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## Editorial

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The special issue carries revised and substantially extended versions of selected papers presented at the International Conference on Peaceful and Prosperous South Asia – Opportunities and Challenges (ICSA-2017), organised by the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, on 27–29 March, 2017. In addition, the special issue also carries papers invited by other experts.

The purpose of this special issue is to examine the opportunities as well as the challenges for emerging South Asia in a globalised world. The contemporary, globalising economy is changing dramatically. Competitive, economic, and strategic space is no longer limited to that of a nation-state or even a region, neither are the agents limited to previous boundaries (Dana et al., 1999a). In South Asia, as in other regions, globalisation has given rise to new industries and created new employment opportunities. South Asian countries are unique due to their shared history and distinct geographies. Despite their geographic differences, agriculture, industry, and tourism constitute important sectors of the South Asian economies (Shreekant, 2012). South Asian countries being categorised as developing countries received preferential treatment for its textile products and agricultural products. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are becoming an increasing force in the globalisation of various economies. For economic development, the government of emerging economies in South Asian region should provide more support to SMEs (Wijesinghe et al., 2011). Literature reveals that SMEs play a significant role in achieving economic development (Moktan, 2007; Agarwal, 2006; Subrahmanya, 2005; Minto, 2004; Amaratunge, 2003; Gamage, 2003). SMEs also account for a substantial proportion of exports from most developing countries. Strong exports are critical for overall economic growth and poverty reduction. Hence, internationalisation of SMEs is very important for economic growth of any region. The term 'internationalisation' is commonly referred to as the process of increasing involvement in international business (Welch and Luostarinen, 1988). Traditionally, the international business literature focused on large multi-national corporations (Dana et al., 1999b). Growth in exports has been fuelled by smaller enterprises that were once confined to local or regional scope. This resulted in the removal of government imposed barriers that segregated and protected small businesses and also led to technological advances in manufacturing, transportation and telecommunications (Wright and Dana, 2003). There has been continuing research in the areas of internationalisation of small businesses especially in the area of exporting (McDougall and Oviatt, 1997).

There are many challenges that South Asian countries face that hinder globalisation and economic development which needs to be addressed. Led by robust growth in India, South Asia shows resilience in the face of turbulent international markets and remains the fastest-growing region in the world, with economic growth forecasted to gradually accelerate from 7.1% in 2016 to 7.3% in 2017, a report in 2016 said (World Bank, 2016a). In spite of this growth, poverty in the region remains high. About 399 million people – 40% of the world's poor – live on less than \$1.25 a day. Many countries in the region suffer from extreme forms of social exclusion and huge infrastructure gaps, and the larger countries are experiencing increases in inequality. Among the many challenges commonly found in this region, poverty is one of the biggest. Development in the region will be keys to meeting global poverty and prosperity goals. Leadership can play an important role in the growth of this region. A government that acts in the interests of all of its citizens rather than for itself or for subgroups is important. Good policies spearheaded by a leadership can propel a country towards achieving growth (Ghani and Ahmed, 2009). South Asian governments should recognise the need to implement additional reforms and address significant constraints to ensure that trade supports growth and benefits the poor. The significant constraints include insufficient and unreliable power supply, inhibiting red tape, limited access to financing by SMEs, inflexible labour market due to rigid labour laws and regulations, poorly defined property rights, inefficiencies at customs, and limited inland transport capacity. Globalisation created new

opportunities for South Asian countries but it also created new challenges and crises in related sectors of their economies. Globalisation only promised equal opportunities, but did not guarantee equal prosperity for all. It thus created unique opportunities as well as challenges for each South Asian country, and also placed them in competition with each other for the share of world prosperity (Shreekant, 2012). Within South Asia, individual countries cannot grow in isolation from each other, and regional cooperation is required. South Asia's integration with the global economy is low and integration within the region is even more limited. The ability to do business across borders is constrained by poor business environments and policies that have weighed on competitiveness, contributed to large-scale emigration and limited the ability to do business across borders. Over the long-term, enhancing regional and global integration will be critical in raising productivity and growth, providing jobs and reducing poverty (World Bank, 2016b).

This special issue includes seven papers which are as follow:

- 'India an emerging higher education hub for South Asian countries: globalisation and internationalisation essential keys for growth of South Asia' written by Kanupriya Misra Bakhru
- 'A study on relationship between leadership style and conflict resolution strategy in sustainable India' written by Kanika Garg and Mridula Mishra
- 'Has trade improved from SAPTA to SAFTA? Evidence from the gravity model' written by Kumar Gaurav and Nalin Bharti
- 'Why India still fighting for first FDI receipt country?' written by Reenu Kumari and Anil Kumar Sharma
- 'Internationalisation of SMEs: how does global mindset and network relationships impact in India' written by Ishaq Ahmad Dar
- 'Integration of South Asian stock market – a select study' written by Jitendra Kumar Dixit and Sanjeev Gupta
- 'Recent advances in total factor productivity growth measurement in agriculture: a review of literature' written by Manas Ranjan Behera and Alka Sharma.

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