

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 **ten** events in December 2025 and January 2026

DECEMBER 2025

The ICS organised a panel discussion on **The 20th Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference, 2025** on 1 December 2025. The panel highlighted the relevance of the 20th Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference as a venue for constructive dialogue and cooperation. The speakers included **Anuradha Chenoy**, Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University, Sonipat, **Ashok K. Kantha**, former Ambassador to China; 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. The speakers noted that, in the context of a shifting multipolar landscape, such platforms are vital for bridging differences and building the consensus necessary to achieve practical policy results. The panel discussion was moderated by **Alka Acharya**, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She emphasized that differences in policy-formulation priorities were shaped by how closely research organisations worked with their respective governments. ([YouTube](#))

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Making China Knowable: Sir William Jones and the Production of China in 18th-Century British Orientalist Thought** on 3 December 2025. The seminar focused on the intellectual foundations, methods, and ideological implications of Sir William Jones' reconstruction of China in 18th-century British Orientalist scholarship. The speaker was **Diki Sherpa**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of History, Ashoka University, Sonipat. The speaker noted that the "making of China" in British Orientalist thought emerged from India rather than from China itself, through archives, assumptions, and methods rooted in colonial Bengal. The session was chaired by **Sreemati Chakrabarti**, former Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi; Chairperson and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She underscored how Jones' Calcutta-based scholarship, prioritizing Indic antiquity over Chinese historiography, laid the foundations for 19th-century British Sinology, revealing more about colonial knowledge production than Chinese reality itself. **(YouTube)**

The Institute of Chinese Studies organised a brainstorming session titled, **Brainstorming for an ICS-HYI Initiative: Workshop on Wheels** on 10 December 2025. The brainstorming session explored the possibilities of creating a structured national outreach and mentorship programme to strengthen China-focused research in India and improve the quality of applications to the ICS-HYI Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship, in collaboration with the Harvard-Yenching Institute. The session deliberated on existing gaps in fellowship outreach, application quality, and institutional preparedness, and discussed the design of a mobile Workshop on Wheels model through modules on mentorship, faculty and alumni engagement, and delivery formats. In the concluding segment, the speaker was **Shiv Shankar Menon**, former Foreign Secretary of India; Chair, Ashoka Centre for China Studies. He noted that the initiative should build a stronger pipeline of China scholars by linking universities, mentors, and prospective applicants through sustained engagement. Brief remarks were delivered by **James Robson**, James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University; Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute.



Brainstorming for an ICS-HYI Initiative: Workshop on Wheels

The ICS organised a special lecture titled, **Connections, Collaboration, and Cross-fertilisation: The Enduring Importance of Cross-Cultural Exchanges Between Institutions of Higher Education for the Future of Asian Studies** on 10 December 2025. The special lecture explored the historical evolution of engagement between institutions of higher education in the West and Asia, focusing on their roles in shaping the field of Asian Studies and their potential contributions to its future development. The speaker was **James Robson**, James C. Kralik and Yunli Lou Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University; Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Massachusetts. Prof. Robson noted that while many institutes closed during periods of conflict, the HYI has endured for a century, adapting even when its operations were severely constrained. He highlighted that the HYI seeks to ease tensions by fostering scholarly collaboration, rebuilding cultural connections, and promoting cross-fertilisation for mutual benefit. The special lecture was chaired by **Sabaree Mitra**, Professor, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She highlighted key challenges within the field of Asian Studies, including the enduring legacy of Cold War epistemologies and colonial knowledge frameworks, as well as contemporary pressures arising from state interests, funding constraints, and political polarisation.



Connections, Collaboration, and Cross-fertilisation: The Enduring Importance of Cross-Cultural Exchanges Between Institutions of Higher Education for the Future of Asian Studies

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Regionalisation of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia: The Interplay between Geo-economics and Geopolitics** on 17 December 2025. The seminar focused on the regionalisation of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asia, situating it within wider geo-economic and geopolitical contexts. The speaker was **Ishani Naskar**, Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The speaker noted that the future viability of the BRI in Southeast Asia will depend on China's ability to align its economic ambitions with ASEAN norms, consensus-based decision-making, and regional expectations. The seminar was chaired by **Priyabala Singh**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Kalindi College, University of Delhi. She noted successes in connectivity boosting trade (e.g., Thailand's hub status) alongside debt/environmental pushback (Myanmar delays, Philippines Duterte-era pivots), urging India to study this "regionalisation" for its own Indo-Pacific strategies while critiquing China's opaque financing as a lingering geopolitical flashpoint. **(YouTube)**

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Navigating India's China Strategy on Climate and Energy** on 24 December 2025. The seminar examined India's evolving climate and energy engagement with China against the backdrop of ambitious domestic transition targets, persistent supply-chain dependence and intensifying geopolitical contestation. The speaker was **Pooja Vijay Ramamurthi**, Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi. She highlighted how India's pursuit of decarbonisation, manufacturing self-reliance, and climate leadership increasingly intersects with China's dominance across green technology value chains. The session was chaired by **Partha Mukhopadhyay**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair reflected on urban policy interconnections with geopolitics, stressing how India's "subaltern urbanization" in smaller cities offers a counter narrative to mega-city focus, drawing parallels to resilient supply chains amid US-China tech rivalry. (YouTube)

JANUARY 2026

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **We Were Smart: Shamate, Memory, and Migrant Youth Experiences** on 7 January 2026. The seminar examined Shamate (杀马特) as a subculture that emerged in among marginalised youth early-2000s China amid rapid urbanisation and industrial expansion. The speaker was **Snigdha Konar**, Research Associate, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The speaker framed Shamate within the wider dynamics of rural-urban migration, factory labour, and post-reform social hierarchies. The session was chaired by **Patricia Uberoi**, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Prof. Uberoi introduced Dr. Konar's work, situating Shamate—a flamboyant aesthetic of migrant youth—as a poignant lens on post-reform China's unequal urbanization, social exclusion, and limits of subcultural expression. (YouTube)

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Role of Critical Supply Chains in U.S.–China Relations and Implications for India** on 14 January 2026. The seminar explored the significance of critical supply chains in US–China relations and assessed their wider implications for India. The speaker was **Lauren Piper**, Senior Analyst, Rhodium Group, Washington; Motwani Jadeja Fellow, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. The speaker underscored the growing centrality of trade policy, tariffs, and supply-chain de-risking in shaping economic and security strategies amid heightened US–China rivalry. The session was chaired by **Santosh Pai**, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair framed India's post-2020 border tensions response—PLI schemes, China diversification—as a pragmatic recalibration, urging selective engagement in non-strategic sectors while fortifying critical chains like semiconductors and APIs. (YouTube)

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **Eclipsing the West: China, India and the Forging of a New World** on 21 January 2026. The seminar examined the transformation of the global order through the comparative rise of China and India, drawing on the speaker's long engagement with economic policy and his recent book, *Eclipsing the West: China, India and the Forging of a New World*. The speaker was **Sir Vince Cable**, Visiting Professor in Practice, The London School of Economics and Political Science, London. Sir Cable noted the decline in the Western share of global output and the corresponding rise of the Global South, with China and India accounting for a substantial part of this transformation. The session was chaired by **Alka Acharya**, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair highlighted India's moral high ground in Global South forums, urging Delhi to leverage RIC trilateralism for de-escalation while diversifying supply chains—framing Taiwan Strait tensions as a mirror to LAC risks, where miscalculation could unravel decades of economic interdependence. She also called for scholarly rigour over headlines in understanding Xi's "community of shared future". (YouTube)

The ICS organised a seminar titled, **The Venezuelan Crisis and its Implications for China's Worldview** on 28 January 2026. The seminar examined China's expanding role in Latin America, the implications of the US military operation in Venezuela that led to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro, and the broader impact on the international rules-based order. The speaker was **Gunjan Singh**, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. The speaker noted that regime change in Venezuela may push Latin America closer to China, regarding it as a more viable trading partner, and may allow China to champion its position as the “voice of the Global South” and as a bulwark of upholding the international rules-based order. The session was chaired by **Hemant Adlakha**, Vice Chairperson & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The chair highlighted that Maduro's fall exposes limits of “no-limits” Russia-China-Iran axis support, forcing Xi to recalibrate “community of shared future” rhetoric toward pragmatic hedging—prioritizing oil security over ideological solidarity, with implications for India's own China balancing act. ([YouTube](#))

PUBLICATIONS

DECEMBER 2025

Shubhda Gurung, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, ICS-HYI Fellow, contributed a paper titled, **‘Tagore and his 1924 China Visit: Reassessing Ji Xianlin's Perspectives’**, which was published under *ICS Occasional Papers* in December 2025. [Read More>>](#)



Manju Rani Hara, 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 titled, **‘媒体：湖南掀起“解放思想大讨论”，会是大变革前奏吗？专家解读’** (**‘Media: Hunan Kicks Off the Big Debate on ‘Emancipating the Mind’ – A Harbinger to Big Changes in Future? Expert View’**) which was published under *ICS Translations* in December 2025. [Read More>>](#)



JANUARY 2026

Hemant Adlakha, Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, translated an article titled, **‘新年重读新年献词，坚定祖国统一决心——学习毛主席《将革命进行到底》’** (**‘Rereading the New Year's Address to Reaffirm the Determination to Reunify the Motherland – Studying Chairman Mao's “Carry the Revolution Through to the End”**) which was published under *ICS Translations* in January 2026. [Read More>>](#)



FACULTY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2025

Alicia García-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and Non-Resident Fellow, ICS, contributed an article titled, **'Where is Europe in the fight for rare earths?'** for *EURACTIV*, which was published on 1 December 2025. She has contributed an article for *EL PAÍS* titled, **'Where does Europe stand in the fight for rare earth elements?'** [in Spanish], which was published on 1 December 2025. She also contributed an article for *EURACTIV* titled, **'Macron's Beijing visit shows how Europe is cornered'**, which was published on 9 December 2025. She contributed an article titled, **'Macron's visit to Beijing shows that Europe is with its back to the wall'**, [in Italian] for *EURACTIV Italy*, which was published on 9 December 2025. She also contributed an opinionated editorial for *Commonwealth Magazine* titled, **'After a Strong 2025, Taiwan's Economy Faces Pressure in 2026'**, which was published on 17 December 2025. She contributed an article for *Expansion* titled, **'What Europe must learn from China's rise in critical technologies'** [in Spanish], which was published on 18 December 2025. She has also contributed an article titled, **'The Nexperia crisis: a wake-up call for Europe's approach to Chinese investment'** which was published for the newsletter *Zhōnghuá Mundus* by BRUGEL on 23 December 2025.

Anand P. Krishnan, Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Adjunct Fellow, ICS, contributed an issue brief titled, **'Culture, Economy and Technology in Alignment for Border Governance: An Analysis of Xi Jinping's Visit to Xinjiang'**, for the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, which was published in December 2025.

Ashok K. Kantha, Subhas Chandra Bose Chair Professor in International Relations, Chanakya University, Bengaluru, and former Ambassador to China; and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as the chair of the panel discussion titled, **'An Assessment of the Chinese Economy'** hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House, New Delhi, on 11 December 2025.

Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development; and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as a panellist on the discussion titled, **'An Assessment of the Chinese Economy'** hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House, New Delhi, on 11 December 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, contributed a research paper for the journal *International Affairs: Politics, Economics, Law* titled, **'Is Regional Cooperation Possible Without Bilateral Cooperation?'**, which was published in December 2025.

Santosh Pai, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, served as a panellist on the discussion titled, **'An Assessment of the Chinese Economy'** hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House, New Delhi, on 11 December 2025.

Shamshad Ahmad Khan, Assistant Professor of International Relations, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani Dubai Campus, UAE; and Visiting Associate Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, presented his paper titled, **'One region many visions: Interpreting the convergences and divergences in Indo-Pacific Strategies'** at the Asia Pacific Conference 2025, hosted by Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, from November 29–30, 2025, in Beppu, Japan.

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, **'Popularising Lu Xun in India'**, at the international conference on 'Lu Xun and the Global South', from 13–14 December, 2025 held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.

JANUARY 2026

Alicia García-Herrero, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis CIB; Senior Fellow, BRUEGEL; and Non-Resident Fellow, ICS, contributed an article titled, **'The revaluation of all values and another warning for Europe'** [in German], for *MAKRONOM*, which was published on 7 January 2026. She co-authored an article with Jürgen Matthes for *Handelsblatt* on 14 January 2026 titled, **'The China shock threatens Europe's industry – we can defend ourselves'** [in German]. She co-authored an article with Daniel Gros titled, **'The EU's Price Undertakings for Chinese EVs Can Bring more Risks than Solutions'**, which was published in the Institute for European Policymaking @ Bocconi University on 20 January 2026. She contributed a paper for the *Center for Asia-Pacific Resilience and Innovation* (CAPRI) titled, **'Entrepreneurship in Democratic Contexts: Social Contracts, Risks, and Pathways Forward'**, which was published on 27 January 2026. She also contributed a working paper with BRUEGEL titled, **'Growth without profits: how will 'involution' in China end?'**, which was published on 28 January 2026. She contributed an article titled, **'Impact on Spain of the "mother of all agreements" between the EU and India: creating a trilateral bridge that also includes Latin America to amplify our global influence'** [in Spanish], for *Consenso del Mercado*, which was published on 29 January 2026.

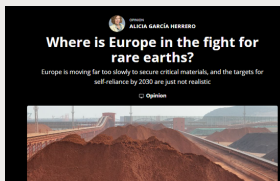
Santosh Pai, Partner, Dentons Link Legal; Treasurer & Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, contributed an article for *The Hindu Business Line* titled, **'Lessons from the Haier deal'**, which was published on 1 January 2026.

MEDIA UPDATE

DECEMBER 2025



Jabin T. Jacob on **Documenting China's Borderlands Podcast – Episode 5: The Himalayan Rim**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **Where is Europe in the fight for rare earths?**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **Electric cars: The EU Commission is giving China a gift with its tariff changes**
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Alicia García-Herrero on **The Chinese shock that threatens European industry: some solutions**
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Hemant Adlakha on **A neighbour's perspective of the recent Modi-Putin summit talks**
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Jabin T. Jacob on **Russia, China and the Uneasy Terms of Authoritarian Coexistence**
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Jabin T. Jacob on **China's anti-corruption machine tightens its grip**
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Santosh Pai on **Lessons from the Haier deal**
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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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And Ethics in the Global South:
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3rd AICEAS

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World Order: Implications for
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