

Introductory Remarks

by

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on the occasion of

Launch and Discussion of Book

**"India's Relations with International Monetary Fund 1991-2016:
25 Years in Perspective"**

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Sapru House, New Delhi

Dr. Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India,
Distinguished Panelists – Shri KV Eapen, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Dr. Anoop Singh, Member, 15th Finance Commission, Dr. Andreas Bauer, Senior Resident Representative, IMF, Smt.Sukanya Balakrishnan,
Shri Nalin Surie, former DG, ICWA who had commissioned this study and encouraged Shri Srinivas to complete it,
Shri V. Srinivas,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I on behalf of my colleagues warmly welcome you to the Indian Council of World Affairs.

We are here to launch Shri Srinivas' book on India's Relations with the IMF and also congratulate him on completing this very creative undertaking. It is often commented that civil servants today are less engaged with creative pursuits and older traditions of research, writing and analyses have weakened. Works such as this in fact establish the contrary position and Shri Srinivas is to be congratulated for the commitment and passion he brought to bear on this project. In the process he has, and I am happy to say this, cemented his relationship with the Council. So apart from this work Shri Srinivas is also completing a very valuable study on India and the Asian Infrastructure Bank which also should be out soon.

I do not wish to take too much time and we will have the opportunity of hearing about the book in detail. I will confine myself to three very brief points.

1. Firstly may I thank the Governor of the Reserve Bank for his presence here today. I am sure this will spur many in the audience to think on the same lines as Srinivas of penning policy oriented studies or even more academic works with a bearing on foreign policy and international relations. I would also wish to thank all the panelists for their presence here today.
2. Secondly a word about our Council's publication programme. We have a reasonable sized programme and you may wish to glance at some of the titles displayed outside. For those interested in studying a subject in depth this provides a very good opportunity and we are now translating many of these books into Hindi and other languages and hope to see language editions of this book on the IMF too.

3. Thirdly, I would like to congratulate Shri Srinivas for his first book and also congratulate Mrs. Srinivas and the family.

Finally on a personal note I would like to congratulate an old friend and colleague. Srinivas and I worked together in the office of Shri Jaswant Singh who was then External Affairs Minister and thereafter Finance Minister. It is good to see him use his experience of government and marry it with an academic perspective in the form of a rigorously researched book on an important subject. That he immersed himself into its research while discharging heavy administrative responsibilities both in the Government of India and in his parent state is all the more commendable.

Thank you very much and welcome again to this afternoon's proceedings.

