

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.

EVENTS

The ICS conducted **seven** events in February 2025 and March 2025.

FEBRUARY

The ICS, New Delhi, organised the **2025 Gargi & V.P. Dutt Memorial Lecture**, with the support of the Gargi and V.P. Dutt Foundation, and in collaboration with ThePrint as its media partner on 12 February 2025. The lecture, titled "Russia, India, China: Problems and Prospects of Building Greater Eurasia" featured **Babaev Kirill Vladimirovich**, Director, Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russia Academy of Sciences; and, Chair, Russian National Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific; and, Deputy Chairman, Presidium of the Scientific Council, BRICS National Research Committee as the distinguished speaker. He characterised the current global shift as a complex game with emerging players and unpredictable outcomes, and was driven by dissatisfaction with US dominance in international politics and the global economy. **Manoranjan Mohanty**, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; and, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi chaired the event, providing a brief background on the Gargi & V.P. Dutt Memorial Lecture series, highlighting its significance and origins. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Reimagining Feminism in Journey to the West: Agency, Power, and Gender Dynamics in the Chinese Classic** on 19 February 2025. The speaker was **Aditya Kumar Pandey**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese, Sikkim University. The seminar focused on feminist representations in *Journey to the West*, a 16th century satirical novel by Wu Cheng'en. Exploring aspects such as agency and power, the speaker highlighted three archetypes of female characters in the novel and revealed the complexities of gender in Chinese literary traditions. The session was chaired by **Usha Chandran**, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Dr. Chandran reflected on the tendency of men to impose moral virtues and the steadfast need for women's resistance, highlighting how the novel reinforces the traditional views on gender, power and agency. (YouTube)

MARCH

On 5 March 2025, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **Negotiating Statelessness: Tibetan Youth, Citizenship, and Exile Politics in India**. The speaker was **Kalyani Yeola**, Research Assistant, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The presentation explored the historical context, the policies of CTA, legal battles, youth agency, and future outlook. Ms. Yeola noted that Tibetan youth are actively reshaping the narrative of exile, and their evolving perspectives offer valuable insights into the future of identity politics and refugee governance. The session was chaired by **Tshering Chonzom Bhutia**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Bhutia shared how the youth are negotiating the binary of statelessness and citizenship, and the precarity of their situation as they consider the existential realities of unemployment. (YouTube)

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Engagement or Confrontation? Japan's Strategic Dilemma in Dealing with North Korea** on 12 March 2025. The speaker was **Debendra Sahu**, Assistant Professor, Japanese Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University. The seminar explored Japan's dilemma of whether to engage or confront North Korea. Examining key perspectives like domestic pressures and regional security concerns, he highlighted that the potential for effectively pressurizing North Korea remains uncertain. The session was chaired by **Srabani Roy Choudhury**, Professor in Japanese Studies, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The chair noted that the bitter historical legacies will not impact the region as much as the nuclear missile program of North Korea. (YouTube)



Participants at the Round Table on Innovation: Comparing China with the United States and Europe

On 17 March 2025, the ICS organised a round table titled, **Innovation: Comparing China with the US and Europe**. The lead speaker was **Alicia García-Herrero**, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and, Non-Resident Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. **Biswajit Dhar**, Honorary Fellow, ICS was the moderator.

In a two-part presentation, Dr. García-Herrero first provided various datasets on the economies of India and China, comparing their current situations and future prospects, including their bilateral economic engagement. She highlighted India's positioning in global trade and manufacturing and the challenges and prospects on various fronts for its economy. Additionally, Dr. García-Herrero provided a comparative analysis of the leadership and positioning of the US, Europe, and China on the innovation of critical technologies of AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors. Furthermore, discussions on the US-China competition and implications for global tech governance, innovation ecosystems, and challenges and prospects for India were of particular focus in the round table.

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **A Review of China's Implementation of the UN's Women, Peace and Security Agenda since 2015** on 19 March 2025. The speaker was **Li Yingtao**, Professor, International Relations, School of International Relations and Diplomacy, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China. The seminar examined China's approach towards the UN's WPS agenda, focusing on policy implementation, evolving state perspectives, and the role of international frameworks. The speaker noted that the Chinese government is actively contributing to global gender initiatives and maintains a supportive stance on the WPS agenda. The session was chaired by **Usha Chandran**, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. The chair pointed out that despite the highly positive attitude, the level of political participation both at the grassroots level and higher level is still not as much as one would expect, and she urged further investigation into why there was not enough change. ([YouTube](#))

On 26 March 2025, the ICS organised a seminar titled, **Sino-US relations: Breakdown or Realignment of Ties?** The speaker was **Atul Aneja**, veteran journalist of foreign affairs; and former Editor, *India Narrative* website. The seminar focused on Sino-US relations in the context of policy shifts and evolving dynamics, examining whether the existing tensions indicate a breakdown or a realignment of ties between the two nations. Mr. Aneja examined the possibility of a realignment of ties, emphasising the need for global dialogue. The session was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Chairperson and Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The chair noted that the conversation is still multipolar because China exercises the economic and strategic clout necessary to force the US to engage in conversation with it. ([YouTube](#))

PUBLICATIONS

FEBRUARY

Snigdha Konar, Research Associate and Assistant Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi translated an article on “【专访王晓明】AI时代，我们如何读鲁迅 **Exclusive Interview with Wang Xiaoming: How do we Read Lu Xun in the AI Era?**”, which was published under *ICS Translations* in February 2025.

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Poornima Nair, Research Intern, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and Bachelor's in History, Hindu College, University of Delhi, wrote **Disease, Discipline, and Domination: Typhus Control in Occupied Japan (1945–1952)** for *ICS Working Papers* in February 2025.

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FACULTY UPDATE

FEBRUARY

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, Institute of Chinese Studies, co-authored an occasional paper titled, **"Beyond the Military Prism: China's Development Objectives in Xiaokang Villages in Tibet Autonomous Region"** with Japneet Kaur and Devendra Kumar, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR, Occasional Paper, No. 4, February. He was also a panelist at a **China Watchers Workshop**, organised by the US Embassy, Colombo, Sri Lanka on 13 February. He made an online presentation on **"China's influence building in South Asia"**, organised by the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, Delhi and the South and Southeast Asia Security Research Centre, Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies, University of Buckingham, UK, on 26 February. He also delivered an online lecture titled, **"Interpreting Chinese Foreign Policy towards South Asia"** as part of the *China Capable Public Sector Initiative* by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, on 27 February.

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 chaired a Sinologue seminar titled, **"China-India Border Issues and the Indian Public Perception"** held at the Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies on 24 February 2025.

MARCH

Poonam Surie, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and, Independent Researcher participated in a discussion of her book titled, ***China: Confucius in the Shadows*** organised by the Bangalore International Centre on 15 March 2025.

Usha Chandran, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi presented the keynote address titled, **"Gender in Language and Expression with Chinese Language as a Point of Departure"** at the two-day national seminar *Lingua di Genere: Perspectives on Gender in Foreign Languages Studies* organised by Department of Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, Assam on 6-7 March 2025.

Snigdha Konar, Research Associate and Assistant Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi presented a paper titled, **"Linguistic Injury and Gender Bias: The Role of Language in Shaping Gendered Social Realities"** at the two-day national seminar *Lingua di Genere: Perspectives on Gender in Foreign Languages Studies* organised by Department of Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, Assam on 6-7 March 2025.

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 participated in an online book launch and discussion on the book *Security Challenges in Contemporary Indo-Pacific*, edited by Zhiqun Zhu and published by World Scientific on 26 March 2025. He contributed a chapter titled, **"India-China Relations: Uncertainty, Rivalry, and Challenges"** to this book.

Alicia García-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and, Non-Resident Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi attended the BRICS luncheon panel discussion titled, **"The BRICS and the US dollar"** organised by Asia Society Hong Kong on 3 March 2025. (YouTube) She also contributed to the **WTO conference on Industrial Policy** organised on 10 March. She was also a panelist at the Raisina Dialogue 2025 titled, **"They Need Us More Than We Need Them – Trump's Trade Gambit"** conducted by Observer Research Foundation on 17-19 March 2025. She also gave an address at the conference *Aspen Forum* titled, **"The Future of European Competitiveness"** (in Spanish) at Casa de América on 25 March 2025. She was also a member of the *Singapore Geoeconomics Forum* 2025 themed, **"Setting the Stage for Geoeconomic Strategy: Lawfare in a Multipolar World"** on 28 March 2025.

MEDIA UPDATE

FEBRUARY



Anand P. Krishnan on **Dealing with China's weaponisation of e-supply chains**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **Vikram Misri's Beijing visit underlines India's limited options**

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Anand P. Krishnan on **How Chinese mobile-phone firms use pop culture to dominate the Pakistani market**

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Jabin T. Jacob (co-authored with Chisako T Masuo) on **Ishiba-Trump meet a diplomatic win for Japan**

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Jacob T. Jacob on **China talking peace, but preparing for war?**
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Trump-Putin phone call: As Europe outrages, what are the views within China?

The USA's allies in Europe have publicly reacted to the Trump-Putin conversation. But what about Russia's great ally? How is China reacting, and where do Beijing's interests lie in this rapidly changing situation?

Written by Hemant Adlakha

Updated February 11, 2020 17:50 IST

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MARCH



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Behind the chatter around a possible Trump-Xi summit, why it could be significant

Trump reportedly told his advisers he would visit Beijing within the first hundred days of assuming office, setting off speculations. What's the view in Beijing, and what may be on the agenda?

Written by Hemant Adlakha

Updated March 27, 2020 12:28 IST

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China reaction to US tariffs: Why Beijing is playing the long game over a zero-sum game

Unlike in 2018, this time, China was prepared for the sanctions announced by the Trump administration. Also, Beijing is not too worried about a trade war with Washington. What are the reasons for this optimism? An expert explains.

Written by Hemant Adlakha

New Delhi | Updated February 6, 2020 12:06 IST

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ed to an accomplished historian, familiar with British rule in India. His works include *Keeping the Jewel in the Crown: A History of India (2008)*. This book *Fighting Retreat: Winston Churchill and India* is valuable, but it fails to sit.

Kishan S. Rana on **The Imperialist Villain? A Book Review of Fighting Retreat: Winston Churchill and India**
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What Do Chinese Analysts Think of Trump's China Policy Thus Far?

Contrary to Beijing's expectations, China seemed to have been let off easy in the early days of the Trump 2.0 presidency. Will that last?

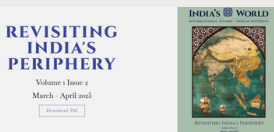
By Hemant Adlakha

March 14, 2020

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Jabin T. Jacob on **Harmony means hierarchy: Lifting the veil on China's global community rhetoric**
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Jacob T. Jacob on **Greater cooperative federalism in India a must to push economic thaw with China**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **China Vows Retaliation Against Trump's Tariffs**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **From #China a lot of smoke, little roast** (in Italian)
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Alicia García-Herrero on **The flood of cheap Chinese exports has arrived: 'Let the world prepare'** (in Spanish)
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Alicia García-Herrero on **What can China learn from Japan's 'lost decade'?**
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