



**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, India

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

**Vote of Thanks by Dr. Ashok Behuria**, Senior Fellow & Coordinator South Asia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India

**1030-1045: Tea**

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

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

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

**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, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, India

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

**Dr. Ashok Behuria**, Senior Fellow & Coordinator South Asia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India

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, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 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 & President, Indian  
Society for Ecological Economics &  
**Mr. Soumya Bhowmick**, an Associate Fellow  
at the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy,  
Observer Research Foundation, 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,** Research and Information  
System for Developing Countries (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, Manohar Parrikar  
Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses,  
India

**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, Manohar Parrikar Institute for  
Defence Studies and Analyses, India