

# 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 attract fresh talent, as evidenced by the substantial number of applications received. ICS provides a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment for young scholars committed to Chinese and East Asian research and studies. In December 2024 and January 2025, four new interns joined Team ICS.

## NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT

### DECEMBER-JANUARY

#### NAVNEET KUMAR, RESEARCH INTERN

**Navneet Kumar** holds a BA and an MA` degree in Chinese from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He qualified for the UGC NET-JRF in Chinese language in December 2023. He is passionate about Chinese language, literature, science & technology, modernisation, and science fiction literature in contemporary China. [Read More >>](#)



#### MANASHJYOTI KARJEE, RESEARCH INTERN

**Manashjyoti Karjee** is a researcher in Security & Society at the Advanced Studies Institute of Asia. He holds an MA in International Relations and Area Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia and a BA in Political Science from Ramjas College, University of Delhi. [Read More >>](#)



#### MANIKARAN SINGH, RESEARCH INTERN

**Manikaran Singh** is a Research Intern at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He holds an MA in Politics with a specialisation in International Relations from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. [Read More >>](#)



#### REKHA J, RESEARCH INTERN

**Rekha J** holds an MA in International Relations and Politics from the School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, and a BA in Political Science. [Read More >>](#)



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## EVENTS

The ICS conducted **eleven** events in December 2024 and January 2025.

### DECEMBER

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Cross-Strait Relations and Challenges for Taiwan's Indo-Pacific Policy** on 4 December 2024. The speaker was **Mei-chuan Wei**, Associate Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), National Chengchi University (NCCU). The speaker focused on the challenges Taiwan faces in cross-strait relations and its evolving role in the Indo-Pacific. The session was chaired by **Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies. He noted that studying about Taiwanese indigenous perspectives on contemporary politics from the point of view of political theory and historiography, provides more compelling narratives of Taiwan's relationship with mainland China. [\(YouTube\)](#)

The ICS organised a panel discussion on the **19th Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference, 2024**, on 9 December, 2024. The discussion explored the outcomes of the 19th Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference hosted by The Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow from 9-10 October, 2024. The speakers were **Anuradha Chenoy**, Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University, Sonapat; **Jabin T. Jacob**, Associate Professor, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; **Lt. Gen. S.L. Narasimhan**, Adjunct Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai; and, Adjunct Professor, NIAS, Bengaluru; and, **Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speakers addressed regional and global challenges, including India's need for investments, China's search for markets amidst Western pressures, and Russia's focus on trilateral cooperation to maintain regional relevance. The speakers also noted that bilateral tensions, limited organisational scope, and contrasting agendas create barriers. While Russia seeks alignment, China's focus on ideological initiatives and pragmatic cooperation often results in scepticism about achieving substantial outcomes. The speakers also highlighted that progress in RIC energy collaboration remains limited, and while Russia benefits from hydrocarbon exports, energy transition efforts are hindered by inadequate investment, innovation, and cooperation, with key benchmarks like accessibility and affordability unmet. The panel discussion was moderated by **Alka Acharya**, Director ICS; and, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi who characterised the conference as a platform uniting one-fifth of humanity and some of the largest territorial spaces, bringing together rising powers with deep historical, cultural, civilisational, economic, and political linkages, making it a bloc to be reckoned with, capable of fostering meaningful exchanges. **(YouTube)**

On 11 December 2024, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Chinese Community in India: Negotiating Mobility and Belonging**. The speaker was **Severin Kuok**, Guest faculty in Chinese language, School of Global Affairs, Dr B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi; and a recipient of the ICS-HYI Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship in China Studies in 2014-15. The speaker highlighted the complex experiences of the Chinese community in India and their multifaceted identities shaped by migration and cultural fusion. The session was chaired by **Ritu Agarwal**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The Chair observed how the Chinese diaspora is unique due to its size and long migration history, which is reflected not only in the presence of Chinatowns, but also in the ways in which these communities navigate identity, belonging, and space within different societies. **(YouTube)**

The 7th India Forum on China (IFC) was held at the MIT School of Government, MIT World Peace University, Pune, from December 13 to 15, 2024. Organised by the ICS in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR, and the MIT School of Government, the forum brought together a diverse group of scholars and practitioners from India and across the world. The theme of the conference was **'The Intersection of Science and Technology in China's Industrial Revolution and Challenges to India and the World'**. The forum facilitated in-depth discussions on China's advancements in science and technology, their implications for global industrial development, and the challenges they pose for India and the international community. The Keynote Address was delivered by **Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar Singh**, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, former Lieutenant Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands; former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command of Indian Army. **(YouTube)**

On 18 December 2024, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Future of Cross-Strait Relations under a Second Trump Presidency: Taiwan's Imperatives and Options**. The speaker was **Ping-Kuei Chen**, Professor, Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. The speaker explored the evolving dynamics of Cross-strait relations and the Taiwan-US-China triangle, particularly in the light of recent elections in Taiwan and the US. The session was chaired by **Raviprasad Narayanan**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Adjunct Fellow, ICS, who argued that Taiwan should be considered a country, as it is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). ([YouTube](#))

## JANUARY

On 6 January 2025, the ICS, New Delhi hosted **Kawashima Shin**, Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, Japan, and **Shimomura Munetaka**, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in India. The event was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Director ICS, and attended by senior Fellows of the ICS and faculty from Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Delhi, and Jindal Global University. Kawashima, who specialises in the international history of East Asia and Japan-China relations, examined in depth the foreign policy objectives and global perception of China, identifying key issues and trends. Linking present-day developments with historical precedents, Kawashima explored various sub-themes, including China's domestic politics, which exercises a significant impact on its foreign policy-making, and also examined the implications of China's actions for Taiwan.

On 8 January 2025, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **Between Positive and Negative Interdependence: India's Dynamic Amidst the US-China Rivalry**. The speaker was **Vivek Y. Kelkar**, Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management; and, Visiting Faculty, Indian Institute of Management Indore. The speaker explored the complex economic and geopolitical dynamics shaped by the rivalry between the US and China, with a particular emphasis on India's strategies for navigating this emerging and dynamic landscape. The session was chaired by **G. Venkat Raman**, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Indore and Honorary Fellow, ICS. He emphasised the impact of tech wars and nationalism on trade, leading to supply chain disruptions and a split global system between the US and China. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS hosted **Arunabh Ghosh**, Associate Professor, Department of History, Harvard University, on 10 January 2025, for an interaction with senior Fellows and young researchers. The discussion covered various themes, including contemporary issues in China. Ghosh provided valuable insights into different methods of data collection. He also offered useful suggestions regarding archival research, especially in various cities in different provinces in China.

On 15 January 2025, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **China's Expanding Role in UN Peace Operations: Domestic Debates and 'Developmental Peace'**. The speaker was **Md Yasin**, Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University; Recipient of the Harvard Yenching Institute – Institute of Chinese Studies Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship in China Studies (2018-2022). The speaker focused on China's evolving role in UN peacekeeping, highlighting its contributions and the factors shaping its approach, including political, economic, military, and cultural motivations. The session was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Director ICS; and, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The chair highlighted frameworks that look at peace in many different ways and not merely as the absence of conflict. She highlighted the speaker's research on the Chinese idea of 'developmental peace', which needs to be explored in greater depth. [\(YouTube\)](#)

The ICS organised a special panel discussion titled, **Celebrating 10 Years of ICS-HYI Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship in China Studies** on 22 January 2025. The speakers were **Veda Vaidyanathan**, Associate Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi **and four doctoral scholars, who are the current recipients of the ICS-HYI Fellowship.** **Pawan Amin**, (Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University), **Shubhda Gurung**, (Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University), **Nishant Sharma**, (O.P. Jindal Global University), and **Cherry Hitkari**, (Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi). The moderator, **Ravi Bhoothalingam**, Emeritus Fellow, ICS and Fellow, Royal Geographical Society, London, outlined the framework for the panel discussion and specified the salient themes and issues to be discussed. **Alka Acharya**, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies; and, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, provided opening remarks highlighting the significance of the ICS-HYI partnership. **Madhavi Thampi**, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; former Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, Delhi University, concluded the session emphasising the role of the Fellowship in training the next generation of China scholars in India, who shall, through rigorous research and initiatives, highlight the importance of China Studies as a field. [\(YouTube\)](#)

On 29 January 2025, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Political Crisis in South Korea: Context and Contours**. The speaker was Sandip Kumar Mishra, Professor in Korean Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, ICS. The speaker focused on the political turmoil in South Korea following President Yoon's declaration of martial law on 3 December 2024, and his subsequent impeachment. The session was chaired by Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Acharya highlighted the fragility of South Korea's democratic institutions, raising concerns about the resilience of political structures and the internalisation of democratic principles. [\(YouTube\)](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### DECEMBER

**Snigdha Konar**, Research Associate and Assistant Director, ICS, New Delhi translated an article on 女孩跳楼围观者起哄，鲁迅笔下的“看客”升级了？ **The Girl Jumped off the Building as Onlookers Jeered – Has Lu Xun’s ‘Spectator’ Evolved to a New Level?**, which was published under *ICS Translations* in December 2024.

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**Hemant Adlakha**, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, ICS; and, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi translated an article on 恢复人民公社，回到毛泽东路线正确道路！ **Restore People’s Commune and Return to Mao Zedong’s Correct Line**, which was published under *ICS Translations* in December 2024. [Read Here >>](#)



### JANUARY

**Ambassador Kishan S. Rana**, Former Indian Ambassador/ High Commissioner to Algeria, Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Mauritius and Germany; Professor Emeritus, DiploFoundation, Malta and Geneva; and, Emeritus Fellow, ICS, New Delhi, wrote **Chinese Migration to the Western World; India’s Experience; The US and China, Horizon 2025; BRI in 2024** for *ICS Analysis* in January 2025. [Read Here >>](#)



**Hemant Adlakha**, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, ICS; and, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi translated an article on 绝不允许用儒学取代马列主义 **Confucianism Cannot Replace Marxism-Leninism in China** which was published under *ICS Translations* in January 2025. [Read Here >>](#)



## FACULTY UPDATE

### DECEMBER

**Jabin T. Jacob**, Director, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies; and, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, ICS, was a panellist in a session titled, **China: Whither goes the dragon, implications for India and Japan** at **3<sup>rd</sup> India Japan Forum**, organised by the Ananta Centre, New Delhi, on 7 December 2024. He also participated in the panel discussion titled, **19<sup>th</sup> Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference, 2024** organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies on 9 December 2024. Additionally, he was a panellist in the **Military-Civil Fusion as a Development Project** session at the **7<sup>th</sup> India Forum on China**, organised by the MIT School of Government, MIT World Peace University, Pune, on 15 December 2024.

**Anand P. Krishnan**, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Adjunct Fellow, ICS, presented a paper titled, **"Building Influence by Other Means? : The Permeation of Chinese Smartphone Companies in India's Electronics Industry"** at the International Conference on *Grounding Global China*, organized by the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia, on 9-10 December 2024.

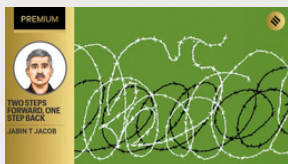
**Shamshad Khan**, Assistant Professor of International Relations, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani Dubai Campus, UAE; and, Visiting Associate Fellow, ICS, presented a paper at an international seminar held from December 4-6, 2024, at Keio University, Shonan Fujisawa Campus, Japan, as part of the India-Japan Science Technology Innovation (STI) Forum. The seminar, based on the theme of using science, technology, and innovation (STI) for inclusive development, brought together experts from both countries to explore ways to work together and tackle common challenges in these fields.

## JANUARY

**Jabin T. Jacob**, Director, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies; and, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, ICS, co-authored the chapter **"Gwadar Seaport, Pakistan"** with Anil Kumar Chawla in Jean-Marc F. Blanchard (ed.), *Chinese Overseas Ports in Southeast and South Asia: Cutting Through the Froth*, London and New York: Routledge, 2025. He was also a panellist in the seminar titled, *How Will India Respond to Trump 2.0?*, organised by the Centre for Social and Economic Progress on 16 January 2025.

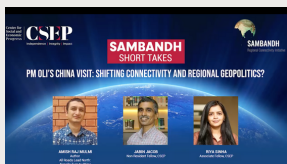
## MEDIA UPDATE

### DECEMBER



Jabin T. Jacob on **India-China ties, Delhi takes one step forward, two steps back.**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **PM Oli's China Visit: Shifting Connectivity and Regional Geopolitics?**

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Zorawar Daulet Singh on **A rapidly changing international landscape has stabilised India-China ties.**

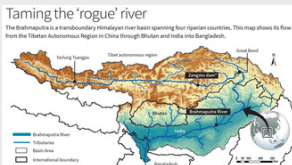
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## JANUARY



Jabin T. Jacob on **For China, Age is More than a Number.**

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Mirza Zulfikar Rahman on **The implications of China's mega-dam project**

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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

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