

ICS Update



DEAR FRIENDS,

The **Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS)** remains actively engaged in disseminating informed analysis and fostering 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. Five new interns and one research assistant joined Team ICS in August and September.

New Team Member Alert

AUGUST

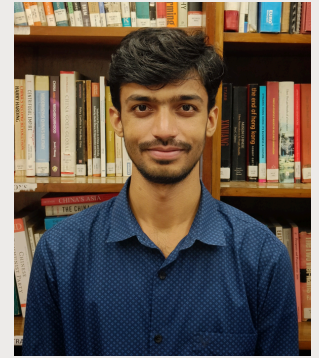
GARGI CHATURVEDI, RESEARCH INTERN

Gargi Chaturvedi is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She holds an M.A. degree in Chinese Language from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research interests include the Cultural Policy of the PRC under Xi Jinping, the CPC's use of History, Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature, and Gender and Migration issues in post-reform China. [Read More](#)



RAHUL BANSOD, RESEARCH INTERN

Rahul Bansod has recently completed his Masters in Politics with Specialization in International Relations (PISM) from the School of International Studies (SIS), JNU, New Delhi. He holds keen interest in areas ranging from the Political Economy of China, Great Power Transition, Aesthetics in International Politics, Critical Theory, Populism in International Relations, Emotions, Decoloniality, and Indian Politics. [Read More](#)



CHINMAI R. RAHANGDALE, RESEARCH INTERN

Chinmai R. Rahangdale is pursuing PhD in Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. She holds an M.A. degree in East Asian Studies. She has cleared UGC-NET in Chinese language. Her research interests encompass various aspects of Chinese Society, including Culture, Ethnic Minorities and Nationalism. She also takes a great interest in teaching the Chinese language and has taught Mandarin at the University of Mumbai. [Read More](#)



HRITIKA PATIL, RESEARCH INTERN

Hritika Patil is pursuing an M.A. in International Studies at Symbiosis School of International Studies, Symbiosis International University. She holds a B.A. in Political Science. Her research interests include the Indo-Pacific region, South Asia, China, and Latin America. In addition to her academic pursuits, she is a dedicated language learner, currently studying Spanish and Mandarin. [Read More](#)



SEPTEMBER

RAHUL KHESWA, RESEARCH INTERN

Rahul Kheswa is a recent postgraduate student from the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. He is qualified in UGC-NET for International Relations and Area Studies. His research interests include Chinese Modernity, Military History and Strategic Culture. At ICS, his research focuses on the Chinese Intervention in the Korean War from the vantage point of Chinese Strategic Culture. [Read More](#)



SWAYAMSIDDHA SAMAL, RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Swayamsiddha Samal is a Doctoral Scholar in Chinese Studies at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She holds an M.A. in Politics and International Relations from Pondicherry University and a B.A. in Mandarin from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research interest centres around China's domestic politics. [Read More](#)



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

The ICS conducted ten events in August and September 2024.

AUGUST

On 7 August 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, **Tibet: The Neighbour India Lost**. The speaker was **Dilip Sinha**, a writer and former diplomat. The seminar focused on the long-standing question of Tibet's statehood and sovereignty, with the speaker tracing its political trajectory in pursuit of these objectives. The presentation was divided into three sections – Tibet's failure in asserting its sovereignty claim, China's unchallenged claim over Tibet and India's role in resolving Tibet's tribulations. Amb. Sinha highlighted the significance of the ongoing Tibetan people's resistance and its implications for India-China relations in the context of India's future policies. The session was chaired by **Sonika Gupta**, Associate Professor, Global Politics, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Madras, Chennai, India. Dr. Gupta pointed out that this inquiry explores the complex nature of geopolitics from the Opium Wars to the 1950s, during which the question of Tibet's sovereignty and statehood became vital. ([YouTube](#))

On 14 August 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, **Hobson's Choice? The US and China after the Next Election**. The speaker was **Amit Gupta**, Senior Advisor, Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada; and has also served as Faculty, Department of International Security, U.S. Air Force Air War College, Maxwell AFB. The seminar addressed a series of compelling questions revolving around the upcoming US presidential elections and the resultant repercussions for China. Dr. Gupta argued that the Xi-Biden summit in San Francisco failed to yield substantial results, and if elected, the Harris administration could employ two approaches: either following the 'Biden Light' approach or adopting the 'Biden Heavy' approach. The session was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Professor and the Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Acharya highlighted that Hobson's choice is not just limited to China but extends to many other countries, but in China's case, the dilemma remains more acute. ([YouTube](#))

On 20 August 2024, the Institute organised the **16th Giri Deshingkar Memorial Lecture** titled, **India in the Chinese Quest for Nationalism and Modernity: Perspectives From Chinese Travel Writings**. The seminar was organised in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and our Media Partner, ThePrint. The speaker for the lecture was **Kamal Sheel**, Professor, Chinese Language, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; and Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. While China and India shared a civilisational bonhomie, the transition of both from a civilisation-state to a nation-state during the eventful late nineteenth and early twentieth century, is marked by the beginning of national anxieties in modern Chinese discourse on India. Dilemmas and predicaments that shrouded the concept of civilisation and its linkages with the modern concept of nationalism and modernity, brought India more in the picture. Prof. Sheel explored the writings of two notable personalities: Huang Maocai, a trained Chinese cartographer in the service of the imperial Qing state, deputed to ascertain the Tibet-India route and the geo-political status of British India; and Kang Youwei, a maverick intellectual of late 19th century, who was the author of *Yindu Youji (Record of Travel to India)*. ([YouTube](#))

On 21 August 2024, the Institute organised a panel discussion titled, **The Third Plenum and After: Understanding the Economic, Political and Ideological Messaging for China and the World.** The panellists for the discussion were **G. Venkat Raman**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore; **Aravind Yelery**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; **Swayamsiddha Samal**, Doctoral Candidate, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The panellists analysed the Third Plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. It examined the role of the party leadership in shaping the Plenum and the challenges that the CPC leadership and the Chinese economy are likely to face in the near future. The panel covered three aspects - economy, science and technology, and elite politics in the context of the Third Plenum. The discussant for the panel was **Bhim Subba**, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. The panel discussion was chaired by **Anand P. Krishnan**, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR. Dr. Krishnan briefly explored the themes covered during the Third Plenum and noted the frequent usage of the word 'new' in the document, which could potentially indicate a focus on innovation. Dr. Yelery argued that the delay in convening the Third Plenary session was linked to indecision over ministerial portfolio allocation, thereby highlighting internal decision-making challenges within the CPC. Dr. Subba pointed out that the Chinese leadership is urgently pushing for the implementation of as many reforms as possible by 2029, underscoring the critical importance of these changes for China's future trajectory. ([YouTube](#))

On 8 August 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, **Bay of Bengal Integration: Past, Present and Future.** The speaker was **Prabir De**, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Societies (RIS), New Delhi. The seminar provided valuable insights into the current trends and challenges with respect to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). It also presented strategies for future progress. The discussion focused on economic integration and infrastructure development in the region and addressed the implications of recent regional changes on ongoing projects. Dr. De argued that political integration is essential for advancing economic goals and questioned whether the region should prioritise economic, political or a combined approach to integration. The session was chaired by **Biswajit Dhar**, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi; and former Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Dhar asserted that greater focus needs to be given to strengthening the production networks in the region and enhancing economic ties that could help push political issues to the background. ([YouTube](#))

SEPTEMBER

On 4 September 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, [**The 3rd Plenum and the CPC's 'Two-Line Struggle'**](#). The speaker was **Hemant Adlakha**, Vice Chairperson and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The seminar focused on the evolving “two-line struggle” within the Communist Party of China under the leadership of Xi Jinping. It explored internal ideological conflicts and factional disputes, and the discussion centred on the delay in convening the Third Plenary Session and the omission of “Public Ownership” in its decision document. Dr. Adlakha highlighted the historical background of the “two-line struggle” within the CPC, which has been a recurring theme since the pre-1949 period and continues to manifest itself in contemporary politics. The seminar was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Professor and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Acharya highlighted the way in which internal divisions continue to shape party politics, emphasising the ongoing relevance of historical ideological battles within the CPC. ([YouTube](#))

On 11 September 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, [**The Covid-19 Outbreak And Its Impact on Chinese Language: A Study of the New Morphological Construction**](#). The speaker was **Somya Nayak**, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. The seminar focused on the evolution of language systems, with an emphasis on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Chinese language. The discussion aimed to explore how significant societal changes, such as those brought about by the pandemic, influence language development and the emergence of new vocabulary. Dr. Nayak argued that sociolinguistics is crucial in understanding the relationship between language and society, as societal changes significantly influence language development. The pandemic has prompted a re-evaluation of how language is employed. The seminar was chaired by **Sabaree Mitra**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Mitra underscored the importance of studying linguistic evolution in the context of major social disruptions. ([YouTube](#))

On 18 September 2024, the Institute organised a book discussion on [**Chinese Statecraft in a Changing World: Demystifying Enduring Traditions and Dynamic Constraints**](#). The author of the book was **Jean Dong**, Research Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne and Visiting Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The discussion focused on the long-standing traditions and shifting dynamics that continue to shape China’s foreign policy and its impact on modern geopolitics. It offered policy suggestions for engaging with the country in a constructive manner. Ms. Dong stated that her book aims to address the question posed by Henry Kissinger in his book, *On China*, as to whether crises leading to wars are driven by a nation’s capabilities or conduct. The moderator was **Neha Bansal**, Senior International Development Specialist and Founder, ‘Asianism-Retold.’ Ms. Bansal highlighted China’s role in developmental initiatives as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and its gradual change in economic strategies.

On 24 September 2024, the Institute organised a conference titled, **Centenary Celebration of Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to China, A Memorable Encounter: Significance for Civilisational Dialogue in the Contemporary World.** The conference was organised in collaboration with India International Centre (IIC), Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Intercivilizational Dialogue Project (IDP), Gandhi Global Family (GGF) and Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University at India International Centre, New Delhi. It sought to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to China, which holds significant cultural and historical importance and explore the lasting impact of Tagore's philosophy and work on Chinese intellectuals and society. The speakers at the conference highlighted the deep cultural ties and mutual influence between India and China, and the different ways in which the visit was received and written about. The overall aim was to celebrate the legacy of Tagore's visit and its role in shaping cultural diplomacy and intellectual collaboration between India and China. Tagore reached China on April 12, 1924, on the invitation of the Beijing Lecture Association and was received warmly by Liang Qichao, one of China's foremost intellectuals of the time, as well as his young hosts and interpreters, Lin Huiyin and Xu Zhimo. Tagore's works and his visit had a big impact on modern Chinese literature. Poets like Bing Xin and Xu Zhimo were very much influenced by his style.

On 25 September 2024, the Institute organised a seminar titled, **Slowdown in the Chinese Economy: Views, Perspectives and Narratives.** The speaker for the seminar was **Sriram Natrajan**, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and independent researcher on Development Theory, Food Security, Nutrition and Chinese Agriculture. The seminar provided insights into the slowdown in the Chinese economy and analysed the narratives pertaining to it. The session attempted to move beyond a partisan understanding of Chinese economic circumstances and put forth an alternative framework for understanding these developments. Dr. Natrajan reviewed recent news reports and their representation of the Chinese economy. He referred to Martin Wolf's recent article and stated that it provides a more balanced overview of the Chinese economy. The seminar was chaired by **G. Venkat Raman**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi and Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore. Prof. Raman stressed the importance of having a critical eye to see beyond the Western narratives and the propaganda emanating from their media houses. ([YouTube](#))

PUBLICATIONS

AUGUST

Debasish Chaudhuri, Visiting Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, wrote **In Memoriam: A Tribute to Jiang Ping's Nahan** for *ICS Analysis* in August 2014.



Kishan S. Rana, former Indian Ambassador, Professor Emeritus, DiploFoundation, Malta and Geneva; and Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, wrote **Third Plenum of the CPC Central Committee; Demography Imperatives; US Presidential Elections** for *ICS Analysis* in August 2024.



Cherry Hitkari, Doctoral Scholar, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; and, Non-Resident Vasey Fellow, Pacific Forum, translated **居心叵测的日本防卫白皮书 Japan Defence White Paper has Hidden Agenda** for *ICS Translations* in August 2024.



Saranya, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, wrote **潘禹：AI时代，中国占到了意想不到的先手 Pan Yu: China has Gained First-mover Advantage in the AI Race** for *ICS Translations* in August 2024.



SEPTEMBER

Hemant Adlakha, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, wrote **胡乔木的悲哀 Hu Qiaomu and His Melancholy** for *ICS Translations* in September 2024.



Saranya, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, wrote **人工智能军备竞赛如火如荼，谁将率先制定“数字之神”信条？ AI Arms Race in Full Swing: Who Will Create a “Digital God” First?** for *ICS Translations* in September 2024.



FACULTY UPDATE

AUGUST

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 **China Chronicles: Decoding China's Third Plenum**, at the Observer Research Foundation on 9 August 2024. He also delivered a lecture, **Non-interference with Chinese Characteristics: How China Deploys its Economic Wealth, Scale and Connections** at Naosena Bhawan, New Delhi on 30 August 2024.

SEPTEMBER

Usha Chandran, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; and Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, presented a paper titled, **论鲁迅作品中的‘死亡’ ('Death' in Lu Xun's Work)**, at the International Conference to Commemorate Hundred years of Lu Xun's Speech in North-West University, Xi'an, China, held at North-West University, Xi'an from 21-22 September 2024. She also delivered two lectures titled, **印度妇女发展的现状和挑战 (The State of Indian Women and the Challenges Faced by Them)**, at China Women's University, Beijing on 24 September 2024 and **娜拉'的亚洲之行: 鲁迅和泰戈尔作品中“新女性”的诞生之研究 (Nora's Travel to Asia: The Birth of "New Women" in Lu Xun and Tagore's Work)**, at the Centre for South Asian Studies, Beijing University on 25 September 2024.

MEDIA UPDATE

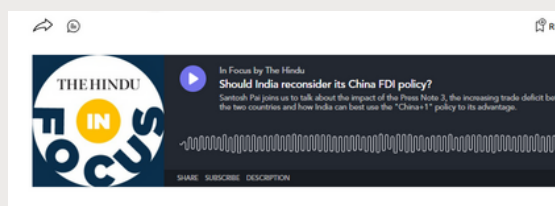
AUGUST



Jabin T. Jacob on **'There's more to the "Tibet Border" Speech than Geopolitics.'** [Read more](#)



Jabin T. Jacob on **'Prospects of India-China Thaw.'** [Read more](#)



Santosh Pai's podcast on **'Should India Reconsider its FDI Policy?'** [Read more](#)



Amita Batra on **'Simplistic to think Chinese investments will improve India's trade balance.'** [Read more](#)

SEPTEMBER



Anand P. Krishnan on **'With or Without Chinese Companies is the Question.'**

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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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