



10th South Asia Conference
Strengthening Connectivity in South Asia
March 28-29, 2017



DAY ONE: Tuesday, March 28, 2017	
0930 - 1000	Registration
1000-1030	<u>Curtain Raiser</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A Decade of Dialogue: Ten Years of South Asia Conference</i> Dr. Ashok Kumar Behuria, Coordinator, South Asia Centre, IDSA• <i>Connectivity in South Asia as a Regional Public Good</i> Shri Jayant Prasad, Director General, IDSA
1030 - 1100	Tea/Coffee Break
1100-1130	Keynote Address - Towards Digital South Asia Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India
1130-1330	<u>Session I: State of Connectivity in South Asia</u> Moderator: Shri Ranjit Rae, Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>State of Connectivity in South Asia: An Overview</i> - Dr. Rajat M. Nag, Distinguished Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi2. <i>Making People the Pivot to Enhance South Asian Connectivity</i> - Dr. A.F.M. Shamsul Bari, Chairman, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh3. <i>Connecting the Old Way: India-Pakistan Trade through Rail and Road</i> - Dr. Syed Akbar Zaidi, Political Economist, Karachi, Pakistan4. <i>Strengthening Cooperation in South Asia: Need for Out-of-the-Box Thinking</i> - Mr. Madhukar S. J.B. Rana, Former Finance Minister of Nepal
1330 - 1430	Lunch Break

1430 - 1700

Session II: Economics of Connectivity: Perspectives from the Region

Moderator: Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS, New Delhi

1. ***Strengthening Connectivity in South Asia: Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges***
- Dr. Daoud Ali Najafi, Former Transport and Civil Aviation Minister of Afghanistan
2. ***Proposed Land Bridge between India and Sri Lanka: A Rapid Qualitative Assessment***
- Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Founder, Point Pedro Institute of Development, Northern Province, Sri Lanka
3. ***Health Services Trade in South Asian Countries: Challenges and Opportunities***
- Dr. Vaqar Ahmed and Ms. Rabia Manzoor, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan
4. ***Role of India's Northeast in Facilitating South Asia Connectivity***
- Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, Shillong
5. ***Need for Reactivating the Trans-Western Himalayan Corridor: Optimising J&K's Strategic Advantage***
- Amb. (Prof.) P. Stobdan, Senior Fellow, IDSA

DAY TWO: Wednesday, March 29, 2017	
0930-1000	Tea/Coffee Break
1000-1030	<p><u>Special Session</u></p> <p>Chair: Lt. Gen. (Dr.) B.S. Malik, PVSM, AVSM (Retd.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Connecting South Asia and South East Asia: The BIMSTEC Perspective</i> Address by Ambassador Sumith Nakandala, Secretary General, BIMSTEC
1030-1300	<p><u>Session III: Challenges to Connectivity: Initiatives and Responses</u></p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre, RIS, New Delhi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Connectivity in South Asia: Opportunities, Potentials and Challenges</i> - Prof. Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, IPAG, Dhaka 2. <i>The Challenges of Energy Connectivity</i> - Ms. Shebonti Ray Dadwal, Senior Fellow, IDSA 3. <i>Afghanistan and Regional Connectivity in South Asia</i> - Mr. Ashraf Haidari, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul 4. <i>Challenges to Regional Connectivity in South Asia</i> - Ambassador Ali Hussain Didi, Former Maldivian Ambassador to EU 5. <i>Chabahar Port: A Strategic Analysis</i> - Mr. Abdul Qadeer Mutfi, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Kabul 6. <i>Cross Border Connectivity: Opportunities and Challenges</i> - Mr. Aye Lwin, Member, Myanmar Investment Commission, Yangon
1300 - 1400	Lunch Break

1400-1600	<p><u>Session IV: Role of Media and Civil Society in Enhancing Connectivity</u></p> <p>Moderator: Cmde. C. Uday Bhaskar (Retd.), Director, Society for Policy Studies (SPS), New Delhi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Connecting People: Key for Unleashing Regional Economic Growth</i> - Mr. Sujeev Shakya, Chairman, Nepal Economic Forum 2. <i>Artists Crossing Borders: Dreams which Refuse to Die</i> - Ms. Madeeha Gauhar, Founder, Ajoka Theatre, Lahore, Pakistan 3. <i>Strengthening Connectivity through Media in a Culturally Diverse Region</i> - Ms. Bhagya Senaratne, Lecturer, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Colombo, Sri Lanka 4. <i>Disconnect in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities</i> - Mr. Mahendra Ved, President, Commonwealth Journalists Association, New Delhi
1600-1630	Tea/Coffee Break
1630 -1730 hrs	<p><u>Session V: Panel Discussion: The Way Forward</u></p> <p>Moderator: Prof. S.D. Muni, Distinguished Fellow, IDSA</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Daoud Ali Najafi, Afghanistan • Ms. Madeeha Gauhar, Pakistan • Mr. Sujeev Shakya, Nepal • Prof. Syed Munir Khasru, Bangladesh • Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Sri Lanka • Ambassador Ali Hussain Didi, Maldives • Mr. Aye Lwin, Myanmar • Dr. Smruti S. Pattanaik, India <p><i>Vote of Thanks:</i> Conference Coordinator, Mr. Vishal Chandra</p>