



## **Global Development Centre (GDC)**

E stablished at RIS, the GDC aims to contribute to the evolving alternative development paradigm that goes beyond the doctrines of post Second World War and promotes the virtues of inclusiveness and sustainability. Developing countries have witnessed significant improvement in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, financial inclusion, energy transition and other areas which need to be properly analysed, assimilated and shared among other countries for wider adoption and replication.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic several developing countries are offering best practices in pandemic response. With deeper understanding of development theories and practices, GDC intends to promote this newly acquired knowledge from India's successful development and welfare programmes and initiatives among partner countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and facilitate learning from other country experiences through empirical research, sharing of skills, expertise and best practices, and exchange of human resources. In the spirit of collective understanding and partnership, the Centre along with its partner institutions, agencies and governments commits to promote equity and accessibility based on multi-disciplinary and multi-functional approaches for collective achievement of Agenda 2030.

# Context

Recent developments in India have attracted wide global attention not only in terms of their substance and articulation but also in the context of systemic changes that have contributed to ongoing economic and social transformation and improvements in 'ease of living' besides attempting behavioural and attitudinal changes. The shift from entitlement based approach to expansion of a globally competitive entrepreneurial base; shifting of unorganised sector to organized commercial sectors; and growing emphasis on industrialisation with less carbon footprint characterise an evolving growth strategy, aided by digitalisation and innovation, with special focus on localisation and financial inclusion.

While the Government agencies and public institutions, in partnership with private sector, are making extensive efforts at executing new policy initiatives, a simultaneous effort is needed to analyse the impact of the new trajectories for capturing a micro level development perspective, which can be globally shared for possible replication. This effort, obviously, requires a new ecosystem of institutions, including the critical role of civil society organizations, Think-Tanks and other entities to study the role and linkage of private and public sectors in India and other developing countries in this important process.

It is also well established that development processes in any country can no longer be seen exclusively through an economic lens, particularly since contemporary research shows the undeniable relevance of social, political, cultural and institutional factors in determining the dynamics of holistic development for the evolution of an ecosystem based on plurality of experiences.

As quality development has to be the key outcome of cooperation among the nations of the South in the backdrop of growing level of inter-linkages, the emergence of GDC fulfils the long-felt need of developing countries to have a credible platform for collection, exchange and assimilation of knowledge and development experiences of India and others for undertaking through joint research studies and capacity building well grounded on the broad principles of equity, sustainability and inclusivity through multi-disciplinary and multi-functional approach. The new narrative on development emerging from India and other parts of the world has to be captured for a realistic understanding of the current growth strategy in this field for its horizontal dissemination across Global South. The success of this endeavour largely depends on the engagement of its partner institutions, including relevant government agencies, Think-Tanks and civil society organizations having core competence and specific sectoral strengths to capture and promote possible replication of viable, transformative and affordable national development experiences and learning among developing countries for their accelerated economic development and collective self reliance.



(Left to Right): Amb. Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Manoj Kumar Bharti, AS (ED&SD), MEA, Gol; Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS; Gavin McGillivray, Head, DFID India; Pete Vowles, Director, DFID; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS

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# **Broad Vision**

- GDC aims to institutionalize India's development initiatives as part of knowledge sharing in Asia, Africa and Latin America with the help of its institutional partners.
- It intends to explore and articulate global development processes within a micro framework to collate and assimilate learning process of other countries towards promotion of equity, sustainability and inclusivity based on multidisciplinary and multifunctional approach.
- It strongly supports industrialization and diversification with less carbon footprints and growth strategy aided by digitalization and innovation with special focus on localization and financial institution.
- It attempts to study the role and linkage of the private and the public sector in India and in its partner countries for evolving well grounded development strategies.
- It intends to promote joint studies for collection, exchange and assimilation of knowledge and development experiences of India and other countries.
- It also aims to bring to India the successful experiences and initiatives of other countries for their possible absorption in India's development assistance strategies.
- It would strongly promote the establishment of workable linkages with various national and international institutions working on related areas.
- It would encourage evidence based research methodologies and case studies in its key domain areas, including Health, Quality Infrastructure, Science Technology and Innovation, Global Governance, Agriculture, Gender and Youth.
- It aims to evolve a new development narrative and create an ecosystem based on plurality of experiences along with sharing of India's development experiences with partner countries.



(Left to Right) Archna Vyas, Deputy Director, BMGF India; Hari Menon, Director, BMGF India; Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS; Dr Anupam Ray, JS (PP & R), MEA, GoI; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Rituparna Banerjee, GDC Manager; and Amit Arora, GDC Manager

- It also aims to steadfastly work within the country and partner institutions and countries towards the realization of Agenda 2030.
- The key focus of its research programmes is to assist the developing countries in the fulfilment of their needs in accordance with their specific development priorities and requirements without any pre-conditions and work towards increased South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

# Leveraging the Strength of RIS

- RIS has a long history of engaging in the study and analysis of developmental issues globally. There is great synergy between the objectives of GDC and the RIS work programme. GDC is closely linked with the pioneering work of its various platforms such as the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) a tripartite initiative for collaborative action with the engagement of civil society organizations, academia and government policymakers and shapers since 2013.
- Similarly, GDC partners with its platform for global debate on issues related to South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation called the 'Delhi Process' which captures the opportunities and challenges linked to development cooperation with special emphasis on South-South Cooperation. It distils the collective Southern view of development for global policy makers.
- In addition, the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) is also leveraged by the GDC for optimising its programme objectives and goals. The FIDC and the NeST, in particular, play a catalytic role in articulating Southern development models which can complement the GDC's efforts.



- The GDC also effectively disseminates its research and best practices through the Development Cooperation Review (DCR), a peer-reviewed journal on development issues.
- GDC is also well connected with its other major platforms such as Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Forum, BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think-Tanks (BNPTT), South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), BRICS Academic Forum, IBSA Academic Forum, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), IBSA Fellowship, RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School, and Internship Programme at RIS.

# **GDC Focus on SDGs**

Sustainable Agriculture (SDG-2), Health (SDG-3); Capacity Building, Skill Development, Youth and Education (SDG-4); Gender Equality (SDG-5); and. In addition, some crosscutting themes covering Development Cooperation (SDG-17); and digital connect, quality infrastructure, climate resilience and building institutions for development.



# **Institutional Outreach**

- GDC envisions as a bona fide platform of emerging practices, concepts and narratives of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. It is also establishing a new ecosystem of institutions consisting of governments, Think-Tanks, civil society organisations and the private sector to form coalitions on global best practices. Therefore, GDC is pursuing meaningful partnerships with international/national agencies are being pursued.
- In order to amplify, as part of GDC's institutional outreach and bring on board subject experts and policy makers, GDC conducts high level capacity building programmes for officials and practitioners from other developing countries. GDC is also connecting with prominent global governance forums for showcasing its achievements and widen partnerships for greater impact. It has prominently participated at the Paris Peace Forum and Global Goals Week, 2021-22 at Dubai.
- GDC also promotes localisation of SDGs and encourages cross-learning among Indian States on multifaceted development initiatives and experiences by connecting different stakeholders like government, academia, think-tanks, civil society organisations, etc.
- GDC organizes academic and policy dialogues in the form of workshops and conferences; and brainstorming sessions and public seminars with partner agencies of other developing countries from time to time.



GDC Participation at Paris Peace Forum

# **Thematic Areas**

Broad Theme	Sub-Themes
Agriculture and Nutrition	Strengthening systems for sustainable agricultural production and processing and leveraging promotional platforms
	Sustainable farm income, Productivity, Agricultural Insurance, Soil Management, Quality Seeds, Livelihood, Water, Food Security, Nutrition, Healthy Food Systems, Agriculture Credit, Cooperatives, Supply Chains etc.
Health	Enhancing universal access to quality health services
	Affordable Medicine, Traditional Medicine, Primary Healthcare, Sanitation, Generic Drugs, Biotechnology, Biopharmaceuticals, Vaccines, Pandemic Management etc.
STI & Digital Technologies	Foster technical collaborations to harness technology for accelerating inclusive development
	Digital and technological solutions for SDGs (digital public goods, Aadhaar enabled services- towards financial inclusion and direct benefit transfers, Digital Payment Solutions and FinTech, Vaccination Platforms - CoWIN)
Development Practices and New Frameworks	Conducting deeper studies, expanding base for relevant on developmental challenges evolving in different sectors
	Empirical Research on Development Strategies & Interventions, Repository of Case Studies & Best Practices, Multidisciplinary Approaches towards Analysis of Alternative Development Models with special focus on Climate Change, Women's Economic Empowerment, Gender Development etc.

### **Activities at a Glance**

### Agriculture

 Specialized Programme on Plant Variety Protection, Seed Testing and Certification

#### Health

- GDC Project on Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South at Paris Peace Forum
- India-Kenya Bilateral
  Technical Session on COWIN
- Coping with COVID: Experiences of Developing Countries in Vaccine Platforms and Rollout
- e-Workshop Series on Post Lockdown: Health Care Facility & Systems Preparedness and Response for COVID-19
- Occupational Health & Safety in the context of COVID-19
- e-Workshop series (II) on COVID-19 by PHFI and GDC-RIS



Webinar on Digital Vaccination Platforms



- e-Workshop series (I) on COVID-19 by PHFI and GDC-RIS
- GDC Fellowship Programme On Women's Economic Empowerment - Organised by SEWA, GDC and RIS
- GDC Fellowship Programme in Public Health Management -Organised by PHFI, GDC and RIS

#### **STI & Digital Technologies**

- Webinar on Strengthening **Cooperation Initiatives between** India and Côte d'Ivoire
- **Digital Payments Dialogue:** Experiences among developing countries





# Lending a helping hand

o promote coopera tion and mutual learning on how to achieve women's economic empowerment in a sustainable manner, the Self-Employed Women's Association, SEWA organised a 15-day training programme on Women's Economic Empowerment in the city. It saw 15 participants belonging to govern ment and civil society organisations in countries such as Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Bhutan.

The participants learned how to strengthen existing membership-based organizations (MBOs) through an integrated approach of work, income, food and social security. Along with extensive field visits, they got the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas and strategies with health workers, co-operative leaders, organizers, community leaders and different government officials in Ahmedabad and Delhi, Dialogue and discussion with policy-makers and senior bureaucrats was also an integral part of the exposure programme. Kezang Dolkar Dorji, In- has helped informal sector





ers (SABAH Bhutan), said, "This training programme is a fantastic opportunity for us to understand the concepts of social security and livelihood in a holistic way. It's indeed great to see that in more than 47

on how we can help Home Based Workers (HBWs) in their countries. I am impressed to see the way SEWA has closely collaborated with the government for better implementation of various flagship proyears of existence, SEWA grammes, including Ayushman Bharat and the Na-

Newspaper Clipping on GDC Fellowship with SEWA

#### **Development Practices and New Frameworks**

- Interview Interaction/Dialogue with World Bank Expert on Climate Change Actions
- Tapping Solar Energy: Sharing India's Experience and Forging Partnership with Asia, Pacific Island Countries
- Special Issue of Development Cooperation Review on 'Disaster Risk Management'



Webinar on Renewable Energy in Pacific Island Countries



Interview Interaction with World Bank Expert on Climate Change Actions



Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of Culture, Government of India visiting GDC Pavilion at the Exhibition on 75 Years of Development Partnership (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)

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RIS Research and Information System for Developing Countries विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

### **About RIS**

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

#### - Mahatma Gandhi

"The very core of our approach is public welfare through public participation and this public welfare is not just for India but for the entire world. And that is the reason we draw inspiration from our motto: Collective efforts, for growth of all, with everyone's trust (sabka sath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas).) And this too, is not confined within the borders of India."

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the UNGA on 27 September 2019



#### **Global Development Centre**

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