



2025 Gargi and VP Dutt Memorial Lecture (GVPDML)

RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF BUILDING GREATER EURASIA

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Conference Room II
India International Centre
New Delhi

BABAEV KIRILL VLADIMIROVICH

Director, Institute of China and Contemporary
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Biographical Note



Babaev Kirill Vladimirovich has been serving as Director of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICCA RAS) since 2021. He chairs the Russian National Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and is the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Scientific Council of the BRICS National Research Committee. In 2023, he was elected President of the National Coordination Center for International Business Cooperation (NCCIBC). As a leading expert on the Asia-Pacific region, his experience spans both the academic and business sectors, and he also occupies the position of First Vice-President of the Alfa Group Consortium. He did his bachelor's in Regional Studies and International studies from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 2000. He also holds degrees in Financial Management, Public Administration, History of Arts, and Oriental Studies. Holding a PhD in Philology (2008), a Doctor of Sciences in Philology (2013), he is also Professor at the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation. His scholarly output includes numerous books and articles on international relations, linguistics, ethnography, and oriental studies. He is proficient in 13 foreign languages. His co-authored book *Pivot to the East: Russia's and East Asian Vector (2014-2024)* was published in summer 2024.



Manoranjan Mohanty is a Distinguished Professor at the Council for Social Development, New Delhi. He is an Emeritus Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, its founding member and former Chairperson. He is a social scientist, China scholar and a peace and human rights activist with research interests in the study of the political economy of China, India and global transformation. He was a Professor of Political Science and Director of, Developing Countries Research Centre at the University of Delhi. He was also the Emeritus Chairperson of Development Research Institute, Bhubaneswar. He has authored, among others, *The Political Philosophy of Mao Zedong* (1978, 2009, Hindi edition 1979, 2010); *Red and Green: Five Decades of the Maoist Movement in India* (2014); *Contemporary Indian Political Theory* (2000); *Ideology Matters: China from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping* (2016, Hindi edition 2021), *China's Transformation: The Success Story and the Success Trap* (Sage: 2018), Hindi edition *Cheen ka Kayapalat* (Sage Bhasha, 2020).

Report

The Institute of Chinese Studies (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 Prof. Kirill Babaev as the distinguished speaker. Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, who chaired the event, provided a brief background on the Gargi & V.P. Dutt Memorial Lecture series, highlighting its significance and origins. He also paid tribute to Professors Gargi Dutt and V.P. Dutt, esteemed scholars in the field of China Studies, commemorating their invaluable contributions to the discipline.

Prof. Kirill Babaev began his lecture by giving a brief introduction of his organisation, the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICCA RAS). He emphasised the current global shift, characterising it as a complex game with emerging players and unpredictable outcomes, and driven by dissatisfaction with US dominance in international politics and the global economy. This dominance, he argued, manifests in unilateral sanctions, inconsistent policies, and control of international financial systems, creating uncertainty, and hindering the growth of the “global majority”, a term encompassing nations seeking a greater voice in world affairs, including Russia.

He said that new power centres, such as China, India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, South Africa, and Brazil, were emerging players in the Global South, and in the world. He reiterated that these countries are more powerful today, and they seek their rightful place in the international system. Prof. Babaev posited that the developing countries of the world, or the Global South, wish for a new world order based on respect for national interests, UN reform (especially the expansion of the Security Council), fair economic treatment, free movement of goods and people, a modified international financial system, and the rule of law. He illustrated the erosion of the rule of law with examples of arbitrary sanctions and court decisions impacting businesses, creating chaos and instability.

He then elaborated on how Eurasia, with its rapidly growing economies and technological innovations, can be identified as the epicentre of this global shift. The speaker highlighted the crucial roles of Russia, China, and India, each possessing unique strengths. Russia brings political influence and nuclear power, China, economic might and technological leadership, and India a burgeoning economy, technological prowess, and a balanced foreign policy. He argued that while each nation is significant, none can single-handedly reshape the international order. Therefore, their combined efforts are essential, forming the core of the Greater Eurasia project.

He stressed that this initiative is not an anti-Western alliance but a constructive effort to establish a fairer system. It is not about confrontation but cooperation, learning from the successes and failures of existing models like the European Union. Prof. Babaev emphasised that the project would be open to other nations, predicting that many would join if a stable and reliable system is established.

He outlined four key prerequisites for the success of Greater Eurasia. First and foremost, India and China must resolve their border disputes. He drew parallels with Russia's successful border resolution with China, which significantly improved bilateral relations. He said resolving this sensitive issue would foster trust and boost economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

Secondly, the creation of a common currency instrument is crucial. While acknowledging the complexities of a unified currency among multiple nations, he suggested that a workable instrument among the three core nations could attract wider participation. He cited ongoing discussions between China and Russia on digital currencies as a promising starting point.

Thirdly, the three nations need a unified trade policy, potentially involving free trade zones and agreements, to enhance cooperation in the sector. Fourthly, he mentioned that merging existing logistic projects, such as India's Indian Ocean-Mediterranean corridor, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and Russia's Eurasian Economic Union, is crucial. Integrating these projects would create a comprehensive transportation network across Eurasia. He specifically mentioned Russia's North-South and the East-West corridors as vital components of this integrated network.

Finally, a joint treaty or declaration outlining the shared principles and vision for the future world order would be necessary. He pointed to the joint statement signed by Russia and China in February 2022 as a successful example, providing a foundation for subsequent agreements. This document, he argued, would serve as the bedrock for the Greater Eurasia project.

The speaker concluded by reiterating the potential of Eurasia to lead the creation of a new international system, emphasising its diverse strengths and strategic location. He believed that by working together, Russia, India, and China could build a more equitable and stable future for Eurasia and the world. The lecture brought out important themes, such as the shift in global power dynamics, Russia's "Pivot to the East", the crucial role of trilateral cooperation between India, Russia and China and a vision for a greater Eurasia.

The session concluded with the Chair's closing remarks, providing an insightful analysis of Prof. Babaev's points. This was followed by a brief interactive session, during which questions were raised related to the changing international order, the role of other countries in the trilateral cooperation between India, China and Russia, and the future of the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war .

Image Gallery



Image Gallery



Institutional Profile



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