

# 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 April-May 2024, **four** new interns joined Team ICS.

# **New Team Member Alert**

APRIL

KUSHI CHANDAK, RESEARCH INTERN

**Khushi Chandak** is a Bachelors student at IIM Indore's five-year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM). She has completed courses in Micro and Macro Economics, Monetary Policy, Sociology, Political Science and Psychology. Her research interests lie in gender studies and the economy of East Asia.



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# SHIKHAR SHARMA, RESEARCH INTERN

**Shikhar Sharma** is a Bachelors student in the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) at IIM Indore. He enjoys academic pursuits, particularly in the areas of finance, geopolitics and development, and research methodologies. Shikhar's interests span capital markets, global economics, government interventions, policy formulation, and geopolitical dynamics.



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# KANISHK RATHORE, RESEARCH INTERN

**Kanishk Rathore** is a Bachelors student in the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) at IIM Indore. He likes reading about International Relations and global security dynamics. He is interested in topics like the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) in China, the slowdown of real estate, and the emergence of China's civil and defence naval capabilities.



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## **MAY**

# ANUSHKA SISODIA, RESEARCH INTERN

**Anushka Sisodia** holds a Bachelors degree in Political Science from University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing Masters in Politics from the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai. Her core research interests are Chinese diplomacy and the role of its soft power in shaping China's narrative. As a student of political science, she is also keenly interested in diplomatic ties between India and China from economic perspective, diplomacy and geopolitics.



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# **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The ICS conducted **eleven** events in April and May 2024, including, **one** Conference, Gargi & VP Dutt Memorial Lecture, **one** Delegation Visit, **two** Book Discussions, and **six** Wednesday Seminars.

## **APRIL**

# **DELEGATION VISIT**





On 2 April 2024, a delegation of five scholars from the **Shanghai Institute of International Studies (SIIS)**, People's Republic of China visited the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The delegation was led by **Professor Chen Dongxiao**, President, SIIS, and comprised **Professor Yu Hongyuan**, **Professor Liu Zongyi**, **Prof. Wang Yuzhu**, **and Mrs. Li Hongmei**. The ICS was represented by **Professor Alka Acharya**, Honorary Director, ICS, senior Fellows, and a team of Research Associates, Assistants and Interns. Furthermore, research scholars from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi were also present. The visit included a fruitful discussion on various aspects of India-China relations, and witnessed a productive exchange of views between the delegates and the participants.



1st Gargi and VP Dutt Memorial Lecture

On 3 April 2024, the Institute organised the 1\* Gargi and VP Dutt Memorial Lecture (G&VPDML) titled, China's Economic Slowdown: Structural, Cyclical and Systemic. The speaker was Professor Barry Naughton, a Chinese economy expert; and, So Kwan Lok Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), University of California, San Diego. The lecture was chaired by Professor Biswajit Dhar, Professor, Council for Social Development; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. Professor Alka Acharya, Chairperson & Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, welcomed the audience and expressed gratitude to the Gargi and VP Foundation. Setting the tone of the lecture, Professor Dhar noted the importance of discussing the Chinese economy, which is important for the global economy.

Professor Naughton, an economist and China expert, began his lecture by discussing China's post-pandemic economic slowdown. He highlighted issues such as mild deflation, the depreciation of the Renminbi , youth unemployment, and a poorly performing stock market. He presented various scholarly opinions attributing the economic decline to structural changes such as a shrinking labour force, ageing population, and internal migration, as well as cyclical factors such as insufficient aggregate demand, housing crisis, and low demand for exports. Professor Naughton also discussed systemic factors influencing the Chinese economy, including incentives for research institutes aimed at boosting birthrates and tech-driven industries. He concluded by warning that China's protectionist measures might serve short-term goals but could lead to significant long-term economic costs. The lecture ended with an engaging Q&A session covering topics such as the US-China trade war, green industries, and President Xi Jinping's plans. (YouTube)

The Institute of Chinese Studies organised the **2nd All India Conference of East Asian Studies** in collaboration with the Centre for East Asian Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru from 5–6 April 2024 in virtual mode. The conference successfully facilitated one and a half days of productive dialogues and interactions, wherein a broad range of topics were explored and novel perspectives were presented. The Keynote Address, titled, **"The Turbulent Indo-Pacific"**, delivered by **Professor S.D. Muni**, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Distinguished Fellow & Member, Executive Council, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, set the tone for the conference.

The topics transcended single disciplines, such as identity and human rights discussed in sessions on 'Refugees and Migration,' 'Democratisation,' and 'Interregional and Intraregional Issues.' Papers examined ethnic and non-ethnic identity issues, including the Rohingyas, Taiwanese immigrants from the Mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau, and North Korean immigrants in China's Yanbian region. The papers explored democratic rights of refugees and immigrants through economic interests and examined political identities through cartoons, offering fresh perspectives on identity and rights. Another intriguing theme was the social transformation occurring within countries in the post-pandemic period. Several papers highlighted the recognition of women's rights through the lens of the "Me Too Movement" in South Korea and Taiwan, as well as the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Taiwan. The 'Multilateral' and 'Intra and Interregional' sections examined various post-pandemic security concerns. Some papers focused on economic security, especially in ASEAN countries and their involvement in BRI, while others addressed broader security issues. Papers also discussed South Korea and Japan's economic security dilemmas, with Japan's non-military security measures like joining the QUAD adding interest. Cybersecurity in the digital economy was also covered. Other papers explored how countries balance national and regional interests, such as ASEAN and the Trilateral Alliance. Additionally, the East-West divide was examined, questioning Western constructs imposed on Eastern values and rationality. More research is needed on these dimensions.

The Roundtable Discussion among **Professor Alka Acharya**, Chairperson & Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Directory, Institute of Chinese Studies; **Professor Vyjayanti Raghavan**, Professor (Retd.), Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; **Dr. Titli Basu**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; **Dr. Rahul Mishra**, Associate Professor, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, **Dr. Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, was beneficial for budding scholars. Panellists shared insights on scholarships, academic pathways, and career prospects in Korean, Chinese, Japanese, and Indo-Pacific Studies, addressing numerous questions from young participants.

The valedictory address by **Ambassador Eric Gonsalves**, former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was thought-provoking, drawing on his extensive regional experience. He reviewed significant changes and suggested ways to contextualise and understand the transformations. Highlighting concerns about political leadership, he noted that many papers argued for the importance of regional organisations in shaping the future, emphasising the need for stronger neighbouring country relations as the future of multilateralism.

On 10 April 2024, the Institute conducted a seminar on **The World Order that China Seeks**. The speaker was **Professor Mohan Kumar**, Dean & Professor, Strategic & International Initiatives, OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat; and, former Indian Ambassador to Bahrain & France. Ambassador Kumar discussed China's vision of creating a multipolar, non-Western world order, aiming to replace the United States as the dominant global power. He also highlighted major challenges faced by China, such as economic issues, an ageing population, massive debt, and difficulties in sustaining its export-led growth model. The seminar was chaired by **Ambassador Vijay K. Nambiar**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and former Indian Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. Ambassador Nambiar highlighted the comprehensive and strategic nature of China's rise, its implications for global power dynamics, and the necessity for India and the world to understand and respond to these developments. **(YouTube)** 

On 16 April 2024, the Institute conducted a book discussion on Contemporary China: Tradition and Modernity. The speaker, Ms. Poonam Surie, economist & independent researcher; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, highlighted the relevance of ancient Indian and Chinese philosophies like Buddhism and Confucianism in modern China. She analysed how the Communist Party uses non-Tibetan Buddhism for social control, tourism revenue generation and soft power diplomacy. Ms. Surie examined the applicability of Chanakya's Arthashastra principles to contemporary statecraft and economy. She discussed the influence of Confucianism on ethical norms, hierarchy, and community peace in Chinese society. Societal issues such as gender disparity, demographic challenges, impact of technology, and evolving role of religion in China were also covered. The panellists were Professor Sreemati Chakrabarti, Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies; and, Professor (Retd.), Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and, Founder & Chairman, Manas Advisory, Gurgaon. Professor Chakrabarti questioned the state of Buddhism in China, monk corruption, and CPC's control over non-Tibetan Buddhism. She discussed the influence of Kautilya's Arthashastra vis-a-vis ancient Chinese philosophies and the contrasting Confucian-Buddhist views on hierarchy and equality. Confucianism's condemnation during the May Fourth Movement and later revival were highlighted. She probed Xi's modernization approach compared to predecessors and raised concerns over unemployment, gender discrimination by the state, and the role of All-China Women's Federation. Mr. Bhoothalingam inquired about the dangers of China becoming a technological dystopia with unregulated science and tech development. He discussed the impact of youth experiences and their future leadership roles in China. He questioned how India and China's ancient civilisational learnings could address global challenges such as climate change. The extensive coverage of youth, gender, animal-human interface, environment and population issues in the book was appreciated. (YouTube)

The Institute organised a seminar titled, **Gender Issues and Feminism in Economically Advanced South Korea**, on 24 April 2024. The speaker of the session was **Ms. Hawon Jung**, journalist & author of Flowers of Fire: The Inside Story of South Korea's Feminist Movement and What It Means for Women's Rights Worldwide. Ms. Jung highlighted the anti-feminist stance of the South Korean president, the relegation of women to traditional roles, and concerns over the future of feminism. She shed light on gender inequality, misogyny, exclusion of women from decision-making, and male-dominated culture. Ms. Jung addressed the issues of low male contribution to household chores, low birth rates, tech-based sexual abuse, and the negative impact of the beauty industry on women's mental health. Although the #MeToo wave brought positive changes, but it also ignited victim-blaming debates.

The chair was **Professor Sandip Kumar Mishra**, Professor, Korean Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. Professor Mishra offered insights into recent trends in feminist movements in South Korea. He argued that Korea has seen the material manifestations of modernity. However, Koreans remain rooted in the social and cultural practices which becomes a reason for the prevalence of contradiction between gender norms and modernity. **(YouTube)** 

### MAY

On 1 May 2024, **Professor Manoj Pant**, Visiting Professor, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Greater Noida; and, former Vice-Chancellor and Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, delivered a lecture titled, **Geopolitics and Geoeconomics: Democratic Dividend to Demographic Dividend?** The seminar looked at economic interdependencies as crucial elements in addressing geopolitical challenges. He highlighted the criticality of global economic realities and argued that economic relations have a potential to outweigh political considerations. He also analysed the impact that young populations have on consumption and economic growth. The seminar was chaired by **Dr. Sanjaya Baru**, founder-trustee, Forum for National Security Studies; and, Distinguished Fellow, United Services Institution of India & Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Baru reiterated the importance of South-South trade and reiterated Professor Pant's assessment of economic needs taking precedence over political considerations. **(YouTube)** 

The Institute organised a panel discussion titled, Centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to China on 8 May 2024. The panellists were **Professor Uma Dasgupta**, former Professor, Social Sciences Division, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta and Delhi; and historian & Tagore biographer; Professor Amrit Sen, Professor, Department of English & former Director, Publishing Department, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan; and, Professor Sabaree Mitra, Chairperson & Professor, Centre for Chinese & South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. The panel looked at Tagore's interest in China and the nature of intellectual ferment in nineteenth century China. Professor Dasgupta provided a historical overview of Tagore's interactions with China by examining Tagore's writings, his correspondence with Xu Zhimo and his letters to Ranu Adhikari. Professor Sen looked at the multitude of meanings of 'travel'. He argued that Tagore looked at travel as 'tirtha'. 'Tirtha' had four elements for Tagore, namely, sankalpa, sancha, klesha and tirthpahal. He also explored the reasons for Tagore's reluctance to write about his work. Lastly, Professor Mitra examined the changing trends in Chinese interest in and research on Tagore. She looked at the translations of Tagore's works in China, identifying three distinct phases, each marked by a renewed interest influenced by evolving domestic realities in China As the chair of the session, Professor Patricia Uberoi, Emeritus Fellow & former Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies, talked about her encounter with Tagore and his works as a young scholar. She also highlighted the importance of studying and understanding the influence and importance of Tagore's ideas. (YouTube)

On 15 May, 2024, the Institute of Chinese Studies hosted a book discussion on **Beyond Binaries:**The World of India and China. The speaker was Mr. Shastri Ramachandran, journalist & contributor to Wion TV and WIONews.com. The session was chaired by Professor Sreemati Chakrabarti, Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies; and, Professor (Retd), Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. Professor Chakrabarti discussed her experience of reading the book and how the book reflected the experiences of the speaker in China. The discussant, Dr. Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, mentioned that the book serves as an anti-thesis, creating a narrative around the Sino-Indian relationship. The discussant also talked about the book capturing the interplay of factors that the said events brought forward, emphasising on potential avenues of cooperation between the two countries. (YouTube)

On 22 May 2024, a seminar titled, **EU-China Relations: Navigating Perilous Paths**, was conducted. The speaker was **Mr. Jens Eskelund**, President, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Beijing; and, Chief Representative, Maersk (Greater China Area and North-East Asia). The seminar looked at the current issues within the European business environment in China and the perceptions and challenges they face. The speaker noted the increased Chinese exports to the European Union (EU) and the absence of super-power rivalry that enabled economic security between the two partners. However, the speaker also spoke about the changing business environment in China and how India and South-East Asia have emerged as more viable options for European businesses. The session was chaired by **Mr. Santosh Pai**, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; and, Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. The chair commented on and sought answers to the kind of retributions that the European companies might face if they decided to leave China, using the example of Foxconn's increased engagement with India and the kind of retributions it faced from China. **(YouTube)** 

On 29 May 2024, the Institute of Chinese Studies hosted a panel discussion titled, 'Two Sessions' to The Third Plenum: Understanding the Chinese Party-State's Priorities, Challenges, and Future Directions. The speakers were Dr. Bhim B. Subba, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Telangana; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; Dr. Devendra Kumar, Associate Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Dr. Aravind Yelery, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Visiting Faculty, Fudan School of Management, Shanghai; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. The panel discussion focussed on the upcoming Third Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The panel highlighted the uniqueness of the Third Plenum, which was long overdue and has raised several doubts and speculations about the future of economic reforms in China. The panellists offered insights into the "two sessions" and used it as a vantage point to discuss the upcoming Third Plenum. Dr. Subba looked at issues of governance within the framework of the Third Plenum and argued that the Party was trying to encapsulate the State and augmented his arguments by pointing to how the State Council has been subsumed under Xi Jinping. Dr. Kumar looked at fiscal measures and argued that there will be no drastic changes that will be proposed in the Third Plenum. He also discussed how there will be a focus on deeper reforms for Chinese modernisation. Dr. Yelery looked at the economic aspects of the Third Plenum and looked at Li Qiang's report as a gateway to understand Chinese aims.

He argued that China will seek to create a unified national market. Additionally, he also argued that deeper reforms are inevitable for China as it stands today. Highlighting the importance of the panel, the chair, Dr. Anand P. Krishnan, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, argued that the unusual timing of the Third Plenum raises pertinent questions about issues in the Chinese economy (YouTube)

# **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **APRIL**

Hemant Adlakha, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature, and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Vice-Chairperson & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, translated 印外长再批尼赫鲁: 他那时讲"印度第二,中国第一"-观察者网 Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar Criticises Nehru's China Policy Again: "Nehru Said, 'India second, China first'" for ICS Translations in April 2024.



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Snigdha Konar, Research Associate & Assistant Director, Institute of Chinese Studies translated 断亲"话题上热搜,年轻人越来越不喜欢拜年走亲戚?"Broken Kinship" Trends: Young People Increasingly Dislike Family Gatherings During Holidays for ICS Translations in April 2024.

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### **MAY**

Hemant Adlakha, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature, and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Vice-Chairperson & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi translated 普京访华后,未来的中美关系将会走向何方? Zhang Zhikun: Putin Visits China. Whither China-US Relations? for ICS Translations in May 2024.

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# **FACULTY UPDATE**

### **FEBRUARY**

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, was a panellist in a discussion on "Development Politics: State Activity and Control in Frontier Regions", at the conference titled, Frontiers, Borderlands & Trade in the Shaping of the Himalayan Region, organised jointly by the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR, on 8 April 2024. He also delivered a lecture titled, "Political Dynamics in China: Impact on Indian Foreign Policy & Security Interests" at the Military College of Materials Management, Jabalpur on 12 April 2024. Additionally, he made a presentation on "Understanding Chinese Foreign Policy: Roots, Objectives and Practice", as a panellist at the Workshop on China and Pakistan, organised by Integrated Defence Staff Headquarters, Ministry of Defence and School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 23 April 2024. Dr. Jacob wrote a chapter titled, "India and the US-China Great Power Rivalry: Navigating between the BRI and the FOIP" in Lai-Ha Chan and Pak K. Lee (eds.). China-US Great-Power Rivalry: The Competitive Dynamics of Order-Building in the Indo-Pacific. London and New York: Routledge, 2024. He also wrote an essay on "China's Undeclared Competition with India in Regional and Global Institutions", in the Issue Brief on The Hot Peace between China and India, published by China Trends #19 for Institut Montaigne, under its China Trends series in April 2024.

**Torunika Roy**, Research Assistant, Institute of Chinese Studies, presented a paper titled, "Exploring The #MeToo Movement's Role in Shaping Democratisation in South Korea" at the 2nd All India Conference of East Asian Studies (AICEAS), organised virtually by Institute of Chinese Studies in collaboration with Centre for East Asian Studies, Department of International Studies, Political Science & History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), from 5-6 April 2024. She also presented a paper titled, "Navigating 'Critical Consciousness' among Women: Declining Fertility Rates and Its Impact on the South Korean Society" in the 2024 IKSU Annual International Conference, convened at the University of Central Lancashire, the United Kingdom, from 19-20 April 2024.

**Rajiv Ranjan**, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, presented a paper titled, "Reimagining Civilisational Connections: Pluriversal International Relations Theory for Global South", at the Third Global Young Scholars Forum: Global South and World Transformation held at Tongji University, Shanghai, from 20–21 April 2024.

**Rajiv Ranjan**, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, penned an article titled, "The changing contexts of international aid: examining Indian experiences for a BRICS way" for *India Review*, published on 22 May 2024.

**Anand P. Krishnan**, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, chaired a panel discussion on *'From the "Two Sessions" to the Third Plenum: Understanding the Chinese Party-state's Priorities, Challenges and Future Directions' for the ICS Wednesday Seminar on 29 May 2024.* 

# MEDIA UPDATE

### **APRIL**

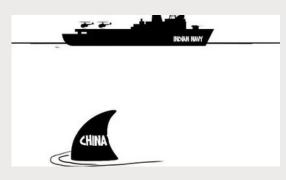


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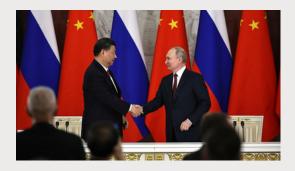


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We look forward to your participation in our events and activities in the coming days and hope for your continued support. Please consider contributing to ICS. Click here to contribute.

# **COMING UP**

# 17TH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF CHINA STUDIES

Understanding China in a Turbulent World: Geopolitical Contestation and Cooperation

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#### 16TH GIRI DESHINGKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speaker: Kamal Sheel
Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese
Studies, New Delhi; Professor (Retd.) of
Chinese Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

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