

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 research on China and East Asia.

EVENTS

The ICS conducted **eight** events in October and November 2025

OCTOBER

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **From Sentiment to Statute: Legislating Patriotism in Contemporary China** on 1 October 2025. The seminar delved into the evolving nature of patriotism within Chinese law, focusing on the role of the Patriotic Education Law (PEL) and its precedents. The speaker was **Nishant Dilip Sharma**, Doctoral Scholar, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. Drawing on linguistic analysis to frame policy as problematisation, the speaker used linguistic markers to analyse the PEL's deployment of action verbs, obligation modals, and argued that prohibitives carry greater normative weight, making them an ideal proxy for problematisation. The session was chaired by **T. G. Suresh**, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He remarked on how patriotism in the Chinese context differs from Western concepts, wherein the former does not endorse unconditional criticism of the government, instead, views the Party as a custodian of national destiny. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Dissemination and Reception of Lu Xun in India** on 8 October 2025. The seminar highlighted Lu Xun as one of the most influential cultural figures in China, whose works and ideas played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's modern transformation. The speaker was **Niu Ruiyuan**, Doctoral Candidate, School of Chinese Language and Literature, Soochow University, Suzhou, China. The speaker highlighted the regional imbalance in Lu Xun's global reception, such as in India, where despite long-standing cultural ties, there has been little scholarly engagement with Lu Xun's work. The session was chaired by **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. She emphasised on Lu Xun's enduring relevance in the twenty-first century that not only offers profound insights into Chinese society and politics, but also continues to inspire lively debates.

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Exploring Rhetorical Expressions of Political Leaders in Contemporary China** on 15 October 2025. The seminar explored how rhetorical expressions, rooted in China's historical and cultural traditions, continue to play a decisive role in shaping the political discourse of the People's Republic of China. The speaker was **Snehal Ajit Ulman**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese, School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University, Gangtok. He highlighted how Chinese political rhetoric functions as a tool of governance, providing continuity, moral legitimacy, and emotional mobilisation. The session was chaired by **Bhim B. Subba**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair highlighted the distinct styles of political rhetoric employed by different Chinese leaders, and emphasised the importance of understanding China's historical political thought as a method for studying China and its politics. **(YouTube)**

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Gen Z Movement in Nepal: China's Challenge or Opportunity?** on 22 October 2025. The seminar focused on the ongoing political and social developments in Nepal, particularly the Gen Z movement, and examined whether this emerging phenomenon represents a challenge or an opportunity for China. The speaker was **Rishi Gupta**, Assistant Director, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi; Visiting Fellow, Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, Kathmandu, Nepal. He argued that while the Gen Z movement disrupted Nepal's political order, it also opened new avenues for China to engage with a younger and potentially reform-oriented leadership. The session was chaired by **Mahendra P. Lama**, Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He highlighted how a series of recent political developments in Nepal failed to bring any substantive change in the parties or their leadership, giving rise to the current wave of public discontent. **(YouTube)**

The Institute organised the **18th All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS)** in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, Policy Planning and Research (PP&R) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The conference was held at IIM Indore from 24 to 26 October 2025, with the special theme, **“Rewiring Globalization: The China Factor in Trade, Technology, and Sustainability in a Multipolar World”**. Spread over three days, the conference featured scholars from various institutions in India, who showcased a survey of recent scholarship on various facets of China over fifteen sessions. **G. Venkat Raman**, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and **Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as Co-Convenors of the conference.



18th All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS) at Indian Institute of Management, Indore

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **China's Electric Vehicle Industry: Strategic Approaches and Policy Implications** on 29 October 2025. The seminar explored the strategic and geopolitical dimensions of China's electric vehicle (EV) industry, situating it within the broader context of Chinese-style modernisation and global competition in green technologies. The speaker was **Saheli Chattaraj**, Assistant Professor, China Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai. She underscored how through its EV sector, China seeks to recast the global perception of “Made in China”, transforming it into a symbol of quality, innovation and environmental leadership. The session was chaired by **Santosh Pai**, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The Chair called for anticipating the global ramifications for the EV industry should the Chinese government cease to treat the sector as strategic. **(YouTube)**

NOVEMBER

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **New Frontiers in China's Military Organisation** on 19 November 2025. The seminar focused on how China's military reforms stem from the PLA's long-standing belief that future wars will be driven by information technologies. The speaker was **Anushka Saxena**, Staff Research Analyst, Indo-Pacific Studies Programme, The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru; Doctoral Research Scholar, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal. She highlighted that China's military modernisation prioritises preparing for future wars characterised by information technology, and that this strategic shift has shaped China's domain-focused organisational structures. The session was chaired by **M. V. Rappai**, Security Analyst; Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The Chair noted China's focus on multi-domain integrated warfare and stressed that India must build specialised domain forces to achieve large-scale integration. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Transformations in the Global Energy System and their Impact on China and India** on 26 November 2025. The seminar examined the ongoing transformations in the global energy system and analysed their implications for China and India. The speaker was **Niharika Tagotra**, Senior Research Specialist, India Energy Program, World Resources Institute, New Delhi. The speaker highlighted that India and China's growing import dependence, particularly on oil, has sharpened their vulnerability to chokepoints, geopolitical disruptions, and price volatility. The session was chaired by **Rajiv Ranjan**, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair highlighted the asymmetric nature of India-China relations in the renewable energy sector, emphasizing that China's approach prioritizes strategic dependence over collaborative engagement. ([YouTube](#))

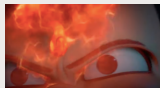
PUBLICATIONS

OCTOBER

Cherry Hitkari, Senior Visiting Student, School of Government, Peking University, People's Republic of China; Doctoral Scholar, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, translated an article titled, '大伊万：印度“梭哈”造船业，真的能如愿以偿？' (**'Da Yiwan: Can India's "Bet it All" Shipbuilding Industry Really Fulfil its Desires?'**) which was published under *ICS Translations* in October 2025. [Read More>>](#)



Sneha Chandran Sinha, Research Intern, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, wrote a paper titled, **The Politics of Fantasy: A Reflection of Chinese Society through Né Zhā** for *ICS Analysis* in October 2025. [Read More>>](#)



NOVEMBER

Hemant Adlakha, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, translated an article titled, '马小哲: 年轻人为什么不想生了?' ('**Why are Young People (in China) Having Fewer Children? A Marxist Political Economy Perspective**') which was published under *ICS Translations* in November 2025. [Read More>>](#)



Manashjyoti Karjee, Research Intern, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, wrote a paper titled, **Selective Revisionism at the Poles: Assessing China's Dual Identity in Arctic Governance** for *ICS Occasional Papers* in November 2025. [Read More>>](#)



FACULTY UPDATE

OCTOBER

Alicia García-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and Non-Resident Fellow, ICS, contributed a research paper titled, '**How does China's industrial policy work?**', in the journal *Review of Keynesian Economics*, Vol. 13 No. 4, Winter 2025, pp. 536–561, which was published on 1 October 2025.

Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as the chair for the Thematic Panel VI titled, '**Resource Politics & Environmental Geopolitics**' at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24–26 October 2025.

Anand P. Krishnan, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, gave a presentation titled, '**State of the Field – China's Political Economy**' at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised by ICS, New Delhi and Indian Institute of Management, Indore on 24 October 2025. He also presented a paper titled, '**"Rising Step by Step"? The Permeation of Chinese Smartphone Companies in India's Electronics Industry**', at the conference on China's Growing Footprints in South Asia, organised by the Centre for Contemporary China Studies, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi, on 30 October 2025. He served as the chair for the Thematic Panel IV titled, '**China's Role in Regional and Global Security**' at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24–26 October 2025.

Aravind Yelery, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as the chair for the Special Panel II titled, '**Doing Business in/with China: Voices from Indian Business Leaders**' at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24–26 October 2025. He also presented a paper titled, '**Turning Tariffs into Opportunity? India at the Crossroads of Trade and Investment Flows**' at the conference.

Ashok K. Kantha, former Ambassador to China; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as the chair of the Special Panel V titled, **'China's Technological Advances & Trade Restrictions'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 2025.

Bhim B. Subba, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, presented his paper titled, **'State of the Field: Party's Internal as Political Governance'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 2025. He also served as the chair of the Thematic Panel III titled, **'Chinese Diplomacy and Geopolitical Rivalries'** at the conference.

G. Venkat Raman, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as the chair of the Special Panel IV titled, **'Re-wiring Globalization: Trade, Technology & Sustainability China Factor in a Multipolar World'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 2025. He also presented a paper titled, **'China's Disruption of Tech Value Chains'** at the conference.

Govind Kelkar, Executive Director, GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation, Gurgaon; Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, co-authored a book chapter titled, **'Inequalities Persist: Policies and Social Constructs in Women's Land Rights'** as part of the book, *Challenges for Chinese Women in the Early Twenty-First Century*, which was published in November 2025.

Hemant Adlakha, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, contributed an Explained Global for *The Indian Express* titled, **'Japan set to get new PM: How China views Sanae Takaichi, why that matters'**, which was published on 5 October 2025. He has contributed a commentary piece for the *Economic and Political Weekly* titled, **'How Did Beijing View the Trump-Putin Warm Embrace in Alaska?'**, which was published on 18 October 2025.

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, delivered an online lecture titled, **'India-China Relations since 2020: Mistrust & Engagement in a World in Flux'**, at the NMIMS Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, Mumbai on 11 October 2025. He delivered another online lecture titled, **'China's Engagement in South Asia'** at the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru, on 17 October 2025. He served as the moderator of the session titled, **'Fireside Chat: China's Influence: Regional and Global Perspectives'**, as part of the conference China's Growing Footprint in South Asia, organised by the Centre for Contemporary China Studies, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi, on 30 October 2025.

Santosh Pai, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, presented a paper titled, **'Recalibration of Economic Ties with China: What, Why and How?'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised by ICS, New Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 2025.

Snigdha Konar, Research Associate and Assistant Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, presented her paper titled, **'Folding Beijing: A Future Innovation or a Dystopian Warning?'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised by ICS, New Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 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 paper titled, **'Popular Culture in Contemporary Chinese Society: Twenty-first Century Avatar of Confucianism'** at the 18th All India Conference of China Studies, organised by ICS, New Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, from 24-26 October 2025. She also chaired the Thematic Panel II titled, **'Society and Culture'** at the conference.

NOVEMBER

Alicia García-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and Non-Resident Fellow, ICS, contributed an article titled, **'Different routes to decarbonisation: EU carbon pricing versus China's green tech'**, which was published for the newsletter *Zhōnghuá Mundus* by BRUGEL on 10 November 2025. She contributed an article titled, **'The different paths to decarbonization in the EU and China'** [in Spanish], for *Expansión* on 11 November 2025. She contributed an article for *POLITICA EXTERIOR* titled, **'Rise and consequences of green technology in China'** [in Spanish], which was published on 25 November 2025.

Hemant Adlakha, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, has contributed an opinionated article titled, **'Amazing' handshake fails to amaze markets as Xi unamused by Trump's G2 offer'** for *Modern Diplomacy*, which was published on 8 November 2025.

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, delivered a lecture titled, **'Not India's Ocean: Ideology and Hierarchy in China's Presence in the Indian Ocean'**, as part of the Asian Futures Dialogue, hosted by Stepwell Centre for Asian Futures, Ahmedabad University on 6 November 2025. He delivered an online lecture titled, **'China-Pakistan Relations: CPEC, the Neighbourhood and the World'**, Pakistan Course, Atma Nirbhar Soch on 14 November 2025. He delivered an online lecture titled, **'TAR in Chinese Foreign Policy: China's Strategic Calculus and the Implications for India'** hosted by the School of International Cooperation, Security and Strategic Languages, Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17 November 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, gave a lecture titled, **'The Women's Movement in China: A Brief Overview'** at the Ashoka Centre for China Studies (ACCS), Ashoka University, Sonapat on 25 November 2025.

MEDIA UPDATE

OCTOBER

China has a plan to benefit from anti-immigrant turn in US. India needs one too

Hardening of the US stance has helped China, along with countries like the UK and Germany, harness its image as a viable option for Indian engineers and tech professionals. India needs a strategy to attract and retain talent at home



Anand P. Krishna on **China has a plan to benefit from anti-immigrant turn in US. India needs one too**
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Is there a China angle in Sanae Takaichi not being appointed Japan's first woman PM?

Takaichi was elected the first woman president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party early this month, while neighbouring China expressed doubts over her chances of becoming PM. Here is what she needs to do to assume power, and the hurdles she faces.



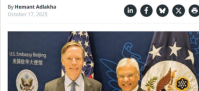
Hemant Adlakha on **Is there a China angle in Sanae Takaichi not being appointed Japan's first woman PM?**
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Jabin T. Jacob on **Above All, Look after Yourself: Conflict Mediation with Chinese Characteristics**
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Is Ashley Tellis Really a China Spy?

Chinese analysts see a tragic irony in the arrest of Tellis – the architect of the India-U.S. "alliance" aimed at countering China – on national security charges.



Hemant Adlakha on **Is Ashley Tellis Really a China Spy?**
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With Fourth Plenum, Xi Jinping Dares the US to Fight

Just ahead of the Trump-Xi summit, a high-level CCP meeting set the tone by emphasizing China's push for tech supremacy.



Hemant Adlakha on **With Fourth Plenum, Xi Jinping Dares the US to Fight**
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Trump-Xi meeting: Washington-Beijing rivalry is more than a tale of rise and decline — it's a mirror of two nations wrestling to determine the next global order

Assessments on which country has gained or lost based on just terms of trade and geopolitics will be incomplete. Each country's internal conditions and resilience will be equally important in the final account.



Jabin T. Jacob on **Trump-Xi meeting: Washington-Beijing rivalry is more than a tale of rise and decline — it's a mirror of two nations wrestling to determine the next global order**
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NOVEMBER



South Korea is getting 'more and more' out of its U.S. trade deal: Economist

Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis, says that South Korea's

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Alicia García-Herrero on **South Korea is getting 'more and more' out of its U.S. trade deal: Economist**
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China's rare earths: Geopolitical leverage or a security measure?

The current tariff war has seen China wield power and dominate its rivals, particularly the United States

Hemant Adlakha



Hemant Adlakha on **China's rare earths: Geopolitical leverage or a security measure?**
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Explainer: Why is China's rare earths 'model' not easy to break or replicate

Beijing's control of refining and producing magnets has placed China in a position in global trade that cannot be challenged, at least not in the foreseeable future.

BY HEMANT ADLAKHA

NOVEMBER 22, 2025



Hemant Adlakha on **Why is China's rare earths 'model' not easy to break or replicate**
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OPINION | Indian grand strategy in a multipolar world

India's future role should be less of a spoiler and more of a stakeholder and beneficiary in the multipolar setting

By Zorawar Daulet Singh | Updated November 21, 2023 12:00 IST



Zorawar Daulet Singh on **OPINION | Indian grand strategy in a multipolar world**
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Why China Is (Still) Not Interested in the Offer of a 'G2'

History, ideology, and realism all contribute to the perception that Trump's recent mention of the G-2 is just a U.S. "trap."

Hemant Adlakha



Hemant Adlakha on **Why China Is (Still) Not Interested in the Offer of a 'G2'**
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CHINA'S GLOBAL INITIATIVES: PREPARING FOR THE COLLAPSE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Jabin T. Jacob | November 1, 2025



Jabin T. Jacob on **China's Global Initiatives: Preparing for the Collapse of International Institutions**
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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

Brainstorming Session

Brainstorming for an ICS-HYI Initiative:
Workshop on Wheels

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Special Lecture

Theme: Connections, Collaboration, and
Cross-fertilisation

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