

# ICS Update



DEAR FRIENDS,

The **Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS)** remains actively engaged in its endeavours to disseminate informed analysis and foster discussions on a broad range of topics related to China and East Asia.

The **internship** program continues to draw fresh talent, with a significant number of applications received. The ICS provides a vibrant and engaging environment for young scholars passionate about Chinese and East Asian Studies. In March 2024, **four** new interns joined Team ICS.

## New Team Member Alert

**POORNIMA NAIR, RESEARCH INTERN**

**Poornima Nair** holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Hindu College, University of Delhi and a Master's degree in East Asian Studies from the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. She is interested in studying the intersections of disease, environment and nation building in modern Japan. At ICS, her research focuses on post-war restructuring of public health and disease control in US Occupied Japan from 1945-52.

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## RITIKA SHARON DAVID, RESEARCH INTERN

**Ritika Sharon David** completed her Bachelor's degree from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi in Political Science and History. She holds a Master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Panjab University, Chandigarh. She is also pursuing a Diploma in Chinese Language from Panjab University, Chandigarh.

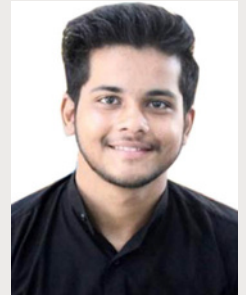
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## ASHUTOSH VASHISHTHA, RESEARCH INTERN

**Ashutosh Vashishtha** graduated from Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi with a Bachelor's degree in Physical Science. Additionally, he has a certificate in Chinese language from Ramjas Colleges School of Foreign and Indian Languages (SFIL) and a diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Indian Institute of Governance and Leadership (IIGL).

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## MEGHA KUMARI, RESEARCH INTERN

**Megha Kumari** is currently pursuing Master's in International Relations and Area Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is also a research intern at the Institute of Chinese Studies. She completed her Bachelor's in Political Science from University of Delhi. Her interests lie in exploring historical vantage points to examine the current geopolitical changes. She is interested in science and technology, gender and China's foreign policy.

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## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The ICS conducted **twelve** events in February and March 2024, including **three** Special Lectures and **eight** Wednesday Seminars. The institute also hosted **one** Delegation Visit from MIT-SOG, Pune.

### FEBRUARY

On 7 February 2024, the Institute conducted a seminar on **China in Multilateral Institutions: Objectives and Actions**. The speaker of the session was **Ambassador Asoke Mukerji**, former Indian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York; Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi; and, Member, International Institute of Strategic Studies, London. The speaker looked at China's interaction with multilateral institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN). He argued that China wishes to leverage its position and maintain its status quo. The speaker also noted that China aims to achieve economic and environmental coherence through its alignment with the developing countries at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The session was chaired by **Ambassador Kishan S. Rana**, Former Ambassador/High Commissioner; Professor Emeritus, DiploFoundation, Malta and Geneva; and, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Ambassador Rana discussed China's interactions with the world via multilateral institutions. He mentioned that China is blending its multilateral diplomacy with bilateral relations, strategically targeting, and engaging with key nations. ([YouTube](#))

On 14 February 2024, the Institute organised a panel discussion on **Taiwan Presidential and Legislative Yuan Elections: Outcomes and Challenges Ahead**. The speakers of the session were **Professor Arthur Ding**, Professor Emeritus, National Chengchi University, Taiwan; **Dr. Gunjan Singh**, Assistant Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat; and **Dr. Manoj Kumar Panigrahi**, Assistant Professor and Co-Director, Centre for Northeast Asia Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat. The speakers noted that the re-election of the Democratic Progressive Party was seen as reflecting the anti-China stance of the Taiwanese people. They also reflected on the re-location of Taiwanese companies from Mainland China and how India could become a viable alternative. The discussion was chaired by **Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh**, Research Fellow and Centre Coordinator, East Asia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Dr. Singh highlighted the escalating tensions between the PRC and Taiwan and also observed that it was unprecedented in Taiwan's thirty-year electoral history for a political party to win a third consecutive term. [\(YouTube\)](#)

A special lecture titled, **DPP-KMT Contestation Over the Nature of Relations with China: Domestic Dynamics and the Challenges from the PRC**, was conducted on 16 February 2024. The speaker of the session was **Mr. Courtney Donovan Smith**, Columnist, Taiwan News; Co-Founder, Editor and Host, Taiwan Report; and Co-Publisher, Compass Magazine, Taiwan. The speaker looked at the political dynamics between various political parties in Taiwan, particularly the DPP and the KMT and the implications it had for relations with China. He argued that there was an emergence of multi-party democracy, with KMT controlling the local level elections and the DPP emerging as a favourite at the national level. He also mentioned that the DPP's third term in Taiwan would not bring in much changes in Taiwan-PRC relations. The lecture was chaired by **Dr. Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Emphasising the importance of the elections, Dr. Yelery noted that multi-party democracy in Taiwan has been expanding swiftly. The political landscape has evolved beyond the traditional DPP-KMT rivalry, with the rise of the TPP and its growing voter base set to significantly influence Taiwanese politics. [\(Youtube\)](#)

A seminar titled, **Conundrum of Inter-Korea Dynamics: Historical and Structural Context**, was held on 21 February 2024. The speaker of the session was **Dr. Sandip Kumar Mishra**, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and, Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi. The speaker looked at South Korea's presence as an observer at NATO and what it means for its security policy. Dr. Mishra argued that South Korea's participation in NATO as an observer marked a shift from South Korea's traditional alliances and an attempt at security cooperation to address regional security challenges, particularly those from North Korea. The session was chaired by **Ambassador Skand Ranjan Tayal**, Chairman of India-Republic of Korea Friendship Society. Ambassador Tayal provided an overview of the complex situation on the Korean peninsula, highlighting escalating tensions between North and South Korea due to North Korean aggression and missile tests, and the Yoon Suk-Yeol administration's retaliatory stance. [\(YouTube\)](#)

The Institute organised a seminar titled, **Deng Xiaoping's Policy on Border Issues towards India, Russia and Japan in Comparison with Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping**, on 28 February 2024. The speaker of the session was **Ambassador Keiji Ide**, Former Japanese Ambassador; Faculty, Graduate School of Rikkyo University, Tokyo; and, Faculty, Higher School of Economics, Moscow. The speaker focused on a comparative understanding of the foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping. He argued that Deng Xiaoping believed in shelving disputes for economic stability and growth, whereas Xi Jinping prefers a mix of assertiveness and economic growth. The session was chaired by **Mr. Avtar Singh Bhasin**, Former Director, Historical Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. Mr. Bhasin emphasised the significant roles played by three Chinese leaders—Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and Xi Jinping—in transforming China's economy and addressing its territorial disputes with neighbouring countries. [\(YouTube\)](#)

## MARCH

The Institute organised a special lecture titled, **Communism Vs. Capitalism In Everyday Chinese Life Since 1949: The Life And Death Of A Cold War Interpretive Framing** on 2 March 2024. The speaker was **Professor Karl Gerth**, Professor of History and the Hsiu Endowed Chair in Chinese Studies, University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The speaker proposed a revision to the binary of "consumerism versus capitalism" as a lens to understand China. He used the history of consumerism in China to challenge this Cold War framework. He suggested viewing China through a new lens of varieties of state promoted consumerism and capitalism. The session was chaired by **Dr. Hemant Adlakha**, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Adlakha noted how consumerism in China has been discussed both in mainstream discourse in the academia and the media since the late 1970s open-door policy. [\(YouTube\)](#)

On 6 March 2024, a seminar titled, **The China Coast Guard: Interpreting Its Evolving Structure** was organised. The speaker was **Dr. Vikash Kumar Thakur**, Research Assistant, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speaker talked about the restructuring of the Chinese Coast Guard and how it was brought under the control of the People's Armed Forces. He further argued that the restructuring of the Coast Guard was a part of a broader trend in the region in view of the conflicts in the South and East China Sea. The session was chaired by **Dr. Atul Bhardwaj**, Fellow, Pradhan Mantri Museum and Library; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Bhardwaj highlighted the importance of the Coast Guard, who carry out policing operations in the troubled waters of the South and the East China Sea. [\(YouTube\)](#)

The Institute organised a seminar titled, **Teaching Chinese To The World: The Political Economy Of The Confucius Institutes**, on 13 March 2024. The speaker was **Professor Kenneth King**, Emerit, School of Education and School of Social and Political Studies, and, Former Director, Centre of African Studies and Professor, International and Comparative Education, University of Edinburgh. Professor King noted the importance of Confucian Institutes as a medium for informal interaction and as soft power tools. The speaker also highlighted the differences between the Confucian Institutes and its European counterparts. The session was chaired by **Ambassador Kishan S. Rana**, Former Ambassador/High Commissioner; Professor Emeritus, DiploFoundation, Malta and Geneva; and, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He mentioned that China's Confucius Institutes promote Chinese language and culture internationally, fostering educational and cultural exchanges. [\(YouTube\)](#)

On 19 March 2024, a special lecture titled, **Building China's Landlord State: Laying the Foundation for China's Real Estate Boom** was organised. The speaker was **Dr. Saul Wilson**, Assistant Professor, Ashoka University, Sonapat. The speaker traced the transformation of the real estate landscape, government management of land and industrial policy objectives in China. The speaker looked at the significance of the rise of the landlord state in China and its support to the real estate market in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. The session was chaired by **Dr. T.G. Suresh**, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Suresh noted how. China's transformation has led to extremely unpredictable economic and social outcomes. This rapid change has created a complex landscape of opportunities and challenges, influenced global markets and altered international relations. **(YouTube)**

On 20 March 2024, a seminar titled, **Swaying in the Middle: China in Myanmar's Peace Process** was organised. The speaker was **Dr. Jayshree Borah**, Visiting Researcher, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and, Non-Residential Fellow, Hong Kong Research Centre for Asian Studies, Hong Kong. The speaker analysed the peace process in Myanmar and looked at China's approach to achieving peace. Dr. Borah argued that China believed in engaging all parties to achieve peace in Myanmar. She further argued that China's interest in the peace process can only be explained by its intent to protect its interests. The session was chaired by **Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha**, Former Ambassador of India to China; and, Honorary Fellow and former Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He underscored that China holds significant influence in Myanmar, engaging with both the military and ethnic insurgent groups, primarily to advance its economic and strategic interests rather than act as an impartial mediator in the peace process. **(YouTube)**

On 27 March 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, **Issues And Factors Shaping Chinese Research On Indian Literature**. The lecture was delivered by **Dr. Bihu Ghosh**, Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. Dr. Ghosh looked at the changes and trends in Chinese translations of Indian literature. She argued that the study of Indian literature in China has been shaped by internal policies, socio-political dynamics, and the evolving relationship between India and China. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has historically set literary parameters, adapting control levels according to prevailing political climates. The session was chaired by **Professor Madhavi Thampi**, Former Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Professor Thampi mentioned that the impact of Indian literature on the discourse of Chinese literature is significant. Those who delve into this subject must possess a thorough understanding of the literature and its nuances. She further suggested that exploring figures like Tagore, as suggested, could offer substantial contributions. **(YouTube)**





*Professor Alka Acharya, Dr. Parimal Maya Sudhakar and Professor Sreemati Chakrabarti with students from MIT-SOG, Pune.*

## DELEGATION VISIT

On February 13 2024, the Institute of Chinese Studies welcomed students and teachers from the **MIT School of Government, Pune**. The delegation was headed by **Dr. Parimal Maya Sudhakar**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean-External Relations, MIT School of Government (MIT-SOG). **Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha** (Former Ambassador of India to China; and, Honorary Fellow and former Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi), **Professor Sreemati Chakrabarti**, Professor (Retd.), Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and **Professor Alka Acharya** (Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi) interacted with the students and introduced them to the history, research and activities of the Institute of Chinese Studies.

## PUBLICATIONS

### FEBRUARY

**Madhurendra Jha**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Studies, Doon University, Dehradun, translated an article on **ChatGPT “狂飙”，如何“迎战”？怎样“问责”？** **Encountering ChatGPT “Hurricane”: How to Make it “Accountable”?**, which was published under *ICS Translations*, in February 2024.

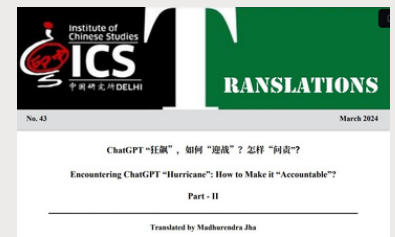
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## MARCH

**Madhurendra Jha**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Studies, Doon University, Dehradun, translated an article on **ChatGPT “狂飙”，如何“迎战”？怎样“问责”？ Encountering ChatGPT “Hurricane”: How to Make it “Accountable”? Part - II**, which was published under *ICS Translations*, in March 2024.

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## FACULTY UPDATE

### FEBRUARY

**M V Rappai**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, delivered a talk in a seminar titled, *Sun Zi's Art of War*, organised by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi, New Delhi, on 12 February 2024.

**Jabin T. Jacob**, Director, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies; Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, was a panellist in a discussion on *“Taiwan’s 2024 Elections: Interpreting Results Beyond Electoral Dynamics”*, organised by the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 13 February 2024.

**Alka Acharya**, Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, presented a paper, *“Perceptions and Assessments of the China Dream: A View from India”* at the Salzburg Global Seminar titled, *Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: Aspirations, Expectations and China’s Role in the 21st Century*, convened at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, from 18-21 February, 2024. She also chaired and participated in a Panel Discussion on *“The China Challenge: India and New Trends in East Asia”* in the *Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru Memorial Lectures 2024*, organised by the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 27 February 2024.

**Sushila Narasimhan**, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, co-edited a volume titled, *Geographies of Exchange between India and Japan*, published by the Kizuna India Japan Study Forum in collaboration with Manak Publications in February.

**Shamshad Ahmad Khan**, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani Dubai Campus, UAE, published a book chapter titled, "Partnership in Politics between Abe and India" in *India-Japan Partnership: Abe the Game Changer*, edited by Professor Srabani Roy Choudhury, in February 2024.

**Madhurima Nundy**, Fellow, Health and Human Development, Centre for Social and Economic Progress; and, Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and Rama V. Baru, Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, co-wrote a chapter titled, "Transformation of healthcare in China: pre-and post-Maoist eras" in the edited volume, *The Routledge Handbook of Political Economy of Health and Healthcare*, in February 2024.

**Poonam Surie**, Economist and Independent Researcher; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, published a book titled, *Contemporary China: Tradition and Modernity*, in February 2024.

## **MARCH**

**Jabin T. Jacob**, Director, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies; Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, delivered a lecture titled, "Bending the Arc of Time: The Communist Party of China's Status Signalling through Archaeology and Science Fiction", at Centre for China Studies, Ashoka University, on 5 March 2024.

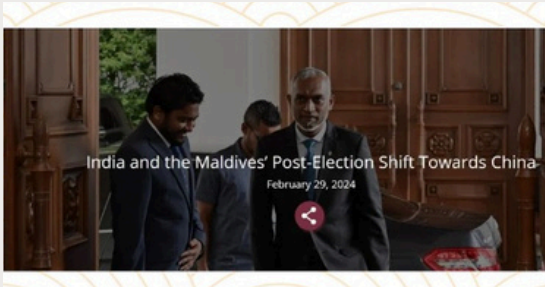
**Sreemati Chakrabarti**, Professor (Retd.), Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, delivered a keynote address at the *International Conference on Greening of the State and Society through Securitization in India and China* at IIT Madras, Chennai on 7 March 2024.

**Bhim B Subba**, Visiting Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, delivered a talk at the *National Seminar on Geo Political Challenges of Asia in 21st Century*, on 26 March 2024, organised by A.V. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Hyderabad. He also spoke on "What explains the CCP's Resilience?" at the *Network of Advanced Study of China (NASC) Conference*, held at the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore, Karnataka, from 29 to 30 October 2024.



## MEDIA UPDATE

### FEBRUARY



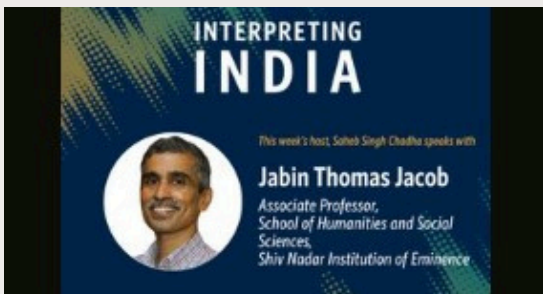
Jabin T. Jacob on **India and the Maldives' Post-Election Shift Towards China.**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **When an admiral gets to helm China's PLA**

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Jabin T. Jacob in the podcast Interpreting India on **China's Increased Presence in South Asia**

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Anand P. Krishnan on **Resolving Imbalances through More Development: Xinjiang's New Pilot Free Trade Zone**

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### MARCH



Jabin T. Jacob on **Decoding China's economy — Part I**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **Decoding China's economy — Part II**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **Making sense of China's anti-corruption agenda**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **China and India's intense contest for influence**

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Samanvya Hooda on **India's Missile Defence: Myth vs Realities**

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We look forward to your participation in our events and activities in the coming days and hope for your continued support. Please consider contributing to ICS. Click [here](#) to contribute.

## COMING UP

### 2<sup>ND</sup> AICEAS

Theme: *East Asia in the Post-Pandemic Era :  
Internal and External Dynamics*

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### GARGI AND VP DUTT MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speaker: Barry Naughton, Chinese Economy Expert,  
So Kwan Lok Professor, School of Global Policy and  
Strategy, University of California, San Diego.

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