

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 April and May 2025, eight new interns joined Team ICS.

NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT

APRIL-MAY

GOVIND BANARSE, RESEARCH INTERN

Govind Banarse is currently pursuing Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) from Indian Institute of Management, Indore. His research interests include Public Policy, Gender Dynamics in Workplaces, Development Economics, Role of Media in Shaping Political Discourse. [Read More>>](#)



HARSH JOSHI, RESEARCH INTERN

Harsh Joshi is currently pursuing Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) from Indian Institute of Management, Indore. His research interests are Global Supply Chains, Strategic Diplomacy, Chinese Foreign Policy, Language of Commerce and Trade. [Read More>>](#)



MAHEK CHOUDHARY, RESEARCH INTERN

Mahek Choudhary is currently pursuing Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) from Indian Institute of Management, Indore. Her research interests include Comparative gender studies in India and China, Growth of surveillance systems in China, and International Perception of Chinese culture. [Read More>>](#)



FATHIMA INSHA, RESEARCH INTERN

Fathima Insha is a third-year degree student of B.A. (Hons.) in International Relations at the Central University of Kerala. Her research interests lie in studying world history and geopolitics. [Read More>>](#)



ATUL B SHANKAR, RESEARCH INTERN

Atul B Shankar is a third-year undergraduate student pursuing his BA (Hons.) in International Relations at the Capital Centre, Central University of Kerala. He has a keen interest in Chinese language, culture, history and geopolitics. [Read More>>](#)



NOEL MATHEW CHERIAN, RESEARCH INTERN

Noel Mathew Cherian is a third-year undergraduate student pursuing a B.A. (Hons.) in International Relations at the Capital Centre, Central University of Kerala. His research interests lie in strategic and geopolitical studies, with a particular focus on India's measures to counter China's expanding influence in the Bay of Bengal and the wider Indian Ocean region. [Read More>>](#)



BHARAT JOSHI, RESEARCH INTERN

Bharat Joshi is a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His area of interest is Chinese Foreign Policy towards India particularly the Conflict Resolution Mechanism between the two countries. [Read More>>](#)



MATHEW THONGMINLAL, RESEARCH INTERN

Mathew Thongminlal is a doctoral scholar at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research interests include China's promotion of ethnic culture in Yunnan, cross-border ethnic groups' connections, borderlands studies, and China's policy towards Myanmar and ethnic armed groups in Myanmar. [Read More>>](#)



EVENTS

The ICS conducted **eleven** events in April and May 2025.

APRIL

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **India-China Relations: What can be Expected after Kazan** on 2 April 2025. The speaker was **Maj Gen Mandip Singh (Retd.)**, Visiting Fellow, Mercator Institute of China Studies, Berlin; Senior Fellow, Centre for Land & Warfare Studies; Distinguished Fellow, United Services Institute, New Delhi; Advisor, Technology Business Incubation Foundation, IIT Ropar. The speaker noted that in recent years, the India-China border situation has been marked by heightened tensions and massive deployment of troops on both sides. The prolonged military presence has accelerated infrastructure development in high-altitude areas to support its operation and has also provided impetus for the procurement of weapons. The session was chaired by **Atul Bhardwaj**, Visiting Fellow, Department of International Politics, City St. George's, University of London; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair highlighted that India-China ties, which have been strained since the border standoff, are showing signs of recovery. This is evident from the October 2024 patrolling agreement, and in EAM Jaishankar's January 2025 lecture, where he emphasised the preparedness for China's growing capabilities and India's approach of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interest. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS organised a **Round Table on Issues and Themes in China's National People's Congress** on 5 April 2025, to discuss China's 2025 "Two Sessions", focusing on domestic priorities such as rural revitalization, private sector support, boosting consumption, reducing export dependence, gender policies, and the backdrop of rising global tensions. The speakers for the round table were, **Sreemati Chakrabarti**, former Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; Chairperson and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, **Ashok K. Kantha**, former Ambassador to China;

Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies; Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, **Anand P. Krishnan**, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, **Rityusha Mani Tiwary**, Department of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Associate Editor, *China Report: A Journal of East Asian Studies* and, **Usha Chandran**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speakers discussed China's evolving governance and development priorities, focusing on institutional restructuring, economic policy shifts, technological self-reliance, and demographic challenges. Together, their insights highlighted how the Chinese Party-state is adapting its strategies to maintain control, stimulate innovation, and manage internal contradictions amid global uncertainties. The round table was moderated by **Manoranjan Mohanty**, former Professor of Political Science; and, former Director, Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi; Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He highlighted how the policy language like "Peace Development Initiative" signals deeper shifts in China's global posture. He also observed the environmental targets and urban employment goals as key priorities in Premier Li Qiang's 2025 work report.

[\(Read Here\)](#)



Round Table on Issues and Themes in China's National People's Congress

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Gender in Language and Expression with Chinese Language as a Point of Departure** on 9 April 2025. The speaker was **Usha Chandran**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese & South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speaker explored the role of Confucian thought in shaping societal hierarchies, with language serving as a vehicle for codifying gender subordination. Additionally, the speaker also emphasised on the performative nature of gender in speech, demonstrating how language both reflects and reinforces gender roles. The session was chaired by Patricia Uberoi, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair emphasised that while Chinese is mostly used in India for China Studies, it also has value in comparative work beyond India and China, including broader Asian and global contexts. [\(YouTube\)](#)

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Kautilya and Sun Tzu: Ancient Strategy and Contemporary Soft Power** on 16 April 2025. The speaker was **Kajari Kamal**, Associate Professor, The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru. She examined the prevalence of Sun Tzu as a source of China's soft power, and the presence of Kautilya's philosophy in India's soft power approach alongside the soft power assets of China and India, and how these nations leverage them. The session was chaired by **Vijay K. Nambiar**, Former Ambassador of India to China; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, who highlighted how both India and China draw on deep ethical and normative traditions like India's dharma that emphasises self-knowledge, restraint, and ruler-centric welfare, even though today's globalized and tech-driven context has transformed these foundations significantly. **(YouTube)**

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Growing Uncertainty in Existing International Order: Whither India-China Relations** on 23 April 2025. The speakers were **Zhou Bo**, Senior Colonel (Retd.); Senior Fellow, Centre for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University, Beijing; and **Ambassador Vijay K. Nambiar**, Former Ambassador of India to China; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. **Sr. Col. Zhou Bo** stated that BRICS is not an anti-Western bloc but a platform for fostering equitable global development. It seeks inclusivity rather than the replacing of existing systems like the IMF or UN. Despite border tensions, both India and China continue to cooperate, as they have common economic goals and regional interests. Amb. Nambiar noted that China's international initiatives, including building a "community of common destiny", though commendable in rhetoric, often serve self-interested goals, and how China's rise has played a key role in counterbalancing Western dominance in international affairs. The session was moderated by Hemant Adlakha, Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Vice Chairperson & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He emphasised the positive momentum in India-China relations and the opportunity for a broad, candid discussion on important issues. **(YouTube)**

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **China's Environmental Diplomacy and Bilateral Climate Cooperation with United States and India since the Kyoto Protocol** on 30 April 2025. The speaker was **Shagufta Yasmin**, Independent Researcher; Recipient, ICS-HYI Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship (2017-2020). She explored the evolution of China's environmental diplomacy, from initial resistance and scepticism to strategic engagement in international climate negotiations. Additionally, she highlighted that China's initial reluctance emanated from the need for economic growth and development. She argued that developed nations should take more responsibility for historical emissions. The session was chaired by **Varaprasad S. Dolla**, Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The Chair highlighted the emergence of environmental issues as a global concern necessitating collective solutions, which led to the shift from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasized the importance of China's evolving environmental diplomacy, particularly its bilateral climate cooperation with the US and India, within the broader context of global climate change debates. **(YouTube)**

MAY

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Indian Films Resonate with Chinese Audiences: Translation of Culture, Translation of Mind** on 7 May 2025. The speaker was **Suvro Parui**, Associate Professor, Amity School of Languages, Amity University, Gurugram. He explored the concept of translation not only as a linguistic but also a cultural process, that fosters mutual understanding between India and China. Additionally, analysing the modern landscape of cultural engagement, the speaker noted that the regional Indian films have also entered the Chinese market thereby contributing to a more diverse understanding of Indian cinema. The seminar was chaired by **Patricia Uberoi**, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She asked if Indian films show real life or are mainly fantasies for Chinese audiences while emphasising the need to explore opportunities for film industry collaboration between the two countries. **(YouTube)**

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Constructing Economic Policy Paradigms in China: Bureaucratic Politics and the Many "China Models"** on 14 May 2025. The speaker was **Yingyao Wang**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. The speaker noted that China's economic policies are shaped through internal bureaucratic processes and strategic adaptation. She added that policies are crafted incrementally, driven by bureaucratic learning, experimentation and long-term strategic planning. The session was chaired by **Biswajit Dhar**, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair emphasised that China's economic policies and developmental strategies, though rarely discussed, offer valuable insights for other economies. Additionally, he underscored the significance of China's theocratic state, reinforcing points raised by the speaker in her opening remarks.

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **China's Industrial Policy: Past, Present, and Future** on 21 May 2025. The speaker for the session was **Kyle Chan**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, Princeton University; Adjunct Researcher, RAND Corporation. The speaker argued that China is incrementally investing in establishing independence in key sectors critical to its economic sustainability and security. He also noted that China has shifted to high-end manufacturing to such a great degree that it has started offshoring low-end jobs to countries it perceives as "friendlier". The seminar was chaired by **Ravi Bhoothalingam**, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Fellow, Royal Geographical Society, London. He interjected with questions regarding the flow of machinery and technology from China, as well as green technologies in China. **(YouTube)**

The ICS **hosted a delegation from the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing**, on 23 May 2025 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The CIIS delegation was led by **Ambassador Chen Bo**, President, CIIS. The delegation also included Li Zigu, Director, Department for European– Central Asian Studies, CIIS, Zhu Zhongbo, Director, Department for World Peace and Security Studies, CIIS, Liang Xue, Assistant Research Fellow, CIIS, Ning Shengnan, Deputy Director, Department for World Economy and Development, CIIS. Mr. Si Wei, Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India was also present. The ICS was represented by Prof. Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Dr. Aravind Yelery, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) and Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Anuradha M. Chenoy, Adjunct Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Dr. Uma Purushothaman, Associate Professor, Centre for American Studies, School of International Studies, JNU, Dr. Jabin T. Jacob, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations

and Governance Studies, and Director, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University. Research scholars from the ICS and the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU also participated in the interaction. The participants explored ways to improve ties between the two countries in the context of evolving American foreign policy and the ongoing threat of terrorist attacks from Pakistan. The dialogue highlighted how external factors are increasingly influencing India-China bilateral relations. The participants in the engagement also highlighted the importance of academic diplomacy and research-based engagement in fostering mutual understanding between the two nations.



Delegation Visit from the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) at the Institute of Chinese Studies

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **China's Local Governments: Can They Pull the Weight of the Country's Economy?** on 28 May 2025. The speaker was **Amit Kumar**, Staff Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies Programme, The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru. The speaker highlighted that China's local governments managed more than 85% of the national expenditure in 2024, which is rare in comparison to other federal systems and that central transfer payments have become increasingly constrained, with 93% of central revenue redistributed, yet declining by CNY 0.23 trillion in 2024. The session was chaired by **Biswajit Dhar**, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He presented his observations on local governments in China, highlighting their plight amidst the expansion of the Chinese economy, the pandemic, and its aftermath. **(YouTube)**

PUBLICATIONS

APRIL

Sunidhi Khabya, BA, LLB (Hons), Second Year, National Law University, Jodhpur, wrote a blog piece on **Anchoring Maritime Laws: Exploring China's Maritime Lien Laws and Lessons for International Legal Reform**, which was published under ICS Research Blog in the month of April 2025. [Read More>>](#)



FACULTY UPDATE

APRIL

Rama V. Baru, Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi was a panellist in a session titled, 'People's Diplomacy and Public Opinion: China and India' organised by the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru, on 5 April 2025.

Usha Chandran, Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese & South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi presented a short paper titled, 'Women to Rejuvenate the Nation by Reproducing More: Is Creating 'Mom Jobs' the Answer?' as a panellist at the **Round Table on Issues and Themes in China's National People's Congress** held on 5th April at the India International Centre, Delhi.

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, 'India-China Cooperation in an Age of Global Flux' which was conducted at Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, on 2 April 2025 marking the end of the centenary celebration of Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to China in 1924. Additionally, he was also a panellist in a session titled, 'Chinese Discourse on US-China Relations' at the 4th Strategic Dialogue on Rise of China and its Implications for the World, organised by Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, New Delhi, at Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, on 16 April 2025. He wrote a research report titled, **India-China Border Tensions Are Likely to Continue** which was published by The Japan Institute of International Affairs in April 2025. He also co-authored a journal article with Vishal Choudhury, titled "China in Egypt: Converting Economic Engagement into Political Capital", which was published in the Journal of Indian Ocean Studies (Vol. 33, No. 1, January-April 2025, pp. 55-71)

MAY

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, participated as a panellist in the international seminar "China's Chairmanship in the SCO: Concerns and Prospects for the Organisation's Development," held on 15 May 2025.

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 authored a chapter titled, **India-China Relations: Uncertainty, Rivalry** which was published in Zhu Zhiquan (ed.) *Security Challenges in Contemporary Indo-Pacific*, World Scientific Publishing Co Pvt Ltd, in May 2025.

Alicia García Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and Non-Resident Fellow, ICS, participated as a panellist in the session titled *Geoeconomía y el mundo actual* [Geoeconomics and the Modern World], as part of the IESE Geopolitics Meeting, held at the IESE Madrid Campus. She participated as a speaker at the FT Future of Asset Management Asia conference held on 7 May 2025 in Hong Kong. She also participated at the *Encuentro de la Escola Europea d'Humanitats* as a speaker in the meeting on *Desequilibrios históricos en el mundo contemporáneo* [Historical Imbalances in the Contemporary World], held on 21 May 2025.

G. Venkat Raman, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Indore and Honorary Fellow, ICS, authored an Issue Brief titled, **'Xintrialisation' and 'Politics in Command' Loom Large in China's Two Sessions** for Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi that was published on 27 May 2025.

MEDIA UPDATE

APRIL



Anand P. Krishnan on **Lessons for India from China's Party-State bonhomie with private sector.**

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Anand P. Krishnan on **The Private Sector is driving China's Global dominance.**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **2025 Carnegie Global Dialogue: China and India**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **'Dragon-elephant tango' sounds good, but India must not drop its guard.**

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India-China relations at 75: An uncertain thaw

By Jabin T. Jacob

Apr 19, 2025 10:26 PM IST

Despite the recent positive overtures, structural problems in the bilateral relationship could resurface as a source of tensions

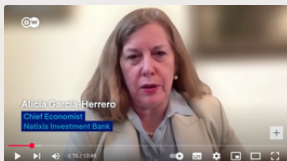
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MODERN DIPLOMACY
ALL VIEWS ARE VOICES

Russia-China Relations: Can Trump create a Wedge between Moscow and Beijing?

More recently, the narrative in Moscow is filled with skepticism on Russia's over-reliance on China. In China, on the other hand, the overriding concern is 'via Moscow is too-fake will Russia fall the Trump's America? Or, what if Moscow chooses to take a neutral stance between China and the US?'

BY HEMANT ADLAKHA APRIL 12, 2025

Hemant Adlakha on **Russia-China Relations: Can Trump create a Wedge between Moscow and Beijing?**

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MODERN DIPLOMACY
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EAST ASIA

DeepSeek, Mandarin and Alphabet?

The stunning success of DeepSeek has fundamentally changed China in two ways: the CPC has been forced to acknowledge its dependence on China's private high-tech industry; and, spurred on by the unique advantage in language comprehension based on Mandarin by the DeepSeek team.

BY HEMANT ADLAKHA APRIL 22, 2025

Hemant Adlakha on **DeepSeek, Mandarin and Alphabet?**

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MAY



Jabin T. Jacob on **Tariff Warrior Diplomacy**

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China's calculated neutrality on Pahalgam

China prefers the status quo — continuing tensions between India and Pakistan short of war, which would drain both countries.

JABIN T. JACOB
Updated At: 02:08 PM May 01, 2025 IST



Jabin T. Jacob on **China's Calculated Neutrality on Pahalgam**

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Jabin T. Jacob on **The Moving Needle of China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy.**
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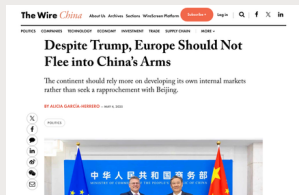
Hemant Adlakha on **Trilateral Diplomacy: East Asia's Response to U.S. Tariff Pressures.**
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Alicia García Herrero on **China's Economy Requires Massive Stimulus.**
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Jabin T. Jacob on **China and an American Pope in Rome.**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **Despite Trump, Europe Should Not Flee into China's Arms.**
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Alicia García Herrero on **Mar-a-Lago Accord" for the Taiwan Dollar? The Economic and Geopolitical Consequences.**
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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.

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18th AICCS

Special Theme: Rewiring Globalization –
The China Factor in Trade, Technology, and
Sustainability in a Multipolar World

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2nd CDGC

Theme: Evolving State-Society Relations

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