



## 15<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE

### ACHIEVING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN SOUTH ASIA

### PROGRAMME

**Day One: Thursday, 14 December 2023**

**0930-1000: Registration**

**1000-1030: Inaugural Session**

**Welcome Address by Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy**, Director General, MP-IDSA

**Inaugural Address by Shri Vinay Kwatra**, Foreign Secretary, Government of India

**Vote of Thanks by Dr. Ashok Behuria**, Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

1030-1045: Tea

**1045-1115: Special Address by Shri Dammu Ravi**, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs,

**Release of MP-IDSA Books**

**1115-1245: Working Session - I: Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: An Overview**

**Chair:** **Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy**, Director General, MP-IDSA

**Speakers:** **Dr. Achyut Wagle**, Professor, Kathmandu University, Nepal

**Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

**Dr. Radhicka Kapoor**, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India

**Mr. Asim Abdul Sattar**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, The Maldives National University, Maldives

**1245-1345: Working Session - II : Connectivity and Economic Partnership**

**Chair:** **Prof. Pami Dua**, Former Director, Delhi School of Economics, India

**Speakers:** **Mr. Anurag Acharya**, Director (Politics & Governance) Policy Entrepreneurs, Inc., Nepal

**Dr. Constantino Xavier**, Fellow, Foreign Policy and Security Studies Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) & **Ms. Riya Sinha**, Associate Fellow, Foreign Policy and Security, CSEP, India

**Prof. Rajat Kathuria**, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, India

**Dr. Ashok Behuria**, Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

1345-1430: Lunch

**1430-1600: Working Session - III : Market Integration and Supply Chains in South Asia**

**Chair:** **Prof. (Dr.) Amita Batra**, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, India

**Speakers:** **Mr. Mathisha Arangala**, Lead Economist Verité Research, Sri Lanka

**Dr. Zaw Oo**, Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development, Myanmar

**Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh**, Director, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) & President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics & **Mr. Soumya Bhowmick**, Associate Fellow, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy, ORF, India

**Prof. S.K. Mohanty**, Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India

**1600-1730: Working Session - IV : Sub-regional Initiatives in Economic Integration**

**Chair:** **Shri T.C.A. Ranganathan**, Former Head of EXIM Bank, India

**Speakers:** **Shri Tarun Vijay**, Former MP, Member of Executive Council, MP-IDSA

**Prof. Delwar Hossain**, Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Ms. Sonam Yangchen**, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Health Partners, Bhutan

**Mr. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin**, Former Charge d'Affaires of Myanmar at Embassy in Kuwait

**Ms. Araliya Weerakoon**, Research Assistant, Advocata Institute, Sri Lanka

## Day Two: Friday, 15 December 2023

**1000-1030: Special Address by Ms. Navita Srikant,**  
Independent Expert, Forensic Accounting &  
Anti-Corruption, India

### **1030-1200: Working Session - V : Digital Public Infrastructure in India and Beyond**

**Chair:** Shri Sharad Sharma, iSPIRT Foundation, India

**Speakers:** Dr. Mansi Kedia, ICRIER, India

Mr. Rohit Kumar, Co-Founder, The Quantum  
Hub, India

Ms. Kesang Om, CEO, Institute for Learning  
Solutions, Bhutan

Mr. Amit Agrahari, Former LAMP Fellow &  
Mr. Harshit Kacholiya, Policy Consultant at  
iSPIRT, India

### **1200-1300: Working Session - VI : Regional Trade: Challenges & Responses**

**Chair:** Amb. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, Former  
Chief Information Commissioner of India

**Speakers:** Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India

Prof. Pami Dua, Former Director, Delhi School  
of Economics; Dr. Deepika Goel, Associate  
Professor, Aryabhata College, University of  
Delhi & Dr. Neha Verma, Assistant  
Professor, Kirori Mal College, University of  
Delhi, India

Dr. Anand Kumar, Associate Fellow &  
Conference Coordinator, MP-IDSA

Dr. Pravakar Sahoo, Senior Lead, NITI Aayog  
& Dr. Smita Miglani, Consultant, Institute of  
Economic Growth, India

1300-1400: Lunch

**1400-1430: Special Address by Shri Deepak Bagla**, Former MD and CEO Invest India

**1430-1600: Working Session - VII : Achieving Regional Integration in South Asia: Way Forward**

**Chair:** **Prof. Mahendra P. Lama**, South Asia Center, JNU, India

**Speakers:** **Dr. Zaw Oo**, Executive Director, Centre for Economic and Social Development, Myanmar

**Dr. Achyut Wagle**, Professor, Kathmandu University, Nepal

**Mr. Asim Abdul Sattar**, Dean, Faculty of Arts, The Maldives National University, Maldives

**Prof. Delwar Hossain**, Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Mr. Mathisha Arangala**, Lead Economist Verité Research, Sri Lanka

**Vote of Thanks by Dr. Anand Kumar**, Associate Fellow & Conference Coordinator, MP-IDSA