal
Vol.20, No.1, March 2019, Sage

RIS DIARY
Volume 15 No. 2, April 2019

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REVIEW
Volume 2 No. 1 April 2019

#3 FITM POLICY BRIEF
Medicinal Plant Cultivation for Poverty Reduction: Prospects and Challenges by *Prof. T.C. James and Dr Namrata Pathak*.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY NEWS ALERT
Issue 16: 16-30 June 2019; Issue 15: 01-15 June 2019
Issue 14: 16-31 May 2019; Issue 13 : 01-15 May 2019
Issue 12 : 16-30 April 2019; Issue 11 : 01-15 April 2019

Contributions to Outside Publications by RIS Faculty

Chaturvedi, Sachin and Priyadarshi Dash. 2019. The G20 and Global Governance, *Japan Spotlight*, May/June Issue.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2019. Trade and Economic Integration for South Asia: Exploring Corridors and Dynamism in Asia. In Deeparghya Mukherjee (ed.) *Economic Integration in Asia: Key Prospects and Challenges with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership*. Routledge, London.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. and K. Ravi Srinivas. 2019. Technology Assessment in India. In Julia Hahn and Miltos Ladikas(ed.) *Constructing a Global Technology Assessment: Insights from Australia, China, Europe, Germany, India and Russia*. KIT Scientific Publishing, Karlsruhe.

Chaturvedi, Sachin (co-authored). 2019. 'Forward and Beyond' in *Cooperation Beyond Convention Independent Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, New York.

Chaturvedi, Sachin; Rahman Mustafizur; and Srinivas, Krishna Ravi. 2019. *Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for Implementing the 2030 Agenda*. G 20-2019, T 20 JapanPolicyBrief.

De, Prabir. 2019. "Building a Better Belt and Road", *East Asia Forum*, 25 April 2019.

De, Prabir. 2019. "Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: Agenda for the New Government", *Economic Times*, 1 June.

Mohanty, S. K. 2019. 'India's Economic Engagement with LAC: Strategy for Trade and Investment'. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, New Delhi.

James, T. C. 2019. Defining Traditional Knowledge – *National and International Perspectives' in Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions: National and Community Perspectives by Topi Basar (ed.)*, NLU&JA, Assam, Guwahati.

Kundu, Amitabh. 2019. Interview on National Statistical System. *Mint*. 7 May.

Kundu, Amitabh. 2019. "National Statistical must be Strengthened". *Hindustan Times*. 26 June.

Trade Relations and Negotiation Strategy



Dammu Ravi
Joint Secretary,
MoC&I

Trade is becoming an engine of growth for developing economies and is viewed as a catalyst for economic development. Considering the underneath dynamism of the external sector, trade policies are becoming important in regulating trade regime. In the trade policy, the tariff policy management becomes an important component to make a balance between import and export, apart from fulfilling other objectives including improving production efficiency in the economy and protecting domestic producers from foreign competition. Tariffs are reduced for products which are not produced domestically and increase tariffs for those products which are produced locally to protect their producers' interests. On the contrary developed countries maintain very low tariffs. They have strong intent to protect their domestic markets, but they use different instruments to realize their objectives. They use NTMs, which mostly come under the ambit of regulatory framework along with product standards. When importation of a product is not needed in a country, NTMs are invoked, otherwise they are in effect to restrict market access of other exporting countries.

Media often reports about India's expanding export deficit, which is often a worrying factor. Everyone aspires for higher exports, but not for imports. A healthy economy requires both exports and imports as the latter induce the former to grow. Moreover, we need several products not produced adequately in the domestic economy. Therefore, countries have limited prospects when protectionism and unilateral measures are undertaken to tackle trade deficit. From a long term perspective, the trade deficit is not a worrying factor for a country. For example, India has a trade deficit in goods sector but is having surplus in trade in services. Altogether India has a trillion dollar trade economy in terms of both goods and services.

Trading pattern of the world economy is changing fast on account of technology factor. Trade has become more complex during the last two decades due to inevitable of technology. In several manufacturing sectors, technology has put its strong footprints. For example, take the case of automobile sector. Earlier the cars exported out of a country used to have every component, manufactured locally in a country. Things have changed in the 21st century. Now cars are equipped with electronic chips, GPS system and so many other electronic systems. Several of these service components are added to the car making. Due to rapid expansion of technology in various manufacturing sectors, the distinction between purely goods and services is narrowing down. This has led to more complex manufacturing process, giving rise to greater role of GVC in the sector. Most likely, globalization has worked as a conduit for the expansion of GVC network in the world economy on the basis of cost efficiency.

Logistic is another important factor focusing on cost efficiency, particularly in the context of external trade. World-wide logistic cost is ranging between 6 and 8 per cent. Developed countries and several developing countries are adhering to such stipulation of logistic cost. In case of India, it is 12-14 per cent, meaning thereby exporting cost on account of logistics is increasing by 4 to 5 per cent. Effectively, Indian exporters are paying additional cost of more than that of developed countries due to poor logistic infrastructure. Therefore, Indian goods become non-competitive in the global markets. Experiences of other countries indicate that Trade and investment reinforce each other to enable a country to have large market access in the global economy. Developed and emerging countries bring investment along with technology. For example, Japan and Korea brought investment in the automobile sector after signing CEPA/CECA with India. This shows close relationship between trade and investment in strengthening market access in the host country.

In the 21st century, India is engaged with 10 FTAs and six PTAs as part of its medium term 'trade strategy'. While in PTA, tariff cut could be moderated to a low level, it could never go to zero level tariff. Under FTA negotiation, the level of tariff cut could be up to zero level which could be realized over a period of time. CEPA/CECA trade negotiations are more complex than FTA, and India has already signed similar agreements with Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Korea. Now India is negotiating with the most ambitious CEPA with RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership). The grouping has 16 countries including 10 ASEAN countries and six other countries from Asia and Oceania.

Technology is also bringing radical changes in the global trade scenario. The technology revolution under 4.0 such as robotics, Internet of Things, 3D, additive manufacturing, printing, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data, cyber security, simulation (real time data, mirroring the physical world in a virtual model), augmented reality, horizontal and vertical integration (automated value chain and bloc chain), etc., would influence the global trade in a significant way. The goods will not move physically, but they will go through an internet-based technology and will be manufactured remotely. It means a loss of revenue to the country because they can't charge tariffs on them. In order to handle these emerging dynamics, new set of global rules are required. Developed countries are already at a higher level as technology is their forte, but developing countries are to catch up with the technology race.

So how businesses, industries will be shaped in coming years as technology will play a crucial role. GVCs will become more complex. Policies are to be devised to position for new markets where the Indian products are competitive and India is able to take on those markets. With its continued reforms nearly for the last three decades, India became a \$2.7 trillion economy in 2018. India is likely to be the third largest economy in the world. In order to boost India's manufacturing sector, a new class of entrepreneurs has to be mentored, and youngsters in the tech space may be engaged under the flagship initiative of start-up India. Tech space and technology will play a very crucial role in trade. It would boost India's aspiration of a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 and is expected to play a critical role in the governance of the global trade.

Excerpts from the lecture delivered by Mr Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, MoC&I on "India's Trade Relations and Negotiation Strategies" at Fourth RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on 15 June 2019.