

Achieving Regional Economic Integration in South Asia

14-15 December 2023

PROGRAMME

Day One: Thursday, 14 December 2023

0930-1000	Registration
1000-1030	Inaugural Session Introductory Remarks by Amb Sujan R. Chinoy, DG, MP-IDSA
	Inaugural Address Shri Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary
1030-1045	Tea
1045-1215	Working Session – I
Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: An Overview	
Chair: <i>Amb Sujan R. Chinoy, MP-IDSA</i>	
Speakers:	
1. Dr. Achyut Wagle, South Asian Economic Integration: A Geopolitical Quotient	
2. Prof. Fahmida Khatun, Investment opportunities for graduating LDCs through BIMSTEC	
3. Prof. Radhicka Kapoor, Regional cooperation and integration to promote women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship in South Asia	
4. Mr Asim Abdul Sattar (Dean), Achieving Regional Economic Integration in South Asia	

1215-1315	Working Session – II
Connectivity and Economic Partnership	
Chair: Shri Deepak Bagla	
Speakers:	
1. Mr. Anurag Acharya, Aid, Infrastructure and Regional Connectivity in South Asia: A Recipient Perspective	
2. Dr. Constantino Xavier & Riya Sinha, Strengthening India's Land Links Around the Bay of Bengal	
3. Prof. Rajat Kathuria, Connectivity and Economic Partnership in South Asia: A Lost Opportunity	
4. Dr. Ashok Behuria, Pakistan and the gap in Regional Connectivity	
1315-1400	Lunch

1400-1430	Special Address Mr. Dammu Ravi Secretary (Economic Relations)
1430-1600	Working Session – III
Market Integration and Supply Chains in South Asia	
Chair: Prof. Amita Batra	
Speakers:	
1. Mr. Mathisha Arangala, Looking Beyond Market Access in Regional Trade Agreements: Paving the Way for South Asian Supply Chain Integration	
2. Mr. Zaw Oo, Upgrading regional agriculture value chains: The case for pulses sufficiency and sustainability	
3. Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh & Soumya Bhowmick, Navigating Economic Shifts: India's Cohesive Role in the Bay of Bengal	
4. Prof. S.K. Mohanty, Exploring the Quest for Regional Identity in South Asia: A Focus on Trade and Macroeconomic Dynamics	

1600-1730	Working Session – IV
Sub-regional Initiatives in Economic Integration	
Chair: Shri T.C.A. Rangnathan (Former Head of Exim Bank)	
Speakers:	
1. Prof. Delwar Hossein, Deepening Sub-regional Economic Integration in South Asia: Assessing the Role of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Initiatives	
2. Ms. Sonam Yangchen, Health and Regional Integration in South Asian Countries: A Holistic Perspective	
3. Mr. Kyaw Nyunt Lwin, A New Concept of Regional Economic Integration among Bay of Bengal Coastal Countries (BBCC)	
4. Ms. Araliya Weerakoon, Can Sri Lanka Improve its Economic Growth through Trade Integration with South Asia and Southeast Asia?	

Day Two: Friday, 15 December 2023

1000-1030	Special Address Ms Navita Srikant “Terrorism as a hurdle to achieving Regional Economic Integration”
1030-1200	Working Session –V
Digital Public Infrastructure in India and Beyond	
Chair: Shri Sharad Sharma, iSPIRT, Bengaluru	
Speakers:	
1. Dr. Mansi Kediya, Digital Public Infrastructure: A Model for Enabling Trade and Global Development	
2. Mr. Rohit Kumar, Building an interconnected South Asian ecosystem: Principles for designing robust DPIs	
3. Ms Kesong Om, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in South Asia: A Bhutanese Perspective	
4. Mr. Amit Agrahari & Mr. Harshit Kacholiya, DPI in India and beyond	

1200-1300	Working Session – VI
Regional Trade: Challenges & Responses	
Chair: Amb. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	
Speakers:	
1. Dr. Prabir De, Barriers to Trade in South Asia: Emerging Trends, Challenges and Way Forward	
2. Prof. Pami Dua, Dr. Deepika Goel and Dr. Neha Verma, Nexus between Trade, Investment and Climate Change in South Asian Economies	
3. Dr. Anand Kumar, Financial Crisis and Regional Response in South Asia	
4. Dr. Pavakar Sahoo & Dr. Smita Miglani , Enhancing Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: Reforms in the post-Covid Era	
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1430	Special Address 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	
Speakers:	
1. Prof. Pami Dua	
2. Dr. Prabir De	
3. Prof. Delwar Hossein	
4. Mr. Mathisha Arangala,	
Vote of Thanks	