Nagaland

19th AICCS

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF CHINA STUDIES

印度全国中国研究会议

28-30 OCTOBER 2026,
NAGALAND UNIVERSITY



AI, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, AND ETHICS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

INDIA-CHINA PERSPECTIVES

Institute of Chinese Studies
ICS
中国研究所 DELHI

Policy Planning & Research Division
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY
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ABOUT AICCS

The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) has been organising the All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS) as a flagship event since 2006. Convened annually, usually in November-December, in partnership with an institution where research and teaching in China Studies is being carried out, it is meant to generate interest in and strengthen research on China Studies in India. In addition to a special theme each year, the conference also showcases a survey of recent scholarship in different aspects of China Studies, globally as well as in India.

PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF AICCS

As a pan-Indian outreach initiative, the previous editions of AICCS have been held at Delhi University (2006 & 2009) , India International Centre, Jadavpur University (2010), Central University of Hyderabad (2011), Visva-Bharati University (2012), IIM Kozhikode (2013), Banaras Hindu University (2014), Sikkim University (2015), University of Mumbai (2016), Goa University (2017), CHRIST University (2018), O.P. Jindal Global University (2019), IIT Madras (2021) and IIT Guwahati (2022), University of Hyderabad (2023), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (2024), IIM Indore (2025).

MIRA SINHA-BHATTACHARJEA AWARD

Each year, the best paper presented by a young and emerging scholar is selected for the Mira Sinha-Bhattacharjea Award, instituted in the memory of one of the most eminent scholars of China Studies in India. The Award carries a prize of INR 25,000 and the selected paper is published by the ICS. The selection is made by a Committee comprising senior China scholars, on the basis of originality of the topic, methodology, argument and presentation.

CONCEPT NOTE

The All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS), convened annually by the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) since 2006, is a flagship platform for advancing research and dialogue on China in India. It brings together scholars, practitioners, and students across disciplines to engage with evolving trajectories in China's domestic transformations and global engagements. Over the past two decades, China Studies in India has witnessed significant expansion in terms of institutional presence, interdisciplinary approaches, and access to primary sources. At the same time, rapid changes within China and in the global order, economic restructuring, political consolidation, technological transformation, and shifting geopolitical alignments; have generated new questions and research agendas. The 19th AICCS seeks to consolidate these developments by combining a reflection on the state of the field, a platform for new research, and a focused engagement with emerging themes shaping India–China relations and the Global South.

The Conference will be organised into three components:

Part I: China Studies - State of the Field

This component reflects on the evolution of China Studies globally and in India, focusing on emerging directions, methodological innovations, and shifts in knowledge production.

Sub-themes: Global trends in China Studies; China Studies in India: trajectories and challenges; Language, archives, and methodological innovations; Interdisciplinary and comparative approaches; Rethinking theoretical frameworks in China Studies; Social Development in China

Part II: New Research on China in India

This section provides a platform for scholars, particularly early-career researchers and doctoral candidates, to present original research across diverse themes in China Studies.

Sub-themes: Domestic politics, governance, and the Party-state; Political economy, development, and inequality; Society, culture, and identity transformations; Environment, sustainability, and resource governance; Science, technology, and innovation in China; Foreign policy, strategy, and security; China in regional and global governance; Health, Education, Women's Development, Population trends, Urban-Rural Issues, Migrant labour.

Part III: Special Theme

AI, Emerging Technologies, and Ethics in the Global South: India–China Perspectives

Technological transformations are increasingly reshaping global power structures, governance models, and normative frameworks. In this context, India-China relations are entering a new phase where emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and advanced computing, are central to both competition and cooperation. At the same time, these developments raise broader questions for the Global South concerning technological dependency, digital sovereignty, and ethical governance. This special theme will examine these dynamics as a focused segment within the broader conference.

Sub-themes: Technology and shifting configurations of power; AI, data governance, and digital sovereignty; Competing regulatory and governance models; Digital infrastructure, dependency, and Global South engagements; Strategic autonomy and techno-geopolitics; Ethical questions: labour, security, surveillance, and justice.

— PROGRAMME —

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 2026

6:00 PM onwards: Arrival of Participants

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER, 2026

9:30 AM –10:00 AM: Registration for Conference Attendees

INAUGURAL SESSION
10:00 AM -11:30 AM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



H. John Sema is a Professor at the Department of Political Science, Nagaland University, Lumami. Prior to this, he was the Head of the Department of Political Science. He has served as the Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Dean of the School of Management and Law. He has also served as Dean of Students' Welfare and has undertaken responsibilities as Warden of several university hostels. He has also served as a Visiting Fellow under the Special ICSSR Assistance Programme at Osmania University, Hyderabad. He has participated extensively in international, national and regional seminars, conferences and workshops, where he has delivered invited lectures and academic presentations on diverse issues relating to politics, society, economy, culture and the Northeast region. He has published more than twenty research articles in reputed national and international journals and has contributed several chapters to edited books.

Opening Remarks



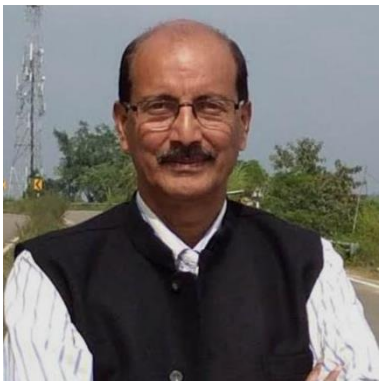
Alka Acharya is the Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She was Professor and Chairperson at the Centre for East Asian Studies (Chinese Studies), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), teaching courses on Chinese Foreign Policy and Political Economy to the Masters and M.Phil students and guiding doctoral research since 1993, from where she superannuated in March 2025. From 2005-2013, she was the Editor of the journal China Report and had an earlier stint as a full-time Director and Senior Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, from 2014-2017. Among her works are Crossing a Bridge of Dreams: 50 years of India-China (2001, co-edited); China & India: Politics of Incremental Engagement (2008) and most recently, Boundaries and Borderlands: A Century after the 1914 Simla Convention (2023, Edited). She was nominated by the Indian government as a member of the India-China Eminent Persons Group (2006-2008) and was a member of the National Security Advisory Board of the Government of India for two terms, 2006-2008 and 2011-2012. Her current research focuses on India-China-Russia Trilateral Cooperation and comparing the Indian and Chinese strategies of regional engagement.

Welcome Address



Dasarathi Bhuiyan is a Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at Nagaland University, Lumami. He was previously a faculty member in the P.G. Department of Political Science at Berhampur University, Odisha. He has earned his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and D.Litt. (Doctor of Literature) from Berhampur University. He specialises in Indian state politics, political processes in India, and political theory. Alongside his academic work, Prof. Bhuiyan is a well-known Odia short story writer, novelist, columnist, and editor. Many stories of Prof. Bhuiyan have been translated into Hindi and published in mainstream Hindi literary magazines. He is regularly participating in programs broadcasted by Akashvani and Doordarshan.

Inaugural Address



Samudra Gupta Kashyap is the Chancellor of Nagaland University, Lumami. He is a veteran journalist, author and scholar of international repute. An alumnus of Cotton College (Guwahati) and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (New Delhi), he holds a PhD degree in Management for his pioneering research work on the Leadership and Social Innovations of Srimanta Sankaradeva, the 15th-16th century socio-religious reformer of Assam. He served as a journalist for close to four decades, during which he reported extensively about Northeastern India and its international neighbourhood to the outside world, apart from setting new standards in Development Journalism. Author and co-author of over twenty books in English and Assamese, some of his recent books are (1) India-Bangladesh: Fifty Years of Friendship, (2) Untold Stories of the Freedom Struggle from Northeast India, (3) Assam's Great Heroes Who Fought the Muslim Invasions, (4) Dhekiajuli 1942: The Untold Story, and (5) Assam Tea: Glorious 200 Years. He is also a former State Information Commissioner of Assam. Dr Kashyap is a member of several institutions and committees including the Special Study Centre for Northeast India at JNU, and the Assam Mukhya Mantri Sangrahalaya Committee.

Special Address



Jagadish Kumar Patnaik is a distinguished academic, political scientist and higher-education administrator, presently serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University, a Central University. He has an extensive academic and administrative career spanning nearly four decades. He obtained his PhD from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, in 1993, under the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship, with specialization in International Relations and International Political Economy. He completed his M.Phil. and Post-Graduation in Political Science from Berhampur University, Odisha, where he was a Gold Medallist. Before joining Nagaland University, Prof. Patnaik served as Professor (HAG) of Political Science and Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Mizoram University. He also served in several important academic and administrative positions, including Dean, School of Social Sciences, and Head of the Department of Political Science. His areas of academic expertise include Political Science, International Relations, International Political Economy, Indian Politics,

State Politics and Policy, and issues concerning Northeast India. He has contributed extensively through research publications, books, edited volumes, conference presentations and doctoral supervision. His academic record includes supervision of 12 Ph.D. and 5 M.Phil. scholars. As Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University, Prof. Patnaik has been associated with initiatives aimed at strengthening academic excellence, research, infrastructure development, NEP 2020 implementation, innovation and the overall advancement of higher education in Northeast India. Prof. Patnaik is widely recognised for his distinguished contributions to teaching, research, academic leadership and university administration.

Convenor's Remarks



Rityusha Mani Tiwary is Associate Professor, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi and an Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. She is also the Associate Editor of China Report and holds a PhD in Chinese Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her current research focuses on the interplay of leadership, power and hegemony in East Asia and China's role in shaping regionalism across political economy and foreign policy. She was the recipient of the Visiting Program for Young Sinologists in 2017, awarded by the Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing. She was earlier awarded the International Visitor Leadership Program by the Department of State, USA, in 2016 and the Pavate Fellowship at the Politics and International Studies Department, University of Cambridge, UK, in 2013. She was a Visiting Scholar at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and a Visiting Researcher at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies.

Keynote Address



Nimmi Kurian is a Professor at the Centre for Policy Research. She holds an MA, M.Phil and PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She serves on the External Advisory Board of the India China Institute, The New School, New York and on the Fellowship Committee of the China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Centre for China Studies, Ashoka University. She has held Fellowships from the India China Institute, The New School, New York and the Charles Wallace India Trust. She has written and published widely on alternative spatial imaginations of South Asia, a theme that is explored in detail in her two books India China

Borderlands: Conversations Beyond the Centre (Sage, 2014) and India and China: Rethinking Borders and Security (co-author) (University of Michigan Press, 2016). She is one of the authors of the India Country Report (BCIM Joint Study Group, 2016) constituted by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, that offers policy pathways for transforming economic geographies in South Asia.

TITLE: ***CARTOGRAPHIES OF THE CLOUD: NEW MAPS, OLD DILEMMAS FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH***

MEA Representative's Remarks



Lt. Col. Amardeep Singh Multani, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Contemporary China Studies (CCCS) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi

Vote of Thanks



Deepak Kumar Bhaskar is Co-Convenor and Organising Secretary of the 19th AICCS. He is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Department of Political Science, Nagaland University, Central University of India. He holds a Bachelor's degree with Honours in Political Science from Satyawati College of the University of Delhi and completed his M.A., M.Phil., and PhD in International Studies from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Prior to joining Nagaland University, he taught at Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, for more than a decade, where he was actively engaged in teaching and academic activities.

11:30 – 12:00: High Tea

SPECIAL PANEL I
CURRENT DISCOURSES IN CHINESE STUDIES
China Studies in India: Trajectories, Pedagogies, and Emerging Knowledge Frameworks
12:00 PM -1:30 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (Ground Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Sabaree Mitra is a Professor of Chinese in Jawaharlal Nehru University and an Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Her teaching and research have spanned the fields of contemporary Chinese literature and criticism, Chinese cultural history, gender issues, India-China cultural relations and regional interaction. Her latest publication is, an edited volume titled *China's May Fourth Movement: New Narratives and Perspectives*, published by Routledge in 2023. She is also the Editor of the ICS quarterly journal, China Report, published by Sage. Her coedited volume (with Usha Chandan) in honour of Prof. Patricia Uberoi, titled *China's Society and Culture: Studies and Reflections* was released on October 2, 2026.

Speakers



Samuel Sangtam is a Research Scholar in the Department of Political Science at Nagaland University, Lumami. He works on international relations, maritime affairs, and Indian foreign policy, with a growing interest in how India studies and understands its neighbouring powers. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Nagaland University, Lumami, and completed his graduation at Kohima College, Kohima, where he has received the Scholarly Badge Award for academic excellence. He has also completed a certificate course on Southeast Asia, reflecting his continuing interest in the wider regional dynamics surrounding India's neighbourhood.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China Studies in India: Structural Constraints, Knowledge Production, and the Path Toward Indigenous Theoretical Frameworks***

ABSTRACT

China Studies in India occupies a paradoxical position: strategically vital yet institutionally underdeveloped. The paper argues that the field suffers from a dual marginalisation - excluded from the mainstream of Western China Studies by resource and institutional asymmetries, while simultaneously pulled away from sustained scholarly theorising toward reactive strategic commentary driven by immediate policy demands. Using critical discourse analysis and comparative area studies methodology, the paper traces this predicament to four interlocking constraints: an acute shortage of Mandarin language training, thin institutional infrastructure ,tightening geopolitical and archival access following the 2017 Doklam standoff and 2020 Galwan clash, and a deeper epistemological dependence on Western paradigms and English-language secondary sources. Drawing on postcolonial theory and Global international relationship scholarship - particularly the concepts of epistemic sovereignty and southern theory - the paper contends these are not merely logistical shortcomings but structural forces shaping what can be known and said about China from an Indian vantage point. At the same time, the paper identifies significant untapped potential. India's shared post colonial trajectory with China, its divergent path of constitutional democracy versus revolutionary party-statehood, its long civilisational entanglement with China, and its experience managing ethnic and religious diversity within a federal system together offer a distinctive comparative standpoint - one unavailable to Western or East Asian scholars, and irreducible to Chinese self-narratives of South-South solidarity. The paper argues this vantage point could generate genuine theoretical contributions to debates on authoritarian resilience, development and inequality, and the future of international order. Realising this potential, however, demands urgent institutional investment: systematic language training, research infrastructure, publication platforms, and a scholarly culture that rewards long-term theoretical work over short-term commentary.



Nishit Kumar is a Sinologist and Assistant Professor at the Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of International Relations, Chanakya University, Bengaluru. He currently teaches courses on Chinese language and India-China relations. Prior to joining Chanakya University, he was associated with the Centre for Contemporary China Studies (CCCS), Ministry of External Affairs (Government of India) as a Consultant, where his work focused on contemporary China and India-China relations. He holds a PhD in Chinese from the Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His doctoral research examined the reception and impact of Mo Yan's Nobel Prize in Literature in China. He also holds an M.Phil., M.A., and B.A. (Hons.) in Chinese from JNU. As part of his doctoral research, he was an Institute of Chinese Studies-Harvard-Yenching Institute (ICS-HYI) Doctoral Fellow and conducted research at Harvard University (USA) and Peking University (China). His research interests include China Studies, India-China relations, Chinese literature, translation studies, and media narratives. He is a published translator of Chinese literary works into Hindi.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***From Language to Knowledge Production: Reconfiguring China Studies in Contemporary India***

ABSTRACT

Chinese Studies in India has traditionally been pursued with the help of a combination of linguistic proficiency training, area studies institutions, and nation-sponsored intellectual pursuits. Nevertheless, emerging geopolitical trends, structural changes, and academic priorities have raised issues about the objectives, boundaries, and methodologies of the study of China. The old tradition of research, which emphasised language skills and the disciplinary depth offered by specialised institutions, has gradually lost its relevance to the emerging tradition favouring interdisciplinarity, which brings together language and international relations, strategic studies, media studies, technological innovation, translation, and public policy. The paper will discuss the trajectory changes within the study of China in India and analyse the factors affecting scholarly practice such as institutional diversification, shifting funding patterns, education reforms, and the strategic importance of China. Utilising insights gained from institutional analysis, curricular trends, and interviews at emerging locations of China Studies, it will be argued that the future of China Studies in India should not focus on discarding the linguistic component of the field, but rather on combining it with other innovations. The study suggests a framework for analysing China Studies in India in terms of three interdependent components: linguistic expertise, interdisciplinary approaches, and socially-grounded research processes. In this manner, it aims to contribute to the discussion about the future of China Studies in India.



Prashant Kaushik is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Kundhela, Vadodara, Gujarat, India. Earlier he has taught at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He holds B.A. Hons History and M.A. History degrees from Hindu College, University of Delhi. He has studied Chinese language at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, Heilongjiang University, PRC and received M.A. Chinese and M.Phil Chinese degrees from the Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS), JNU, New Delhi. He has completed PhD from the Department of International Politics, School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat. He has authored several research articles and book chapters.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***National Education Policy 2020 and Chinese Language Education in India: A Perspective from the Periphery***

ABSTRACT

This article examines the position of Chinese language education in India through the analytical lens of centre and periphery, taking the Department of Chinese Studies (DCS) at the Central University of Gujarat (CUG) as a site of inquiry. It advances two interlinked arguments. First,

it contends that Chinese language education in India is spatially and institutionally stratified: the metropolitan universities of Delhi and a handful of other established urban centres constitute the disciplinary core, concentrating faculty, resources, exchange linkages, institutional visibility and epistemic authority, while provincial departments such as DCS at CUG remain structurally peripheral, despite being the largest full-fledged Chinese Studies department in western India. Second, the article argues that the regulatory frameworks issued in the wake of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 simultaneously open opportunities (multidisciplinarity, credit mobility, research orientation and employability) and intensify vulnerabilities (curricular fragmentation, foreign-language marginality and resource inequality) for peripheral departments. Drawing on CUG's NEP-aligned UG and PG curriculum as documented evidence, the paper concludes that NEP-era reforms can either democratise China knowledge across the Indian periphery or further entrench the dominance of the core, depending on how flexibly and intentionally peripheral departments negotiate the new regime.



Shanky Chandra is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chinese Studies at Doon University, India. He earned his B.A., M.A. in Chinese Language and Literature, and M.Phil. in Comparative Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research focuses on modern and contemporary Chinese science fiction, particularly the works of Liu Cixin and Science and Technology in China. He was a visiting scholar at Beijing Normal University and Harvard GSAS under the ICS- Harvard-Yenching Institute fellowship**.**

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Studying China Beyond Metropolitan Centers: Emerging Institutional Spaces and Regional Knowledge Production in India***

ABSTRACT:

The paper examines the changing geography of China studies in India through the lens of institutional decentralisation. For much of its post-independence history, the study of China in India, whether as language training, area studies, or strategic analysis, has been concentrated in a handful of universities, research institutes, and think tanks located in a few metropolitan centers, principally Delhi. As China's economic and strategic presence in India's neighbourhood deepens, this concentration has produced a widening gap between the scale of national interest in China and the institutional and social base available to meet it. Taking as its central case the Chinese Language Teaching Programme initiated by the Department of Chinese Studies, Doon University, in partnership with the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Pauri Garhwal, under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the paper asks two questions: first, how regional educational institutions can contribute to the decentralisation of China studies in India; and second, what role early Chinese-language education can play in the formation of future China specialists. Using a qualitative case-study method, drawing on programme reports, institutional records, field visits, and stakeholder

interviews conducted between 2023 and 2026, the paper argues that regional, school-level initiatives can widen access to China-related knowledge production, but that this decentralisation is neither automatic nor unambiguously positive. It must be read against a wider institutional picture in which even the metropolitan core of China studies suffers from an absence of reliable, sector-wide data on language capacity, in academia, diplomacy, defense, and trade alike, and against continuing constraints of faculty shortage, uneven pedagogy, and weak links between language training and disciplinary expertise.



Snehal Ajit Ulman is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese, School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University, Sikkim, India, where he has been teaching Chinese language, translation and interpretation for the past five years. Dr. Ulman was trained in Chinese language and is a fluent speaker of Mandarin. He is also fluent in English, Marathi, Hindi and Bengali. He holds a PhD from the Centre for Chinese and South East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has received his M.Phil degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has acquired his Master's degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University and his Bachelor's degree from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal. He was awarded the Junior Research Fellowship for his research. He was awarded a joint scholarship from the Government of China and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India to study in China for a year (Sept 2012 – July 2013) and was again awarded the same scholarship in 2020. He has co-edited the volume titled *India and China: Economics and Soft Power Diplomacy* (2020) and co-authored a book titled *1000 Powerful Chinese Lexicon: Chinese, English, Hindi* (2017). His research interests include Chinese language, Chinese cultural and civilisational linkages, Chinese governance and politics and Chinese society.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Rethinking Chinese Language Learning in India's Northeast: Future Prospects and Suggestions***

ABSTRACT:

Chinese language training in India is to a greater extent focussed on basic language training based on the foundations laid down by limited China published coursebooks remotely catering to the needs of Indian national aspirations in the 21st century. Further China Studies, at large, dominates the academic space, but with a little expertise of the Chinese language. India's Northeast is one of the crucial regions that has a very important role to play in India-China Relations. In this light, the paper will explore the current state of China Studies in India's Northeast, with the objective to determine if the region has a good academic setting to learn the Chinese language and understand China to the fullest. The paper will also discuss a few suggestions in this regard. The paper makes the following assumption: Northeast India has very few Chinese Language Training institutions, with focus solely on the language, ignoring many crucial areas of study and research. On the other hand, China Studies and allied programmes have been segregated from Chinese language training. The paper seeks to answer the following questions: What is the current state of China Studies, especially Chinese Language Learning,

in the Northeastern States of India? What are the broad aspirations of Chinese language learners and China researchers Academic Institutions in India's Northeast? 3. How developed is the China Studies Curriculum, including language learning, in Academic Institutions in India's Northeast? This study plans to analyse data collected from public domains and surveys as a part of the broader methodological approach.

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Lunch (First Floor, Lunch Area, Department of Political Science)

2:30 PM– 4:00 PM: Thematic Panels I & II (Parallel Sessions)

THEMATIC PANEL I
China's Political Economy: Environment, Energy and Regional Development
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Akhil Ranjan Dutta is currently Professor in the Department of Political Science, Head in the Department of Sociology and the Director (i/c) of the Gauhati University Institute of North East India Studies (GUINEIS) at Gauhati University, Assam, India. He is also the Editor of the GUINEIS Journal, A Rotary World Peace Fellow (2009) at the Rotary International Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Dutta led the Indian Think Tank Delegation to China on June, 2017 on the invitation of the Chinese Embassy in India and the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. He also received visiting fellowships at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in March 2017 and in the Department of Political Science, the University of Delhi in March 2020. He is also the recipient of the Second Bhabananda Dutta Memorial Social Science Research Award 2020. His book *Hindutva Regime in Assam: Saffron in the Rainbow*, Sage, India has been published by Sage in July 2021 has received wider acclamation from the social scientists of India and beyond. His recent book *Contested Urban Space the Global South: Informality and Street Vending in India and Thailand* (2025) has been published by the Gauhati University Press.

Speakers



Prachi Aggarwal is an Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi. Her areas of interest are energy studies, Chinese diplomacy and India-China relations. She has written for various columns and online websites and also published papers in reputed journals. She is the author of China's Energy Security: The Journey from Self-Sufficiency to Global Investor, which was published in 2022 by Palgrave Macmillan Singapore as well as China's Energy Security: The Domestic Discussion published by Knowledge World Publishers, New Delhi. She is fluent in Mandarin and has been invited as a panel speaker at LSTV Insight Programme, NewsX channel as well as at various universities both inside and outside India.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Energy Structure in the Xi Jinping Era***

ABSTRACT

Energy forms one of the 'core' national interests of China and each Party Congress has laid heavy weight on it. From 'energy revolution' to 'green development', each Party Congress has given a clarion call for the development of the energy field in China. China's energy policy structure involves its Five-Year Plans, energy laws and Party congresses. The paper discusses the energy issue discussed in the Party Congresses, not as an event but as a process. Since the arrival of Xi Jinping at the helm of affairs, China's Party Congresses have coincided with various other global events like the BRI initiative, the COVID pandemic, Ukraine war amongst others which have unwittingly influenced China's goals and policies. How will the 'energy issue' be influenced by these events and what will the Party Congresses maintain as a goal post for the energy issue shall be analysed here. The paper has a hypothesis that core national interests like energy determine the narratives of the Party Congresses. Whether this is true or it is actually the Party Congress that determines the future course of actions on national interest issues like energy shall be discussed. The paper also has a hypothesis that since becoming the President, Xi Jinping as an individual leader holds more power over the collective members of the Party Congresses. Is the charisma of Xi Jinping long lasting or is it that it is the influence of Party Congress which affects the decision making of Xi Jinping and hence allows him to stay in power shall be analysed here.



Saumya Soni is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her doctoral research examines party-to-party diplomacy in China-Vietnam relations as a mechanism of conflict management in the South China Sea, using a historical-institutionalist approach. Her broader research interests include regional dynamics in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific, China's domestic politics and political institutions, and contemporary developments in Chinese society. She is particularly interested in the relationship between domestic political processes, diplomatic practice, and regional outcomes. She holds a Master's degree in Politics with a specialisation in International Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her postgraduate research engaged with China in global politics, Japanese security dynamics, and East Asian area studies. She also holds a Bachelor's degree from Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. Her academic work reflects a sustained interest in China's external relations, comparative regional politics, and the evolving strategic landscape of Asia.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***From Wenzhou Model to City Brain: Institutional and Regional Innovation in China's Zhejiang Province***

ABSTRACT

Over the past four decades, China's Zhejiang province has transitioned from a bottom-up, decentralised entrepreneurial model (the Wenzhou Model) to a top-down, state-led digital governance system (the Hangzhou City Brain). Rather than treating this shift as a sudden technological rupture, the paper argues that the transition represents a process of institutional upgrading. By integrating Douglass North's New Institutional Economics (1990) with James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen's theory of gradual institutional change (2010), this study analyses how the province's rich heritage of informal networks, trust-based social capital (guanxi), and ownership flexibility provided the institutional readiness for digital adoption, while the structural bottlenecks of fragmented manufacturing made such upgrading urgent. What is fundamentally new about this research is its challenge to conventional binary narratives that frame private market entrepreneurship and state-directed technological control as opposing forces. Instead, by tracing institutional innovations like the Industrial Chain Chief Model and localised Manufacturing Industrial Brains, this study demonstrates how market and state logics co-evolve. Furthermore, drawing on ethnographic insights of community grid administration, the paper reveals the persistent agency of grassroots actors who navigate the digitalised iron cage of AI governance. In doing so, it demonstrates that the system's peripheral nerves remain deeply human-centric, relying on traditional social resources to resolve digital ambiguities. Ultimately, the paper offers a nuanced model of regional innovation, showing how traditional social capital is scaled rather than displaced by centralised technological systems, and establishes the boundary conditions for transferring this Zhejiang Experience to other regional contexts.

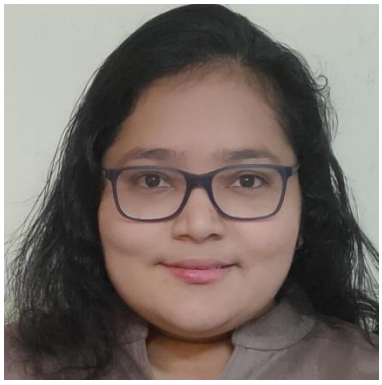


Mallika Bora is a Doctoral Scholar in the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, specialising in the political economy of China and India, with particular focus on peripheral regions and their integration into the global capitalist system. She is also a Research Assistant at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. She holds an M.A. in Global Studies from Ambedkar University Delhi and a B.A. in Political Science from Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. Her research interests include political economy, political and economic history, political and social movements, borderland studies, and alternative models of development. She has co-authored the chapter *"From Margins to Markets: Queer Cinema, Resistance and the Rise of Homonationalism and Homocapitalism in India"* in *Masculinity and Femininity in Flux: Rethinking Fluidity, Gaze and Gender Representation in Postmodern Cinema*. She also designed the undergraduate course *Borders and Borderlands* for the B.A. Global Studies programme at Ambedkar University Delhi, which is being offered to fourth-semester students from 2026.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Peripheralisation of China's Borderlands: A Critique of the Political Economy of Ethnic Textile and Handicraft Industries in Yunnan***

ABSTRACT

The paper argues that the development of ethnic textile industries in the peripheral region of Yunnan (China) is one of the central aspects of the processes of underdevelopment of the regions. While these industries are celebrated as economic engines providing subsistence livelihoods, especially for women, they lead to growing inequality, technological dependence and political weakness among the marginalised. They simultaneously reinforce backwardness through reconstruction of class, ethnicity and gender. Moreover, the state apparatus of China, under the global capitalist system has developed robust patriarchal and racist tendencies which actively reproduces and institutionalises backwardness and underdevelopment through the implementation of developmental plans and policies for marginalised sections of the society. Ethnic textile industry, which falls under the broader category of textile and handicraft industry, is embedded within the global capitalist economy and is a form of economic and cultural expression. Studies have stated that the production of ethnic textiles as an economic activity is practiced mostly by women and falls under the classification of "petty commodity production" which is part of the informal economy. However, there is a racial and patriarchal character entailing these ethnic textile industries. As ethnic textiles enter the global markets, the process of commodification has "institutionalised" the backwardness of being primitive just to fit tourist suitcases. The research will examine the peripheralisation of China's borderlands through study of the ethnic textile and handicraft industry in Yunnan, within the framework of Unequal Development. Primary sources have stated that this industry has been an economic engine of poverty reduction, source of livelihood for ethnic minority women, and ensured preservation of cultural identity which shall be critically examined within the framework of feminist political economy and intersectional theories. Further, the case study analysis will provide a systematic evaluation and critical understanding of the Chinese State through its developmental programmes and policies and how it structures and restructures class, gender and ethnicity amidst neoliberal capitalism.



Ana Sinha (FRAS) is an Assistant Professor of International Business at the FORE School of Management, New Delhi. A Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (UK), she holds a Doctorate in Management from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, where her research earned her the 'Best Doctoral Student' award at the 2023 Indian Strategy Conference (IIM Bangalore). Dr. Sinha's expertise lies at the intersection of geopolitics, cross-cultural management, and emerging technology. Her research and case studies on AI-integrated decision-making and its normative aspects in global markets has been published in prestigious outlets, such as Harvard Business Publishing . An expert in East Asian economies, she holds a Master's in East Asian Studies from the University of Delhi and is proficient in Mandarin Chinese. As an educator and corporate trainer, Dr. Sinha designs cutting-edge courses grounded in experiential learning, spanning Chinese and Japanese business cultures, Geopolitical Intelligence, International Business for Data Scientists, and Global Cinema Business and Film Diplomacy. She regularly conducts high-impact training sessions on international management and cross-cultural negotiations for corporate executives, institutional leaders, and doctoral scholars globally.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Water Stress, Carbon Transition Risk, and the Environmental Governance Gap in India–China Semiconductor and AI Infrastructure Investment***

ABSTRACT

Semiconductor fabrication and AI data centres are among the most water-intensive industries on earth, and both India and China are building them at scale in some of the most water-stressed places on earth. The paper asks a single question: do the flagship semiconductor and AI investments of the two countries price the environmental conditions of their own feasibility — and when they do not, what governance forms produce the mispricing? The paper proceeds in three moves. First, it introduces the concept of environmental sovereignty, the unexamined presumption a state holds that its own territory will indefinitely absorb the water and carbon loads of strategic industrialisation. This presumption, the paper argues, sits beneath the technological sovereignty debate and, when it fails, brings technological sovereignty down with it. Second, this concept is measured through an Environmental Risk Framework, which scores investment sites on four variables that standard location-advantage analysis omits: current water stress, its projected trajectory, the carbon intensity of the local grid, and exposure to carbon-border regulation. The framework is applied to fifteen announced investments in India and China, with water-stress scores verified against WRI's Aqueduct data. Third, it reports on the findings of the framework. The flagship sites of both national missions — Dholera and Jewar in India, Tianjin, Xi'an and the Yangtze Delta in China — fall in the highest risk band. The sites both states chose deliberately for a diversification score at half that risk or less. The framework therefore discriminates between good and bad location setting rather than condemning the sector wholesale. The paper's central claim is that the two states arrive at the same mispricing by opposite institutional routes — India through procedural minimalism, China through sectoral exclusion — and it closes with five governance design principles calibrated to Global South institutional capacity.

THEMATIC PANEL II
State, Society and Governance in Contemporary China
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

VENUE: Lecture Room-I, Ground Floor, Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Sreemati Chakrabarti is Chairperson of the Institute of Chinese Studies and is former Professor of Chinese Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. She has also been Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi; Head of the Department of East Asian Studies for three terms and Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies (2009-2012). Currently she is also an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. She was a Visiting Faculty at Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China in 2018. She has a Master's degree in Regional Studies- East Asia from Harvard University and holds a Doctorate in Political Science from Columbia University. She has authored three books: *China and the Naxalites, Mao, China's Intellectuals and the Cultural Revolution* and a National Book Trust volume titled China. She has also edited Higher Education in China: Select Perspectives and co-edited Taiwan Today. In addition, she has published several articles in journals, magazines and newspapers and contributed chapters to books. Several television channels have invited her to speak on China and East Asia related issues. In 2010 she was conferred "China-India Friendship Award" by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Speakers



Prabir Kumar Talukdar is a research scholar with a Master's in East Asian Studies from the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. His research focuses on East Asian philosophy and the comparative study of cultural traditions, especially concerning society, religion, and lived practice. He is currently expanding his research interests to encompass East Asian security studies and geopolitics, with a particular focus on Japan's postwar strategic evolution and the Indo-Pacific order. He has contributed essays and photojournalistic work to major Indian dailies, news portals, and independent centres, including The Hindu, The Assam Tribune, Frontline, NEZINE, Sahapedia, and the Centre for Science and Environment, on politics, socio-cultural issues,

and climate change. His photojournalistic work has been exhibited internationally with Thomson Reuters and the Asia-Europe Foundation. He received a fully-funded scholarship to attend a workshop on multimedia journalism in Tiranë, Albania. In 2019, he represented India at the 9th World Urban Forum (UN-Habitat) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Meritocracy, Mobility, and Withdrawal: Tang Ping (躺平) and the Erosion of Perceived Upward Mobility Among Chinese Youth***

ABSTRACT:

China's post-1978 reform era rested on a straightforward meritocratic promise that ensured upward social mobility based on education, hard work, and personal effort. For decades, that promise largely delivered. But the explosion of Tangping (躺平, "lying flat") across Chinese social media since 2020 signals that for millions of educated young adults, that bargain has been compromised. Far from being a simple case of laziness, irresponsible, and unpatriotic—the standard explanation offered by the state media—lying flat is a rational response to what youth describe as neijuan (内卷, "involution"), an exhausting, zero-sum rat race where effort no longer transforms into reward. The paper argues that tangping is not primarily exhaustion or laziness; instead, it reflects the deeper crisis of perceived meritocratic legitimacy. The paper presents three interconnected arguments, drawing on academic writing, state media discourse, and secondary socio-economic data. To begin with, tangping indexes that the meritocratic narrative in China has lost its credibility. Rapid credential inflation means university degrees no longer guarantee middle-class stability; therefore, the once-reliable link between academic achievement and economic security no longer holds true. Secondly, it exposes the frustration that has built up over the years. Today's youth, raised during their parents' era of rapid growth, are expected to achieve similar or even greater levels of success in a structurally different environment, only to encounter a wall of unaffordable housing costs, unstable employment, and unattainable milestones. Third, tangping is not passive defeatism if it can be understood in a simple way. It is a sharp and a bitterly ironic critique of an economic system that demands total devotion while offering increasingly arbitrary rewards. Finally, the paper also analyses the state's changing posture toward this quiet defiance, starting with moral condemnation in 2021 and framing tangping as foreign ideological infiltration in 2026 by the Ministry of State Security. This rapid shift towards securitisation reveals how deeply the party-state perceives an educated generation that simply refuses to compete.



Bidisha Seth is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Culture at Visva-Bharati University, India. She holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree (Honours) in Chinese Language and Literature from Visva-Bharati University, and has pursued advanced Chinese language training as a General Scholar at Beijing Language and Culture University, China. Her academic work focuses on Chinese language and literature, gender studies, feminist activism in China, comparative political and cultural studies, cross-strait relations, and contemporary Chinese society. Her publications include articles in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Advanced and Future

Research and the International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews titled “From Leftover to Liberated: The Quiet Feminist Revolution in Urban China” and “Feminism in a Restricted Landscape: The Rise and Impact of Pink Feminism in China” respectively. She has participated in academic events at Peking University and has received recognition in Chinese language competitions.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***State Feminism and Political Control: Contradictions in China’s 2025 Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women***

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the relationship between China’s global diplomacy and domestic governance through the lens of contemporary gender politics. It focuses on the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women, held in Beijing in October 2025 and co-hosted by the People’s Republic of China and UN Women to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. The study explores how the Chinese Party-state uses international and multilateral platforms to promote its political and strategic interests. The research identifies a major contradiction in China’s current governance model. At the international level, Beijing uses what is referred to as “discursive state feminism” to present itself as a supporter of women’s development and gender equality. Through high-level diplomatic engagement, policy initiatives, and major financial contributions to international institutions, China seeks to project an image of itself as a responsible global power and an important advocate of women’s development, particularly in the Global South. This approach strengthens China’s soft power and international influence. At the domestic level, however, this international image contrasts with a growing emphasis on political control. The Party-state has tightened restrictions on grassroots civil society, expanded digital surveillance, increased control over gender-related discussions, and adopted stronger pronatalist policies in response to declining birth rates. By examining these two sides of China’s gender governance, the paper highlights the gap between its international promotion of gender equality and its domestic restrictions on independent feminist activism. The study contributes to wider debates on authoritarian soft power, international norm-building, and the governance of civil society in contemporary rising powers.

Rityusha Mani Tiwary & Saima Iqbal (AUTHORS)



Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Convenor, 19th AICCS; Associate Professor, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi



Saima Iqbal is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, with extensive experience in teaching and research across contemporary political and social issues. She holds a PhD from the K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, where her doctoral research examined Muslim higher education. Building on this foundation, her research engages with the intersections of education, minority concerns, gender, rights, and public policy, examining how institutions and policy frameworks shape questions of access, participation, and inclusion. Her work spans public policy, human rights, gender studies, education, governance and international relations, with a sustained interest in questions of equity, inclusion, representation, and social justice.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***A Comparative Gendered Political Economy of Women's Movements in China and India: State Power, Developmental Transformations and Feminist Mobilisations***

ABSTRACT

Why do women's movements develop different political trajectories under contrasting regimes, and how do the political economies of development shape their possibilities for emancipation? This article addresses these questions through a comparative historical analysis of China and India from the twentieth century to the present. It advances a central argument: the trajectories of women's movements are shaped not simply by whether states recognise gender equality or whether political systems permit collective mobilisation, but by how state power and developmental strategies organise gender relations, distribute economic opportunities, and delimit the terms on which women can make political claims. This shifts the analysis from regime-centred explanations and linear narratives of feminist progress towards a comparative account of the material and institutional conditions of feminist politics. The article examines how women's emancipation became entangled with competing projects of national liberation, socialist transformation, postcolonial nation-building, and market-oriented development. It traces how these projects reconfigured women's citizenship, labour, social reproduction, and political participation, while producing distinct relationships between state institutions and autonomous feminist mobilisation. It also considers how class, caste, ethnicity, rurality, and migration complicate universalising accounts of women's movements, and how digital activism creates new spaces of contestation alongside mechanisms of surveillance and control. The comparison reveals that China's socialist and post-reform trajectory and India's postcolonial democratic and liberalising order cannot be adequately understood through a simple opposition between state-led emancipation and movement-led feminism. In both contexts, state intervention and economic transformation have generated contradictory conditions: expanding certain rights and opportunities while reproducing gendered inequalities and constraining independent political organisation. These contradictions, however, operate through different institutional arrangements and developmental priorities, producing distinct forms of mobilisation and political negotiation. The article's principal contribution is to conceptualise women's movements as historically situated struggles over the gendered organisation of development itself. By bringing China and India into a common analytical framework, it demonstrates how feminist agency is constituted through, rather than exercised outside, relations of state power, labour, and political economy. This perspective advances comparative

feminist political economy by explaining both the divergence of women's movements across political regimes and the structural tensions that connect their struggles for gender justice.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Inaugural Dinner & Networking

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 29 OCTOBER, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Thematic Panel III & IV (Parallel Sessions)

THEMATIC PANEL III
Emerging Technologies as a Factor in Strategic Competition: Regional and Global Perspectives
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

VENUE: Conference Hall (Ground Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



G. Chandra Sekaran is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for South East Asian Studies, Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Madras in 2020. His doctoral research examined *India-Sri Lanka Relations and the Changing Geostrategic Politics of the Indian Ocean Region*. He also holds an M.Phil. and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Madras, along with a bachelor's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies. His research interests include international relations, foreign policy, geopolitics and geostrategy, security studies, maritime security, human rights, and the Indian Ocean region, with particular emphasis on India's relations with China and Southeast Asia. He has published research articles on India's foreign policy, India-China relations, India's engagement with Southeast Asia, and emerging security challenges.

Speakers



Bhagyashree Nimbalkar is a Doctoral Scholar in Chinese Studies from the Centre for East Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. She has been a Research Intern at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, from 17 January 2024 to 17 August 2025. She was also a General Advanced Scholar at Fudan University, Shanghai (Sept 2025 to July 2026). At the Institute of Chinese Studies, Bhagyashree contributed to the Social Media division. She assisted with publishing initiatives while supporting the Research team in broader capacities, including resolving technical challenges. Her work allows her to engage with contemporary debates on China's evolving role in international institutions like BRICS, AIIB, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and other multilateral frameworks. Further, she aspires to become a distinguished scholar in Chinese studies, contributing to nuanced analyses of China's science and technology policy, developmental diplomacy, and international institutional engagements.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Contest for Technological Supremacy: Mapping AI Self-Sufficiency Strategies against US-led Weaponised Interdependence***

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence has become the defining general purpose technology of the twenty-first century, as its dominance is central to great power competition. The paper argues that technological supremacy in AI depends less on producing the single most capable model. Conversely it depends on a state's capacity to build and control the full AI stack, from hardware and energy to models, software and downstream diffusion. Thus, drawing on the concept of weaponised interdependence, the study examines how Washington has exploited China's reliance on US-centred semiconductor supply chains through export controls on advanced chips, lithography equipment and chip-design software. Further it traces how Beijing has responded to these attempts. The research uses methodology of systematic policy analysis of the AI policy documents and it identifies a threefold Chinese response of absorption, substitution and retaliation. These responses range from grey-market access to US hardware and state-directed investment through the Big Fund to licensing controls on gallium, germanium and rare earths. The findings point to a paradox as coercion did not degrade Chinese capability as expected. Further, it coincided with rapid gains in open-weight models, algorithmic efficiency, energy infrastructure and state-coordinated adoption, and the performance gap with US frontier models narrowed to under three per cent by 2026. China's approach is best read as an adaptive, sequenced industrial policy that pairs techno- nationalism at home with open-source diffusion abroad. Its limits are structural as strength in energy and adoption cannot offset weakness in compute, and without domestic extreme ultraviolet (EUV) lithography. In addition, Chinese fabrication remains confined to deep ultraviolet multi-patterning at around seven nanometres. The paper concludes that EUV denial is likely the most durable point of Western leverage, even though it can no longer halt China's progress at the systems and applications level.



Nandini Ghosh is a Research Scholar at the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Her research interests focus on multilateralism, multilateral governance, geopolitics, and geostrategy, with particular emphasis on Central Asia and its evolving regional order. Her academic work examines regional organisations, patterns of cooperation, institutional effectiveness, and the strategic interactions shaping Central Asia. She is particularly interested in understanding how regional states navigate complex geopolitical dynamics and engage with major powers through multilateral frameworks. Her research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of regional governance, institutional cooperation, and the changing geopolitical landscape of Eurasia. Through a multidisciplinary perspective, she wish to explore the intersection of regional institutions, strategic interests, and emerging challenges in Central Asia.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Artificial Intelligence, Critical Minerals and Strategic Competition in Central Asia: An India–China Perspective***

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly reshaping the global distribution of economic, technological and geopolitical power. Yet the expansion of AI should not be understood as a purely digital transformation, as its development depends upon secure access to critical minerals, energy, infrastructure and resilient supply chains. The paper examines the growing intersection between AI, critical minerals and strategic competition in Central Asia through an India-China perspective. It argues that the region's importance is derived not only from its substantial mineral resources but from the interaction between resource availability, infrastructure connectivity, technological requirements and the strategic choices of Central Asian states. China has developed a resource and infrastructure-driven approach, combining investment in mining, transport, processing and industrial networks with its wider Belt and Road Initiative. India, by contrast, has pursued a more diplomatic and partnership-oriented approach, seeking strategic engagement, connectivity and economic cooperation despite geographical and infrastructural constraints. The article argues that this difference reflects two distinct pathways of influence, China seeks to build structural connectivity around resource and production networks, whereas India seeks to expand strategic presence through diplomatic diversification and selective economic engagement. However, Central Asian states should not be viewed merely as passive arenas of India-China competition. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan possess varying degrees of resource capacity, geopolitical leverage and policy autonomy, enabling them to diversify partnerships and exercise sovereign choice. The article therefore conceptualises Central Asia as an emerging strategic space where resource geopolitics, infrastructure power, technological competition and state agency converge. It concludes that future influence in the region will depend increasingly on the ability to connect mineral resources with infrastructure, technology and strategic partnerships rather than on resource ownership alone.

Parth Lathiya (AUTHOR) & Sudeep Kesharwanee (CO-AUTHOR),



Parth Lathiya is an Academic Associate at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM-I), where he contributes to research at the intersection of public policy, governance, and emerging technologies. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Gujarat University and a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from Central University of Hyderabad (HCU). His research interests centre on regulatory mechanisms, artificial intelligence, and digital public infrastructure. He is deeply interested in how policies are designed and implemented, particularly where emerging technologies challenge conventional policy and regulatory frameworks.



Sudeep Kesharwanee is an Academic Associate at the Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore). He completed his Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Banaras Hindu University and his Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Hyderabad. His academic and research interests primarily lie in the areas of China Studies, India–China relations, and International Relations theory. His research interests focus on understanding the evolving dynamics of India–China relations, China's role in regional and global politics, and the broader implications of China's rise for the international order. He is particularly interested in engaging with theoretical perspectives in International Relations to examine contemporary geopolitical developments and the changing nature of international politics in Asia.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***The New Status Game: Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Powers, and the Remaking of Global Hierarchy***

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as more than a driver of military modernisation and economic growth. It is increasingly functioning as a new currency of international status. The paper argues that AI is emerging as a new "status technology" through which states seek international recognition, legitimacy, and influence. While existing scholarship largely examines AI as a source of material power and strategic competition, the paper asks a critical question: how can AI capabilities contribute to transforming a state's position within the international hierarchy? The paper integrates T. V. Paul's theory of status transformation with constructivist approaches to international hierarchy to develop a framework linking technological capability, technological leadership, international recognition, institutional influence, and status transformation. It argues that technological capability does not automatically produce higher international status. Rather, status transformation occurs when

technological achievements acquire intersubjective recognition and are translated into institutional influence, normative authority, and sustained international legitimacy. Empirically, the paper examines how established and emerging powers pursue AI-driven status construction through distinct pathways. While established powers seek to preserve their status through technological primacy and regulatory authority, emerging powers pursue recognition through innovation, institutional entrepreneurship, and inclusive technological development. The paper concludes that the future international hierarchy will depend not only on who develops advanced AI, but also on who can convert technological capability into internationally recognised leadership. AI is therefore becoming both an instrument of power and a mechanism through which global status is being reshaped.

THEMATIC PANEL IV
India-China Historical Interactions and Politics of Culture in China

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Suraj Beri is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, Nagaland University, Lumami. He holds his M.Phil (2013) and MA (2011) in Sociology at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi where he also completed his PhD (2019). Prior to joining Nagaland University, he held ad hoc and guest faculty positions in the Department of Sociology at Indraprastha College for Women, Janaki Devi Memorial College, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. His research lies at the intersection of elite studies, urban sociology, and political economy, with two principal empirical sites: Bikaner, Rajasthan. He currently serves as Principal Investigator on a Nagaland University-funded project, "Exploring Social Structure of Business in Mokokchung Town, Nagaland" (2024-26). He co-edited Sociology of Infrastructure: Perspectives from Northeast India (Rawat Publications, 2026, with Sandeep Gupta) and has contributed chapters to edited volumes published by Routledge. In 2014, Beri held a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin. He is a regular reviewer for the LSE Review of Books and has written reviews for Sociological Bulletin, Contemporary South Asia, and International Sociology. A life member of the Indian Sociological Society, Beri convenes its Research Committee 01 on Theory and Practice in Sociology; he also holds memberships in the International Sociological Association, the Rajasthan Sociological Association, and the Sociological Association of North East India.

Speakers



Athira Anand is Assistant Professor at Jain Deemed to be University in Bangalore as an Assistant Professor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department. She received her doctoral degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in 2024 for her thesis titled, "China's Maritime outreach towards Kollam, Kozhikode and Kochi (12th to the mid-15th century A D): An Assessment of the Material conditions of interactions and Formation of State preferences". Her research area integrates the disciplines of History, International Relations and Political Science. She published a research article, "China's Maritime Links with Medieval Kerala: An Examination of the Vadakkanpāttukal and Recovered Chinese Artefacts", in 2023, available online from Taylor & Francis. Her methodology integrated unexplored local literature and interpreted archaeological artefacts to understand the historical connection between Imperial China and maritime polities of the Kerala coast between the 12th and the mid-15th century AD.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Pre-modern China's Links with the Kerala Coast: Scopes of Constructivist Local-Archival Methods***

ABSTRACT

The paper examines the utility of the Constructivist theoretical framework within the International Relations (IR) for interpreting historical maritime interactions between Imperial China and the Kerala coast, between the twelfth and mid-fifteenth centuries CE. It argues that mainstream IR theories—Realism and Liberalism—treat state interests as fixed and pre-determined, making it difficult to subsume unprecedented actors/events and incidental transitions. These approaches as aforementioned, hence struggle to accommodate the polities of the pre-European Maritime Asia where ideas and materials competitively influence State's preferences. Constructivism, by contrast, foregrounds the role of ideas, identities, and "inter-subjective" understandings constructed through the process of interactions, offering a more suitable lens for regional historiography. Following this framework, the paper tracks-down literary sources, chiefly from the Kerala coast (and translated Chinese sources) to reconstruct the nature of Sino-Kerala contact. It draws on Chinese dynastic records that name Kerala ports (such as Kollam, Kozhikode, and Kochi) and on local Malayalam literary genres—Vadakkanpāttukal (northern ballads), Sandeshakavyas (messenger poems), and Champus—that reference Chinese goods, traders, and language. These references, including terms like Cīnapattu (Chinese silk) and Cīnakkannadi (Chinese mirror), are read alongside archaeological evidence (porcelain, ceramics, coins) and travel accounts to argue that Chinese presence left durable cultural and commercial imprints on Kerala's medieval society, beyond the transactional "tribute-trade". The paper further advocates for interdisciplinary, local-archival methods—combining textual analysis, toponymy, and archaeology—as essential tools for constructing a fuller picture of these historical linkages, given the scarcity of first-hand accounts from the Kerala side. It concludes that recovering this shared, cooperative maritime past offers an alternative narrative to the security-driven framing that dominates contemporary

India-China maritime relations, and calls for greater integration of literary-archival scholarship with archaeological research in future studies of the region.



Supradip Das is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre for Chinese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Chinese Studies from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal. His doctoral research focuses on the representation of the Cultural Revolution in contemporary Chinese fiction, with particular emphasis on memory, trauma, historical representation, and the literary afterlives of China's revolutionary past. His broader research interests include contemporary Chinese literature, India–China relations, cultural soft power, and the intersections of artificial intelligence, digital literature, and cultural governance in contemporary China. He has undertaken academic and cultural programmes in China, including training and study programmes at Beijing Language and Culture University and Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, as well as participation in Chinese Bridge and Greater China academic programmes. His research engages with the ways in which literature, culture, technology, and political discourse shape representations of contemporary China and its engagement with the wider world. He is particularly interested in examining how Chinese literary and cultural practices respond to historical memory, technological transformation, and evolving India–China relations.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***From Brush Strokes to Algorithms: Artificial Intelligence, Imagination and Cultural Governance in Contemporary Chinese Literature***

ABSTRACT

The growing presence of Artificial Intelligence in contemporary Chinese literature signals a significant transformation in literary production, cultural identity and the state power. From XiaoIce's AI generated poetry collection to literary works such as Chen Qiufan's《荒潮》(The Waste Tide) and 《AI 2041: 预见是个未来新世界》 (AI 2041: Ten Visions for Our Future), AI has emerged both as a subject of literary imagination and as an active participant in cultural production. The paper examines this transformation through three interrelated dimensions: the representation of AI in contemporary Chinese literature; the emergence of AI-generated literary texts and its implications for authorship, creativity, and affective authenticity; and the development of algorithmic and data-driven cultural governance. Drawing on the thematic and discourse analysis of contemporary fiction, close readings of AI generated literary works and analysis of Chinese policy documents, cultural regulations and Five-Year Plans, the study looks into how AI is situated within China's technological, cultural and socio-political environment. It argues that Chinese literary representations of AI differ from predominantly dystopian Western narratives by embedding technological change within questions of labour, governance, sovereignty and national development. At the same time, AI generated literature challenges established understandings of literary authorship and human creativity through what the paper conceptualises as the "algorithmic effect". The paper proposes the concept of a "techno-literary complex" to describe the interaction among AI technologies, literary publishing houses, commercial platforms and state institutions. AI is increasingly integrated into China's literary sphere as a means of technological modernisation,

cultural dissemination and soft-power projection, while its development remains shaped by ideological and regulatory frameworks.



Chinmai Rahangdale is a Doctoral Scholar in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Delhi, New Delhi. She was awarded a UGC-NET Junior Research Scholarship to pursue her doctoral studies. She holds a Master's degree in East Asian Studies from the aforementioned department, University of Delhi and has pursued a Bachelor's degree in Chinese Studies from the University of Mumbai. She has also completed a certificate in Chinese Language and Culture at Tianjin University of Technology. She has worked as a research intern at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Her research interest lies in understanding contemporary nationalism in China and how it is propagated through different media forms, especially during the Xi Jinping period. Her research interests include the role of various government departments, Chinese society and ethnic minorities in promoting nationalism. Additionally, she has a strong interest in teaching Chinese. She has taught Chinese language courses at the University of Mumbai, the University of Delhi, India China Academy, and YinYang Centre for Chinese Language.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Dramas of Statehood: 'The Age of Awakening' and the Participatory Culture of Youth Digital Nationalism***

ABSTRACT

For decades, academic analysis of Chinese political communication was dominated by a structural 'top-down' paradigm. Scholars focused primarily on the unidirectional transmission of state ideology, analysing how the party-state utilised institutional media frameworks to enforce political conformity and maintain social stability. State-sponsored cultural products, most notably Main Melody (zhu xuanlü) films and television dramas, were treated strictly as instruments of ideological indoctrination. However, the rapid digitisation of the Chinese media landscape in the 2010s prompted a revaluation of the traditional, unidirectional communication model. Digital spaces allowed ordinary citizens to voice patriotic sentiments, but remained under 'careful surveillance and control.' The early studies of digital nationalism frequently fell back on a top-down apparatus that seems to be changing recently. The paper explores that in the contemporary era, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has fundamentally remodelled its approach to domestic ideological work and state propaganda. The party-state has moved away from the rigid and heavily indoctrinated methods to a more sophisticated media strategy. It will analyse the Chinese television drama The Age of Awakening through narrative and character analysis. On the centenary of the CPC's founding anniversary (2021), the Age of Awakening (《觉醒年代》, juéxǐng niándài), a state commissioned historical television drama, was broadcast. It achieved unprecedented critical and commercial success. The paper further examines how the success was due not only to a sophisticated media strategy but also to the participatory culture of young audiences on youth-dominated platforms like Bilibili and Douban. It investigates how The Age of Awakening helps young people create their own narratives, using popular entertainment to connect 20th-century revolutionary history to a personal defence of the current government. The paper argues that contemporary Chinese

digital nationalism is not merely a forced, top down phenomenon; rather, it is a collaborative, participatory culture where youth organically co-create and spread state narratives. The youth use this intense online patriotism as an emotional refuge to negotiate their own modern socio-economic anxieties such as nèijuàn (内 卷) and tǎngpíng(躺平).

11:30 AM– 11:45 AM: Tea Break

SPECIAL PANEL II
Strategic Autonomy and Techno-Geopolitics:
AI, geopolitical power, technological sovereignty and where India stands

11:45 AM– 2:00 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Amb. Smita Purushottam former Ambassador to Switzerland/the Vatican/Liechtenstein and Venezuela - served in diverse capacities in India's missions in Berlin, London, Beijing, Brussels and Moscow, and also on the Soviet/ Russian, SAARC, Bhutan and other desks in MEA/ IDS HQ, MOD. She pursued her academic interests at Harvard, IDSA, UCSD and NDU and has been publishing on the need to learn lessons from the economic reforms and innovation ecosystems in different parts of the world. She started the Science, Indigenous Technology & Advanced Research Accelerator (SITARA) to promote the development of a high-tech economy after her retirement from the Indian Foreign Service. Earlier she had launched the High-Tech Defence Innovation Forum at IDSA in 2011. She speaks Russian and French apart from native languages.

PANEL ABSTRACT

Main themes of this panel are: AI Race between US and China and where India stands; Threat to national security- (Where India could be most impacted, huge value outflows, military area, dependence on external supply lines; FTA provisions, impact on digital autonomy and digital sovereignty; Data centres and the environment); Technofascism, Big Tech, AI; Need for a comprehensive regulatory framework and industrial policy.

Speakers



Srinivas Yanamandra is an independent consultant and regulatory compliance expert. He is also currently Professor of Practice (Visiting) at the Institute for Research and Development in Banking Technology (IDRBT Established by the Reserve Bank of India). Dr Srinivas has around 25 years of professional experience working as Compliance Officer at organisations like ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and Paytm in India, and at BRICS New Development Bank in Shanghai (China). His regulatory compliance expertise spans across domains such as, bank governance, fintech innovation, electronic payments, digital lending, cybersecurity, financial integrity, and economic sanctions. Dr. Srinivas is a 2025 Chevening India Cyber Security Fellow (UK Cranfield University), TEDx speaker and winner of CA Global Achiever Award 2019 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Beyond the Brussels Effect: Algorithm Registries and the Global Diffusion of China's AI Regulation***

ABSTRACT

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation demonstrated how a domestic regulatory regime could acquire influence far beyond the jurisdiction that enacted it. Anu Bradford (2020) conceptualised this phenomenon through the "Brussels Effect," explaining how the combination of market size, regulatory capacity, stringent standards, inelastic regulatory targets and non-divisibility could incentivise firms to internalise European standards globally, with such standards subsequently influencing regulation elsewhere. The framework has consequently become an important lens for understanding how regulatory power itself can be globalised. The paper applies that lens to an emerging intervention in China's artificial intelligence governance: the algorithm registry and filing regime. Beginning with the 2022 Provisions on the Administration of Algorithmic Recommendations in Internet Information Services (CAC 2022) and subsequently intersecting with China's regulation of deep synthesis and generative AI, the regime seeks to make specified algorithmic systems identifiable and visible to regulators through registration, classification, self-assessment and continuing regulatory oversight (Sheehan 2022). As governments worldwide confront the challenge of governing increasingly opaque AI systems, such an architecture raises a larger question: could China's algorithm registry become a regulatory model capable of diffusion beyond China and thereby generate a "Beijing Effect"? The paper investigates this question by testing China's algorithm-registry model systematically against Bradford's five conditions for the Brussels Effect. In doing so, however, it treats the framework not merely as an analytical tool but also as an object of inquiry. Through this inquiry, the paper seeks to make three contributions. First, it positions registry-based regulatory oversight on AI as a counter-thesis to predominantly market-driven approaches to pre-deployment testing and assurance, asking whether public authorities should depend primarily upon technology firms for visibility into the safety of AI systems entering their markets. Second, it uses Bradford's five conditions to assess systematically the possibility of a Beijing Effect in AI regulation. Third, it uses the Chinese case to interrogate and potentially extend the Brussels Effect itself, examining whether AI governance may produce alternative pathways of regulatory diffusion through institutional portability, international governance initiatives and state-to-state regulatory emulation.

Algorithm registries thus provide a case through which both the emerging global influence of Chinese AI regulation and the changing mechanics of regulatory globalisation can be examined.



Ravi Shankar Bose is the Co-Founder and Director of Fugumobile, India. He holds an MBA in Marketing and an engineering degree in electronics and telecommunication. Mr. Bose's work covers the full spectrum of digital innovation, from creating consumer-facing applications to developing enterprise systems and new technology models. He has been closely involved in projects that connect business strategy with emerging technologies, enabling organisations to adapt to shifting markets and strengthen their competitiveness. Having begun his career in China in the early 2000s, Mr. Bose has been part of the rapid evolution of the digital economy in both China and India. This cross-border experience allows him to bring practical insights into how businesses can navigate opportunities, challenges, and partnerships in technology-driven sectors.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***The Sovereign Tech Stack: Aligning Enterprise AI Deployment with Competing National Frameworks***

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is becoming more than a technology choice. It is increasingly shaping questions of economic competitiveness, national capability, digital sovereignty, and governance. As countries develop different approaches to AI, businesses operating across markets must navigate a landscape where technology platforms, data policies, infrastructure choices, and ethical frameworks are closely connected. This talk explores how China has built a distinctive AI ecosystem through a combination of state direction, market competition, engineering capability, industrial infrastructure, and large-scale technology deployment. Rather than viewing China's progress only through the lens of policy or investment, the discussion examines the deeper capability behind its AI growth: the ability to absorb emerging technologies quickly, deploy them at scale, and continuously improve through real-world usage. The discussion will look at the emergence of open-source AI models, autonomous AI agents, industrial AI applications, and the growing importance of technology ecosystems beyond individual models. It will also examine the challenges created by competing AI frameworks, including questions around regulation, data governance, trust, security, and the possibility of fragmented global AI ecosystems. For India and other economies in the Global South, the key question is not simply whether to compete with or follow existing AI leaders, but how to build practical AI capabilities suited to local needs. The session will explore lessons around AI adoption, infrastructure, open technologies, responsible deployment, and strategic autonomy. The objective is to provide a business and technology perspective on how organisations can make informed AI decisions while navigating an increasingly complex global technology environment.



G. Venkat Raman is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore and a Fulbright Fellow (2023–24) at the Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University. A trained Sinologist, he completed his PhD from the School of Government, Peking University, under the India–China Cultural Exchange Programme. He is a recipient of the Nehru Memorial fellowship and has been a postdoctoral fellow in Fudan University, Shanghai. At IIM Indore, he designs and delivers courses such as Leading in a Multipolar World, Power and Dispute in Global Governance, and Business Ethics and CSR. His research interests lie at the intersection of China studies, multilateralism and the Global South, and business ethics and pedagogy. He has co-edited Locating BRICS in the Global Order (Routledge, 2022) and contributes commentaries on China, geopolitics, and international business to leading platforms. As a Sinologist, geopolitics observer, and teacher, he combines scholarship with academic leadership and Track II engagement, with a vision to strengthen India–China dialogue and contribute to debates on trade, technology, and sustainability in a multipolar world.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Building India's AI Capability amid US–China Technology Rivalry***

ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is emerging as a critical arena of geopolitical competition, with computing power, semiconductors, foundational models, data, talent, and technological standards increasingly becoming sources of national power. Against the backdrop of intensifying US–China technology rivalry, India is pursuing an ambitious effort to strengthen its domestic AI capabilities while remaining integrated with global technology and innovation networks. At the centre of this effort is the India AI Mission, backed by public investment (of over ₹10,000 crore) and encompassing computer infrastructure, indigenous foundational models, datasets, startup financing, skills, AI applications, and safe and trusted AI. These initiatives are complemented by investments in semiconductor design and manufacturing, multilingual digital infrastructure, AI-enabled applications across sectors such as agriculture and public services, and efforts to develop India-specific foundational models. Together, they indicate an attempt to build capabilities across multiple layers of the emerging AI ecosystem rather than focusing narrowly on AI applications. India's position remains distinctive. It lacks the desired ecosystem comprising frontier computing infrastructure, semiconductor capabilities, and globally renowned AI firms, as in the United States and China. Further, important parts of its emerging AI ecosystem continue to depend on global technology providers and supply chains. I propose to argue that India's AI strategy should therefore be understood as a search for strategic technological capability rather than technological self-sufficiency. The central challenge is whether India can leverage its scale, talent, digital public infrastructure, linguistic diversity, and growing innovation ecosystem to reduce critical dependencies while preserving the benefits of global technological integration.



Ashish Sonal is the Founder and CEO at ORKASH Labs. He has also been a strategic advisor to the national leadership of India for architecting data-intelligence solutions and public policy for Cyber Risks and National Security. His past public roles include: Co-chair of the Tech Group for NASSCOM's Cyber Security Task Force for the Prime Minister; National Committee Member, Homeland Security at FICCI and IACC; National Committee Member, Disaster Management, CII; Lead Investigator & Author for various research-reports in partnership with the government for Smart Cities, Safe Cities, Coastal Security, Social Unrest Management, etc. He was awarded the 'Times Fellowship' for his field-research into the 'human element' in terrorism, later published as a book. He was awarded the Best Technical R&D Award at the Map World Forum from amongst participants from over 40 countries, for his research paper titled *'Intelligence Creation and Decision Support through Integrated Semantic Expert Systems'*. Prior to the private sector career, he worked with Indian Army's Special Forces, during which time he was awarded 'Vir Chakra' by the President for combat leadership and exceptional valour. He also worked with the United Nations' mission-HQ in Somalia while on deputation from the Indian Army. He did his MBA from the Indian School of Business (ISB, Hyderabad). He is a graduate of the National Defense Academy, Khadakwasla, and the US army's 'Ranger School', Fort Benning.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Strategic Autonomy & Military Intelligentization***

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses- the Significance of Sovereign AI capabilities for National Security and Geopolitical Influence: China vs India; Impact of AI for strategic war-fighting capabilities (including warfare by other means) - Chinese military doctrine and where is China headed at the tech level; Use of AI for Battlefield dominance — lessons from Iran, Ukraine and Gaza with respect to Chinese vs Indian capability and timelines; India's structural vulnerability – heavy reliance on foreign military hardware and software; Implications for India – China and Pak collaboration; Way forward.



Ayonam Ray is the Founder and Director of R. R. Logic Systems Private Limited. He started his career by working with a startup named Synergy Infotech, 1997. He worked for Hewlett Packard in 1999. He came back to the startup space in 2004 to work on Electronic Design Automation (EDA) and Compilers under the umbrella of four different startups. In 2011, he founded R.R. Logic System. He is an alumnus of Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhandara (Maharashtra), Govt. College of Engineering Karad (Maharashtra), and the Indian Institute of Science, (IISc), Bengaluru. He is an Electrical Engineer with a specialisation in High Voltage Engineering.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***AI Technology stacks and where the US, China and India stand in it***

ABSTRACT

US vs. China AI Stack; US Stack – advanced compute, enormous capital availability, GPU monopoly, frontier technologies ecosystem (Anthropic, TSMC, ASML, Nvidia CUDA ecosystem - Cloud lock-in – FISA & CLOUD ACTS); China stack – China, forced to innovate to maximise weaker chips and lack of US level ultra high-tech global supply chain, building full vertically integrated technological sovereignty; contrast with US - based on costs, open weights, lower token costs, DeepSeek, Alibaba Qwen; Is China catching up? Technological catch up: advanced lithography, SMIC, Huawei Ascend, Folding chips, control over rare earths and materials, huge dependence of US military on Chinese supply chains. Which is more likely to gain ascendancy, which model will win over the Global South; Attractiveness of China model: cheap, open-source models and telecom infrastructure exports vs high-cost proprietary models behind export controls; Third way- Where India stands in AI; Deficits: India's compute deficit relative to both giants, total reliance on imported hardware and silicon, lack of an indigenous sovereign compute stack compromises digital sovereignty and national security; Subsidising foreign compute via the IndiaAI Mission; India's current strategy positioning us only as a consumer; Risks from dependence on the US or China. India strengths: strong Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI/UPI) and application-layer capability. What should be India's strategy vs actual policies/ progress?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Lunch (First Floor, Lunch Area, Department of Political Science)

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM: Thematic Panels V & VI (Parallel Sessions)

THEMATIC PANEL V
China's Trade Relations: Emerging Technologies Shaping Strategies and Policies
2:30 PM-3:45 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (Ground Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



G. Venkat Raman, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore

Speakers



Nilanjan Banik is a faculty member at Mahindra University, Hyderabad. He holds a PhD in Economics from Utah State University, USA, and a Master's degree in Economics from Delhi School of Economics. Dr. Banik's work focuses on application of econometrics in issues relating to international trade, market structure and development macro economics. His other area of work focuses on the 'rules' part of WTO; especially examining the non-tariff barriers aspect of GATT/WTO agreements. He has published in the International Review of Economics and Finance, Empirical Economics, Review of Development Economics, Development Policy Review, Journal of World Trade, Asian Development Bank Working Paper, Economic and Political Weekly, etc. He also has the distinction of writing editorials for all major English dailies in India, and has written over 150 editorials. Professor Banik has project experience with KPMG India; Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Laffer Associates, USA; RIS, New Delhi; ICRIER, New Delhi; Center for Economic Policy Research, UK; Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo; Asian Development Bank, Manila; UNESCAP-ARTNeT, Thailand; the Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne; CUTS International, India; Geneva Network, UK; and World Trade Organization, Geneva.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Emerging Technology and India–China Trade Relations***

ABSTRACT

The paper examines how emerging technologies are reshaping China-India trade patterns, industrial capabilities, and geopolitical competition. It traces trajectories of technological upgrading in both countries, analyses the role of technology-linked trade flows, and explores policy implications for India as it seeks to balance dependence on China-based supply chains with strategic autonomy in critical technologies. References are drawn from recent studies, policy briefs, and trade-data analyses.



Subhash Bhambhu is a Doctoral Scholar at Department of international relations and governance studies, Shiv Nadar University. His areas of interest concern international political economy, where he focuses on the narrative and counter narratives around economic sanctions in reference to the Global South. In a broader sense, he is interested in the politics of knowledge production and how it shapes the economic statecraft in a hierarchical world. He pursued his master's in South Asian studies at UMISARC, Pondicherry University. Prior to that, he completed his bachelor in Persian language from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Also, he was a Young India Fellow at Ashoka University (YIF22).

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Anti-sanctions Playbook: Evolution, Uniqueness and Contradictions***

ABSTRACT

Among several key themes, the US unilateral and secondary sanctions remain among the important themes central to the US-China trade war. Over the period, China came up with a sophisticated design of anti-sanctions playbook or toolkit through a ‘brick-by-brick’ approach. To understand its evolution, the aim is to examine China’s experience as a historical target of western sanctions and eventually coming up with its own anti-sanctions playbook. Blocking statutes along with tariff law, export control regimes and legislative reviews constitutes China’s toolkit to counter foreign sanctions. Apart from evolution of China’s anti-sanctions strategy, the paper aims to examine uniqueness and contradictions concerning China’s attitude towards countering foreign sanctions. Prior to China, the EU has erected its blocking statute to counter the US secondary sanctions. The imperative is to draw parallels between the EU’s and Chinese approaches in terms of institutional arrangement, implementation strategies to counter the US sanctions and identify unique logic and reasoning of the Chinese approach. Finally, there are contradictions inherent in China’s positions towards western unilateral sanctions vis-à-vis its own (anti-)sanctions ambitions. It is argued that China approaches sanctions paradoxically. On the one hand China maintains that sanctions against Global South are unacceptable; while on the other hand, China itself is creating a complex sanctions framework to counter western sanctions in their terms. In other words, China's rhetoric of sanctions as western tools of domination contradicts with China’s own entry into the club of sanctioning powers. Through investigating three registers of China’s anti-sanctions playbook- evolution, uniqueness and contradictions, the paper attempts to answer two questions: How does China counter and

respond to the US sanctions through its anti-sanctions approach? How to interpret China's anti-sanctions approach with reference to the debate over politics of sanctions?



Vibha Ghaty Sreesh is a geopolitical and international relations analyst with an academic focus on strategic affairs, and legal warfare. She holds an M.A. in International Relations, Security and Strategic Studies from Rashtriya Raksha University. As part of her academic journey, she completed a one-year Mandarin language programme in Taiwan under the Ministry of Education Taiwan Scholarship and holds TOCFL B1 proficiency in Mandarin. Her research interests include China's foreign policy and the intersection of technology, law, and geopolitics, and how regulatory frameworks, standards, and institutional practices are becoming instruments through which states shape influence and governance beyond their borders. Professionally, she works in geopolitical risk analysis at Hozint (Horizon intelligence), where she monitors and assesses political, security, economic, and conflict-related developments across regions. The work has strengthened her interest in translating complex geopolitical developments into structured risk assessments.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Standards as Strategy: Chinese Technical Norms and Governance Influence in the Global South***

ABSTRACT

Some of the existing debates on China's rise to the world stage have usually focused on military power, infrastructure muscle, and technology. In comparison, there has been less research on the growing role of Chinese technical standards and regulations, especially in the Global South. The paper stresses that standards are not only mechanisms for industrial coordination, interoperability, and efficiency, but also enable the State to shape governance processes, institutional decisions, and dependency relationships. It discusses how Chinese regulations and technical standards have been evolving and to what extent they find their space across the Global South. Therefore, the paper introduces the notion of "standards diplomacy" to account for the increasing political and strategic relevance of technical standards. Instead of viewing standards as apolitical or purely market-based, the paper examines how interoperability, data governance, maintenance ecosystems, and institutional compatibility shape governance decisions in developing nations. It particularly focuses on the regulatory embeddedness of Chinese technologies and infrastructure systems and how they influence policy landscapes and administrative procedures over time. The paper is based on an interdisciplinary approach inspired by global governance theory and the political economy of standardisation. It explores technical standards as processes of influence over regulatory behavior, institutional dependency, and geopolitical influence. The paper further argues that standards can act as a form of geo-legal infrastructure connecting technology, regulation, and administrative authority. Therefore, it identifies four mechanisms through which standards can influence governance: technological dependence, regulatory harmonisation, institutional learning, and administrative convenience.

THEMATIC PANEL VI
Digital Infrastructure and China's International Presence
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Shasanka Sekhar Pati is currently working as Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Nagaland University, India. He holds a PhD degree in Political Science from Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha. His research focuses on the theories and issues in international relations. Dr. Pati has presented papers in national and international conferences and published papers in reputed journals.

Speakers



Ashna Shetty is a research scholar in the field of International Relations. She graduated from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (2024), with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. She has completed her Master's degree in International Relations (2024-2026) from the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations at the Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, MAHE, Manipal. During the course, she interned at Natstrat, a think tank in Delhi, where she authored a paper on "India's Critical Supply Chains". As part of her Master's program, she has authored a dissertation titled "China's Public Diplomacy towards Indonesia, 1998-2024". She has presented papers at various conferences such as the Kautilya Colloquy, organised by the Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad, and the All India Conference for East Asian Studies, organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. Her areas of interest include the Geopolitics of East Asia: Cross-Strait Relations, South China Sea disputes, the dynamics of the Korean Peninsula and the Belt and Road Initiative; China's Strategic Culture, China's Domestic Politics, and the supply chain dynamics of critical and emerging technologies such as AI and semiconductors.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Smart City Systems in Malaysia: Theoretical Assessment of the ET City Brain and Mobile Payment System***

ABSTRACT

The paper engages with the theme of China's engagement with countries in the Global South via digital infrastructure and the debate about the creation of dependency. The paper focuses on Chinese smart city technologies such as the City Brain for traffic control and management and fintech services like mobile payments for cashless transactions. The case study used here is the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, which is the first city to implement Alibaba Cloud's ET City Brain abroad and also has a flourishing fintech ecosystem with the entry of Alipay into the market. It asks the question: 'How is the implementation of China's smart city technologies in Kuala Lumpur related to its developmental impact? The research question is addressed via the theories of the Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) and Technopolitics within the sub-field of Science and Technology Studies. SCOT emphasises that human agency is the most important component in shaping the course of technology in society. Technopolitics, on the other hand, believes that the material outcomes of the development of technology are situated in power relations, which implies that every technology has political goals embedded within it. SCOT focuses on explaining the implementation process of the technology, and Technopolitics looks at the developmental outcome of these technologies in terms of growth, dependency, and security. The developmental impact of the technology is dependent on how it is implemented by the respective stakeholders. The credit for the development outcomes of smart city technologies is largely attributed to the Chinese actors for sharing expertise; however, Malaysian actors such as the government, local authorities, fintech firms, service providers, and consumers play an equally important role in ensuring their successful implementation. However, this engagement is not devoid of political goals, such as standard-setting by Chinese companies, giving them significant influence within the Malaysian market.



Vivek Y. Kelkar is a researcher, analyst, and columnist working at the intersection of geo-economics, geopolitics, and sustainability. His work explores global power shifts, strategy, trade transitions, and the geopolitics of climate-related systemic risk—integrating political economy with emerging trends across China, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. He also writes for Moneycontrol, Modern Diplomat, Asia Times, Founding Fuel and The Spectator. His research interests include the geoeconomics of the Asia-Pacific and West Asia with a particular focus on emergent issues and trends, insofar as they affect political economy and business strategy. Vivek brings extensive global management experience in M&A, strategy, brand and stakeholder management, and sustainability, alongside deep involvement in media. He is a visiting Faculty at the ABV-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management and has taught as a Visiting Faculty at IIM-Indore, besides other leading institutions. He has delivered conference papers and participated in expert panels on geoeconomics and geopolitics, besides moderating at online forums. Vivek holds an MA in International Political Economy from the University of Sheffield and an MBA from Ashridge Business School.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Beyond Alignment Choices: The Quad, Techno-Geoeconomic Hedging, and China's Expanding Structural Power***

ABSTRACT

Strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific is increasingly shaped by the interaction between military capabilities and the distribution of economic, technological, and industrial power. The paper examines how states exercise structural power through their ability to shape technology, production networks, critical supply chains, infrastructure, and digital ecosystems, and how these capabilities increasingly intersect with defence-industrial systems. It argues that the growing prevalence of dual-use technologies has blurred the boundaries between civilian and military domains, making technology-defence-industrial ecosystems an increasingly important source of strategic power. Control over these interconnected systems can create significant forms of leverage by concentrating dependencies and influencing the flow of critical capabilities across national and global value chains. The paper focuses on China's use of structural power to weaponise economic and technological interdependence across manufacturing networks, critical minerals, emerging technologies, maritime infrastructure, and defence-industrial systems. It examines how these practices are prompting Indo-Pacific states to reassess vulnerabilities arising from asymmetric dependence and to seek greater resilience without necessarily pursuing economic decoupling or direct confrontation. In this context, the paper identifies the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) as an emerging framework for techno-geoeconomic hedging. Rather than functioning as a conventional military alliance or a straightforward mechanism of containment, the Quad provides Japan, India, and Australia, anchored by the United States, with a platform for developing and diversifying technology-defence-industrial ecosystems while maintaining strategic engagement with China. The paper further develops strategic hedging theory by extending it beyond conventional choices of balancing, bandwagoning, or neutrality in response to uncertainty about great-power intentions. It conceptualises techno-geoeconomic hedging as a strategy for managing uncertainty and vulnerability arising from concentrated access to critical technologies, supply chains, industrial capacities, digital infrastructure, and maritime networks. By diversifying and strengthening these ecosystems through overlapping partnerships and cooperative arrangements, states can preserve strategic autonomy while reducing exposure to coercive economic and technological leverage.

DAY 3: FRIDAY, 30 OCTOBER, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM: Thematic Panels VII & VIII (Parallel Sessions)

THEMATIC PANEL VII
Technology, Innovation and Sovereignty: China in the Making of Global Norm

10:00 AM-11:15 AM

VENUE: Lecture Hall-II, Ground Floor, Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Likhase Sangtam is an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Nagaland University and a Master's degree in Political Science from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The principal areas of academic interest include International Politics, International Organisations, Indian Foreign Policy, India's engagement with the evolving global order, Western Classical and Liberal Political Thought, and Indian Parliamentary Democracy. His academic interests also encompass Naga politics and the interface of religion, society and politics in Northeast India. His academic work engages with international institutions, democratic processes, political thought, India's engagement with the international system, and contemporary global politics. Research interests also include technology, identity and democracy, student movements, and political developments in Northeast India. He has contributed to various academic and institutional initiatives at Nagaland University.

Speakers



Om Ranjan is a Doctoral Scholar in China Studies at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gujarat. His key areas of study include the elite politics within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), China's innovation ecosystem, and the geopolitics of technology. His doctoral research focuses on China's Strategic Culture under Xi's presidency. He has experience in Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), having worked on OSINT-related research and analysis with government and other institutional stakeholders. In 2025, he was awarded for Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (HES) by Taiwan for Mandarin-language study. This scholarship provided an opportunity to develop and enhance language capability.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Beyond Made in China 2025: Strategic Technology Statecraft and the Evolution of China's Innovation Trajectory (2015–2025)***

ABSTRACT:
The transformation of *China's Science and Technology (CSTI's)* is usually studied through the lens of 'techno-nationalism,' 'industrial modernisation,' and 'geopolitical competition'. But they do not go far enough in accounting for the more fundamental shift in Chinese strategic thinking that has taken place since the launch of "*Made in China 2025*". So, the paper explains how China is transitioning from the developmental state to a strategic technological statecraft (STS)—the emerging governance model characterised by technological innovation, strategic statecraft, civilisational revival, and strategic foresight in the structure of national power projection. The paper outlines the technological development of China in three strategic stages. The first phase (2015-2020) is to upgrade industries within "Made in China 2025", prioritising advanced manufacturing, robotics, semiconductors and indigenous innovation. The second phase (2020-2025) focuses on the fast increase of technological self-reliance in response to external pressures, such as the U.S.-China competition in technology, semiconductor restrictions, dual circulation, and military-civil fusion expansion. The third phase examines the new vision for innovation in China, such as the "China Standards 2035", the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan, the governance of artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, digital infrastructure and next generation strategic industries, which will help shape the future technological norms and standards. By using the concept of "*Strategic Technology Statecraft*" the paper seeks to bring an original theoretical approach to the fields of China Studies and Science-Technology-Innovation (STI) Scholarship. The paper argues that China's innovation model has moved from "catch-up modernisation" to "future-order construction," focusing not only on technological competitiveness but more on "setting rules" globally and within the field of innovation. The use of AI, data governance, quantum communication, and platform infrastructures all serve as economic resources, geopolitical tools, and civilisational symbols of national rejuvenation simultaneously.



Vishnupriya P.K. is a Doctoral Scholar in International Politics at the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her doctoral research examines the political economy of Big Tech in the Global South, with particular attention to the operations of Google and Meta in India. Through this work, she investigates how these technology giants shape state-market relations, influence regulatory and policy debates, and reconfigure power dynamics at both the national and international levels. Beyond her core research, Vishnupriya is drawn to the wider intersections of technology, geopolitics, and political economy. She maintains a keen interest in how emerging powers, particularly India and China, are shaping global technology and trade architectures. She is also attentive to questions of digital sovereignty, platform governance, and the shifting terrain of global technological competition. Through these engagements, Vishnupriya seeks to contribute to broader scholarly and policy conversations on how emerging powers navigate the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly transforming technology and trade landscape, and what this transformation means for questions of power, autonomy, and governance in the twenty-first century.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Rewriting the Norm Cycle: China as a Technological Norm Entrepreneur and India's Quest for Digital Sovereignty***

ABSTRACT

The rise of China in the digital domain is often interpreted through two main lenses: either as an ideological challenge to the liberal international order, often projected through cyber sovereignty, or as a coercive actor projecting physical infrastructure through the Belt and Road Initiative. However, another dimension of China's rise warrants careful consideration: the role of the Chinese state in developing global digital norms. The paper argues that norm-making by China is not always a top-down doctrinal process. Rather, it unfolds through international practices, including participation in global regulatory bodies and standard-setting institutions, and materialising through patents and facing contestations when met with resistance from other actors. To demonstrate the claim, the paper considers the case of norm-building around 5G technologies by China and its efforts in standard-setting, specifically through institutions like 3GPP and the International Telecommunication Union. The paper applies a theoretical framework synthesised by combining Finnemore and Sikkink's norm life cycle theory (1998) and Adler's practice theory in International Relations (2011). Subsequently, it examines norm contestation by analysing India's digital sovereignty policy developed through practices including devising its Trusted Sources regime. The macro perspective provided by Finnemore & Sikkink hints that norm cascading gradually moves towards internalisation. However, the empirical case of India, analysed as a response rather than a conventional case study, interrupts this expectation. India's example hence, demonstrates that norm-making not only confronts resistance, but also the alternative norm-making aspirations of other actors.

THEMATIC PANEL VIII
AI and Governance in Global South: Comparative Perspectives
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Chair



Monalisa Tase is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Nagaland University, Lumami. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and PhD in India's Act East Policy. Prior to joining Nagaland University, she was a lecturer at Patkai Christian College (Autonomous). She is a columnist for the Strategic Digest, Morung Express and Subject Matter Expert (SME) of CENJOWS, a tri-services think tank under HQ IDS, Ministry of Défense, Government of India. She did a Podcast on the Sino-Indian War affected the Northeast/Nagaland by Global Digest Media Myanmar. Her research interests are Political Science, India's foreign policy, Politics of Northeast India, India's Act East Policy, Disaster Management, Environmental Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific, Border Dynamics in Governance (Northeast India).

Speakers



Shikha Shaurya is a Doctoral Scholar in Chinese Studies (International Relations) at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research focuses on East Asia, Chinese global media, strategic communication, media diplomacy, geopolitical narratives, emerging technologies, and digital governance. She holds an M.Phil. in Chinese Studies and an M.A. in Politics (International Relations) from JNU, along with a B.A. in Mass Communication. She was a Visiting Research Scholar at Sichuan University, China, where she engaged with research and academic discussions on China, South Asia, governance, and international relations. She has also worked on research related to governance, development, and public policy. Her recent writing includes two policy commentaries on China's digital technologies and India's engagement with East Asia. She has presented her research at academic conferences and participated in dialogues and programmes on Asian geopolitics, foreign policy, technology, and strategic communication.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Digital Humans and Its Governance Infrastructure***

ABSTRACT

Digital humans are increasingly visible in China's digital economy. Digital humans are making a significant impact across the Chinese e-commerce, media, cultural tourism, public service, and companionship sectors. These AI-enabled virtual figures do more than automate communication; they simulate human appearance, voice, gestures, emotions, and interactions. The paper examines digital humans as a case through which to understand the relationship between AI innovation and governance in contemporary China. It asks how China's governance infrastructure shapes the development, adoption and regulation of digital humans and related aspects. The paper argues that digital humans should not be understood merely as virtual influencers, museum guides, livestream hosts or AI companions. Rather, they function as socio-technical interfaces where platform capitalism, algorithmic governance, effective communication, data sovereignty and state regulation intersect. Using qualitative document analysis and selected examples from e-commerce, cultural tourism, public communication and emotional-companionship services, the paper shows that China's digital-human sector operates through a dual logic of innovation and control. Digital humans are promoted as tools of commercial efficiency, cultural dissemination, service delivery and technological modernisation. At the same time, they are increasingly governed by rules concerning data protection, content labelling, algorithmic accountability, child protection, platform responsibility, and information security. The paper contributes to debates on AI governance by showing how China seeks to make human-like AI systems economically productive, socially manageable and politically governable. It concludes that digital humans are not simply a new AI application, but part of a broader governance infrastructure through which China is attempting to regulate synthetic, interactive and emotionally persuasive forms of artificial intelligence.



Wriju Banerjee is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His doctoral research examines the resilience of Chinese socialism, focusing on ideology and legitimacy within the Communist Party of China through a Gramscian theoretical lens. His broader research interests include hegemony and discourse, postsocialist theory, contentious politics, and authoritarian resilience in contemporary China.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Postsocialist AI and the Colonial Matrix of Power: Rethinking the Politics of Machine Intelligence in the Global South***

ABSTRACT

The paper examines Qiaoyu Cai's (2025) concept of postsocialist AI, developed to describe how Chinese artificial intelligence encounters a political subjectivity different from the liberal individualism presumed by dominant frameworks for studying AI governance. Because these frameworks are concerned with surveillance capitalism, algorithmic bias and digital

sovereignty, they theorise AI from within the horizon of liberal modernity, a starting point that risks misrecognition when applied to China, India and the wider Global South. Reading Cai's framework against James Muldoon and Boxi Wu's (2023) colonial matrix of power, Min Jiang's (2024) comparative digital sovereignty models, Arash Beidollahkhani's (2026) authoritarian assemblage theory and recent empirical scholarship on contested Chinese smart governance, including the 2022 Henan health code scandal and Zhang and Mora's (2023) account of symbolic compliance, the paper argues that postsocialist AI requires firmer conceptual grounding, closer attention to its internal contestations and explicit dialogue with critical Western traditions of cosmotechnics and decolonial AI. Drawing on Gilbert Simondon's philosophy of technical individuation and Sylvia Wynter's sociogenic principle, as read respectively by Susana Aires (2024) and Luciana Parisi (2021), the paper gives Cai's key terms, technical mentality and sociogenesis, precise conceptual grounding. It then treats postsocialist political subjectivity as continuously contested rather than ideologically settled, drawing on Zhang Xudong's (1999) account of postsocialism as constitutively contradictory, before situating the reconstructed framework alongside Yuk Hui's cosmotechnics, Pieter Lemmens's reading of Hui against Heidegger and Stiegler, and Shakir Mohamed, Marie-Therese Png and William Isaac's decolonial AI programme. The paper's central claim is that postsocialist AI, once given technical precision, read as internally contested and situated within rather than against critical Western scholarship, offers a more historically adequate account of China's engagement with machine intelligence than authoritarian AI or state capitalism with Chinese characteristics.



Gadde Surya is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. He has completed an M.Phil and is pursuing a PhD from the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. He is passionate about topics related to technology, state, governance, surveillance, law and administration. Highly enthusiastic in understanding the socio-political nature and impact of digital technology, some of the key areas central to his current academic endeavours are biometrics, facial recognition technology, surveillance, digital governance constitutionalism, digital technology, and privacy. His doctoral research is a comparative study of institutionalisation of biometric technology as part of the digital governance phenomenon, with special reference to facial recognition technology, and its impact on the nature of state-citizen relationship.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***State of Exception as the Engine of Biometric Normalisation: A Comparative Study of India and China***

ABSTRACT

Scholarship on surveillance tends to explain its expansion through the binary between democratic and authoritarian regimes. The paper argues that the binary misleads, and that the state of exception, not regime type, is the primary mechanism through which AI-driven biometric surveillance becomes normalised. It develops the claim through a most-different comparison of the world’s largest constitutional democracy and its most powerful one-party state, two systems that diverge in almost every respect conventional analysis treats as decisive

yet converge on the same outcome. Drawing on Agamben, Harari, Hallsworth and Lea, and Foucault, the paper traces one three-stage sequence across both cases: crisis opens the entry point for intrusive technologies, institutional migration carries them from an exceptional periphery into ordinary governance, and an accountability gap forecloses the scrutiny that might interrupt them. In India the sequence runs through the interlocking of ordinary and extraordinary law and the drift of facial recognition from humanitarian to political ends; in China through Xinjiang as a laboratory whose technologies migrate into mainland governance and the Social Credit System. Distinguishing biometric normalisation from surveillance normalisation more broadly, the paper shows that India's judicial and civil society constraints slow the process without reversing it, while China's fragmented local implementation varies its mode without altering its direction. It concludes that the accountability gap, not the regime label, is the variable that predicts surveillance risk.

11:15 AM– 11:45 AM: Tea Break

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: Thematic Panels IX & X (Parallel Sessions)

THEMATIC PANEL IX
China's High-Tech Security Architecture: Implications for India and the US
11:45 AM – 01:00 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Deepak Kumar Bhaskar, Co-Convenor and Organising Secretary, 19th AICCS; Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Speakers



Rakshit Kweera is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Chanakya University, Bengaluru. He holds a PhD from the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, where his doctoral dissertation examined the use of CCTV technology in urban security governance. He earned his undergraduate degree in Information Technology and worked as a Project Engineer with Wipro Technologies in the telecom sector before transitioning to academia, a background that informs his interdisciplinary research on technology and politics. His research focuses on surveillance studies, security governance, and the geopolitics of emerging technologies, with a particular interest in Chinese high-tech trade and its security implications for India. He has published his works in reputed journals and has also presented at many international forums. He has been a UGC Senior Research Fellow and a recipient of the Surveillance and Society Research Grant for the South Asian Region. He is a member of the International Political Science Association, the European Political Science Association, and the Surveillance and Society Network.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Emerging Security Implications of Global Chinese High-Tech Trade: A Study of Chinese Video Surveillance Companies in India***

ABSTRACT

China's commanding position in global high-tech exports, particularly in video surveillance, has created security dependencies for importing nations that extend well beyond commercial considerations. The paper examines how Chinese firms, Hikvision and Dahua, which together hold over 60 per cent of the global surveillance market, became deeply embedded in India's public and defense infrastructure over the past decade, and the intelligence risks this dependency generated. Rather than treating the threat as a matter of flawed products, the study argues that the core vulnerability lies in the legal and ownership architecture underpinning these companies: their entanglement with China's civil-military fusion strategy and the extraterritorial compulsion to cooperate with state intelligence imposed by the 2017 National Intelligence Law. Drawing on parliamentary records, regulatory filings, and documented incidents, including firmware exploits, cloud-based data exfiltration, and the 2026 Ghaziabad espionage case in which Chinese-made cameras relayed military-adjacent footage to Pakistani intelligence, the paper traces India's slow shift from unrestricted procurement to structured regulation, culminating in the STQC certification regime and the April 2026 ban on non-compliant devices. It situates India's response within a broader global pattern, comparing it with earlier restrictions imposed by the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia, and highlights persistent gaps that survive the ban, including uncertified network video recorders, continued reliance on Chinese-origin cloud platforms, and the absence of comparable scrutiny for Chinese-made drones. The paper concludes that securing critical infrastructure demands a full-stack, precautionary procurement architecture rather than reactive hardware substitution, offering the surveillance sector as both a cautionary case and a policy template for India's wider technology dependencies on China.



Nistha Kumari Singh is a Doctoral Scholar and Dr. TMA Pai Fellow at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE, Institution of Eminence), Manipal, Karnataka, India. She is also a Network for the Advancement of Technology Geopolitics (NAST) Fellow (2025–2026 Cohort) at the Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru, India. Her research lies at the intersection of cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and great power competition, with a particular focus on US–China strategic competition.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Sino-American Strategic Competition in Smart Cities and Cybersecurity Dilemma***

ABSTRACT

Sino-American competition for the smart city has transformed the modernisation into dissipative warfare. This study addresses the central puzzle: how does the smart city competition between the US and China trigger the cybersecurity dilemma? To analyse this, the

study employs a dissipative warfare framework, taken from the physics and thermodynamics of the system theory. It aims to analyse how complex, interdependent, and hyper-connected smart cities function as a system and how their survival is based on the unrestricted data flow and real-time intelligence. By using qualitative comparative analysis, the study analyses the divergence between the smart city models of the US and China. The finding shows that despite China's state-centric and the US's fragmented approaches to the smart city, both countries faced cyberattacks that trapped both cyber-superpowers in a cybersecurity dilemma to secure the smart city.



Bhumika Sevkani is a Research Analyst with the Geostrategy Programme at the Takshashila Institution. Her work focuses on Clean-tech policies and China's new energy sector in particular.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Analysing India's Reliance on Chinese Battery and Energy Storage System Suppliers for Energy Transition***

ABSTRACT

A crucial milestone for India's energy transition ambitions is reaching 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. However, renewables introduce greater risks of grid destabilisation and price volatility in the power market. Indian power exchanges have witnessed instances of prices falling below ₹1 per unit during peak solar power generation hours, affecting RE project developers and distribution companies, which must absorb losses without adequate energy storage capacity. Going forward, energy storage systems are crucial for India's energy transition, not only for power generation projects but also for end-use applications such as EVs. Given the current dominance of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), India is significantly reliant on Chinese suppliers for Li-ion cells and cathode materials. Chinese firms such as BYD, Gotion, and CATL have dominated LFP cell manufacturing, holding competitive advantages built through vertical integration, economies of scale, and industrial consolidation. Chinese firms are now able to capitalise on early entry and R&D in LFP batteries, and offer the lowest prices globally for both EV and stationary storage batteries. While the supply of low-cost energy storage systems currently facilitates India's energy transition through competitive pricing, it simultaneously creates an exploitable vulnerability. As India increases efforts to localise production, China is also restricting technology transfer for clean energy industries. Increasing protectionist measures on both sides risk escalating the time and costs associated with India's energy transition. This study investigates three questions: How have Chinese BESS firms developed competitive advantages in LFP battery manufacturing, and can they replicate these

advantages for future battery technologies? What is the nature and depth of India's structural exposure to Chinese BESS supply chains? And under what conditions can this dependence affect India's energy transition trajectory?

THEMATIC PANEL X
Infrastructure, Connectivity and China's Technological Outreach
11:45 AM – 01:00 PM

VENUE: Lecture Room-I, Ground Floor, Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair:



Santosh Pai is a dual-qualified cross-border lawyer offering legal services to clients within the India-China corridor. He holds a B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) degree from NLSIU, Bangalore, LL.M. (Chinese law) from Tsinghua University, Beijing and an MBA from Vlerick University, Belgium. He is currently a partner at Dentons Link Legal, an Indian law firm. He is a member of CII's Core Group on China, and Treasurer and Member of the Governing Council at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. His major research interests include India-China economic ties, comparative law and policy, and cross-cultural negotiations. *Decoding China: Hard Perspectives from India*(Bloomsbury India, 2025) and *China: Indian Perspectives on China's Politics, Economy, and Foreign Relations* (The Hindu Group, 2025) are his recent publications. His manuscripts *Practical Guide on Investing in India for Chinese investors* (China Law Press, 2017), *Indian Company Law* (China Law Press, 2019), *Arbitration Law and Practice in India* (China Legal Publishing House, 2021), and *Legal Guide for Taiwanese Investors in India* (Yuan Zhao, 2023) have been translated and published in Chinese. He has co-edited *Chinese Legal System* (1979-2021), *Historical Development and Overview* in English (EBC, 2021) and co-authored "Institutional Distances and Economic Engagement Between India and China" (*China Report*, Volume 53 Issue 2).

Speakers



Himanshi Sharma is a research scholar working at the intersection of technology and geopolitics, with a focus on digital sovereignty, undersea cable infrastructure, and Indo-Pacific security. She holds a Master's in Geopolitics and International Relations from the Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (MAHE), where she graduated with a 9.0 GPA, and a Bachelor's in Mass Communication, Literature, and Political Science. Her dissertation, "The Geopolitics of Data Governance," offered a comparative assessment of regulatory frameworks across the US, EU, China, and India, examining how infrastructure and regulation shape state power over data. She has previously worked as a research intern with the Observer Research Foundation's Strategic Studies Programme, where she co-authored published commentary on Indo-Pacific security and cyber sovereignty. She currently works in communications and partnerships at Youngistaan Foundation, a youth-led NGO in Hyderabad working across education, health, and livelihoods in urban communities. Her broader research interests include critical infrastructure governance, cyber sovereignty, and US-China strategic competition.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Undersea Infrastructure and Cyber Sovereignty: China's Role in Global Digital Connectivity***

ABSTRACT:
Sovereignty, as a foundational concept in the study of International Relations, has historically been understood as the supreme authority of a state over its territory and population, free from external interference. The emergence of the digital age has substantially complicated this understanding, giving rise to the concept of digital sovereignty i.e, a state's capacity to regulate cross-border data flows, protect domestic digital industries, and assert authority over citizens' online identities and information (Mueller, 2021). Within this evolving terrain, China has emerged as the most assertive architect of a distinct approach through cyber sovereignty. Defined by the right of states to regulate cyberspace within their national jurisdictions, China's conception of cybersovereignty positions digital infrastructure as a domain of strategic state authority rather than a global commons governed by multistakeholder consensus. The paper examines a concrete and frequently underexamined expression of this doctrine which is to understand China's growing involvement in global submarine cable infrastructure through which normative claims are translated into structural leverage across the international system. Submarine cables carry approximately 95 per cent of global internet traffic, constituting the physical backbone of cross-border digital communication. Through its Digital Silk Road (DSR) initiative and an expanding network of state-linked telecommunication enterprises, China has steadily increased its role in the development, ownership and management of undersea cables particularly across the Indo-Pacific, Africa and Latin America. This raises critical questions - how does control over physical infrastructure enable the operationalisation of cyber sovereignty? And how do the relational dynamics between China and partner states shape, sustain and reconstitute this capacity over time? To address these questions, the paper draws on Qin Yaqing's Relational Theory of World Politics which foregrounds relationships, processes and intersubjective identity as the constitutive elements of international interactions. Therefore, instead of examining China's cable expansion as either a straightforward instrument

of dominance or as a neutral contribution towards global development, the relational framework enables an analysis of how discourse, institutions and infrastructure co-evolve with ongoing networks of interaction. China's undersea cable engagement, then, functions through partnerships, negotiations, consortia and evolving institutional roles that reflect more than unilateral or purely material frameworks.



Mohammed Afsal K. H. is a Doctoral Scholar in International Relations at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras. He holds an MA in Development Studies from IIT Madras. His research interests include China–Middle East relations, the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese foreign policy, and the geopolitics of emerging technologies. He has presented his research at academic forums including the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Virtual Workshop and the State of the Indo-Pacific Conference. His writings on China's Belt and Road Initiative and Asian geopolitics have appeared in The Diplomat, the Global Taiwan Institute, and The India Way.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Digital Lock-in and the Geopolitics of Technological Dependency: China's Digital Silk Road and Strategic Alignment in the Gulf***

ABSTRACT:
China's Digital Silk Road (DSR) has become an important part of the digital transformation strategies of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. At the same time, both states continue to rely on the United States for external security. The growing use of Chinese telecommunications, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence technologies also raises questions about the tension between technological cooperation and strategic autonomy. The paper examines how Saudi Arabia and the UAE respond to this tension while maintaining control over critical digital infrastructure. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are examined through a Most Similar Systems Design, with process tracing used to follow how policy responses developed in each case. The evidence comes from regulatory frameworks, data localisation measures, telecommunications policies, government documents, supplier arrangements, and documented changes involving foreign technology firms. Taken together, these materials show how both governments have sought to retain room for manoeuvre while continuing to work with Chinese technology companies. Standards-based strategic hedging is central to this process, particularly in efforts to avoid dependence on a single supplier. The two countries have responded differently despite facing broadly similar pressures. In the UAE, supplier diversification, interoperability requirements, and regulatory oversight have been used alongside digital infrastructure to strengthen the country's position as a regional hub for trade, logistics, and connectivity. Saudi Arabia has placed greater emphasis on data localisation, technology transfer, domestic technical capacity, and local industrial development, drawing on the size of its market and the resources available to the state. The evidence suggests that these measures have strengthened operational autonomy, but have not produced technological independence. Both countries continue to rely on imported advanced hardware and wider foreign technological ecosystems.



Abhishek Yadav is a Doctoral Scholar in the Center for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He had his Master's in political science with specialization in International Relations from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has a profound interest in the Chinese space program, its commercialisation, and space diplomacy. He has a wider interest in Global Astropolitics and East Asian Politics. He had contributed as a research intern in the Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies and at the United Services Institute.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China's Space Export Diplomacy in the Global South: Dual Realities of Dependency and Sovereignty***

ABSTRACT:
China is expanding its role in space export diplomacy across the Global South. It has evolved from traditional state-backed institutions like CNSA, CASC, and CGWIC to new entrants of commercial actors with social capital. It has positioned PRC as an important partner for developed nations seeking space technology with their limited resources. China provides comprehensive access to satellite manufacturing, launch services, and ground infrastructure, integrating space services into a toolkit to deliver turnkey solutions for the Global South. However, analysts have raised concerns over the "win-win" cooperation narrative. They raised deeper concerns about the dual-use nature of space technology and the need for sustained capital over the long term. This raises a timely inquiry whether these space infrastructure partnerships empower recipient states or create a lock-in effect through asymmetrical dependencies. This study analyses why technically and structurally similar Chinese space agreements produce divergent outcomes in the form of generational path-dependency and data vulnerability in some states, while enabling tech autonomy and capacity building in others. The paper uses a theoretical framework of "recipient state mediation" that examines the roles of bureaucratic insulation and absorptive capacity in producing variation. This process uses process tracing to compare the two case studies of Argentina and Pakistan. The study argues that, in Argentina, weak domestic institutional oversight and limited investment in technical capacity have resulted in Chinese-controlled ground stations, minimal downlink access, and an absence of enforceable data rights. While in Pakistan, sustained bureaucratic negotiation and growing investment in space technical capacity through military modernisation secured greater operational control, negotiated loan restructuring, and retained greater access to the downstream data of these space systems. The study concludes that Chinese space exports don't produce deterministic dependency; rather, outcomes vary contingent on the recipient state's domestic variables.

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM: Lunch (First Floor, Lunch Area, Department of Political Science)

THEMATIC PANEL XI
India–China Relations: Historical Perspectives and Models of Regional Interactions
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

VENUE: Conference Hall (First Floor), Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

Chair



Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Convenor, 19th AICCS; Associate Professor, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

Speakers



Monika Doley is an Assistant Professor at Silapathar College, Assam, and a Research Scholar in the Department of Political Science at Nagaland University, Lumami. She is actively engaged in teaching and academic research in the field of Political Science.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***The Evolution of India–China Relations, 1947–2026: Competing Imperatives of Cooperation, Conflict, and Coexistence***

ABSTRACT

The relationship between India and China from 1947 to 2026 perfectly illustrates a deep paradox in today's international politics: two rising Asian powers that share ancient civilisational roots and strong economic ties still view each other with deep suspicion and keep getting into military conflicts. Right after independence, the two countries tried to cooperate based on the Panchsheel principles, but that spirit was badly damaged by the 1962 war, which created a deep and lasting mistrust. On top of that, their unequal economic relationship and competing claims over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh make it very hard to build real trust - even though trade between them has grown massively and China is now India's largest trading partner. Since 1996, confidence-building steps like military hotlines and joint exercises have helped calm down occasional crises, but they can't replace an actual political solution to the border disputes. The 2020 Galwan Valley clash showed just how fragile these arrangements are, especially when strong nationalist feelings limit how much room diplomats have to negotiate. Right now, there are no real conditions in the bilateral talks for a lasting resolution — whether it's settling the core territorial disputes, increasing military transparency, or keeping economic cooperation separate from security rivalries. The research article looks at how India-China relations have evolved by exploring their historical legacies, economic ties, border disputes and how they're managed, and their diplomatic engagement. Drawing from realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives, the study argues that India-China relations are best understood as competitive coexistence — a situation where cooperation and conflict continue side by side without ever resolving the deeper structural tensions. The article concludes with the key arguments.



Pavan Kumar is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies at the School of Global Affairs, Dr B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi. At AUD, he teaches courses on Research Methods, War, Peace and Trust in IR, India and its Neighbourhood, and Introduction to International Relations. He has previously worked at UPES Dehradun, University of Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru University. He was a South Asia Future Fellow (2022-23) at the CSDR and FES, where he explored India-China competition in Nepal. He has earned his PhD from the Centre for International Politics, Organisation, and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His PhD examined Vallabhbhai Patel's Approach to India's Foreign Policy. His M.Phil thesis 'Morality in International Politics' compared the moral world views of Niccolo Machiavelli and Immanuel Kant. His research interests include India's foreign policy, Vallabhbhai Patel, India-China competition in Indo-Pacific and the Himalayan states, caste and international relations. His research papers and reviews have appeared in International Studies (Sage), Strategic Analysis (Taylor and Francis), International Affairs (Oxford), Millennial Asia (Sage), Political Studies Review (Sage), and The Hague Journal of Diplomacy (Brill), World Affairs, Economic and Political Weekly and Quarterly Review of Film and Video (Taylor and Francis). He also co-edited (with Dr Kalathmika Natarajan and Dr Vineet Thakur) a special issue of The Hague Journal of Diplomacy (Brill) on Caste and Diplomacy. He is currently serving as associate editor of the Journal of Public Affairs (Wiley).

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***China–India Competition in Nepal: Balancing, Bandwagoning, or Hedging?***

ABSTRACT

Nepal is a relatively small, landlocked state situated between two large powers, India and China. After the British withdrawal from the Indian Empire, Nepal's foreign policy remained closely linked with India. This situation changed significantly after Nepal's political transformation in 2008. In the years that followed, Nepal's foreign policy reflected both continuity and change. It began to capitalise on China's growing interest in the region. Nepal encouraged Chinese investment, particularly in roads and infrastructure, while maintaining stable relations with India. However, this balancing was not always smooth. India expressed concern over China's increasing role in Nepal's economy, politics, and infrastructure. At times, this led Nepal to withdraw from certain China-funded projects. As the strategic dynamics between the United States, China, and India continue to evolve in the Indo-Pacific, it has become increasingly important for smaller states like Nepal to maintain workable relations with both neighbours without alienating either side. In this broader context, the paper seeks to understand how China has been expanding its presence in Nepal and the consequences for India-Nepal relations in general and Nepal's policies in particular. It examines the different strategies Nepal has adopted since 1947 in relation to China and India and the responses these have generated from both sides. While it notes the earlier phase, the primary focus is on the post-2008 period, when engagement became more intense. For this phase, the paper looks at China's investments in infrastructure, shifts in cultural ties, and patterns of military engagement involving both India and China along with people's perception of both India and China. Drawing on archival sources, the paper analyses China's rising influence in Nepal and its change in foreign policy before and after 2008 through a realist lens. It engages with concepts such as balancing, bandwagoning, non-alignment, and hedging, and examines how far these frameworks help in understanding Nepal's evolving foreign policy across the two periods.



Shrishti Khare is an Academic Associate at the Indian Institute of Management Indore(IIM-I), where she contributes to academic research with a focus on International Relations and contemporary global politics. She holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Political Science and International relations from the University of Delhi. Her research interests centre on International Relations, particularly Chinese foreign policy, Chinese IR theory, multilateral institutions, and the evolving dynamics of global order. She looks forward to presenting her research and engaging with scholars and participants at the 19th All India Conference of China Studies.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: ***Harmony and Hierarchy: Chinese IR Theory and China's Behaviour in the SCO, BRICS and G20***

ABSTRACT

China's growing role in multilateral institutions has generated renewed debate over whether Chinese International Relations (IR) theory represents an alternative vision of international order and, more importantly, how far such ideas are reflected in China's foreign-policy practice. Multiple strands within Chinese IR deny a single conception of order. For instance, relational theory emphasises mutual cooperation; the conception of Tiaxania portrays an inclusive moral order; moral realism focuses on leadership and authority; and social symbiosis stresses coexistence among diverse political orders. The bigger question raised by this is: How are these ideas translated into practice when China operates within different institutional settings? The paper addresses the question through a Harmony–Hierarchy framework that treats harmony and hierarchy as analytically distinct but potentially overlapping dimensions of international order. Under this framework, harmony is examined through indicators like relationality, consultation, equality, mutual benefit, sovereignty, and coexistence, while hierarchy is examined through leadership, asymmetry, agenda-setting, and institutional influence. The framework is applied to China's engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS, which provide contrasting security-oriented and economic-governance settings. Rather than assuming a straightforward theory–practice gap, the paper examines whether China's institutional behaviour reflects alignment, adaptation, or divergence from the expectations associated with different strands of Chinese IR. The paper argues that Chinese IR operates not as a fixed guide to foreign policy but as a 'flexible repertoire of ideas' that is selectively interpreted and adapted across institutional contexts. China's strategic statecraft consequently combines harmony-oriented practices with forms of hierarchical influence, rather than fitting neatly into either category. It contributes to Chinese IR and Global IR scholarship by bringing theoretical discourse into systematic comparison with China's multilateral practice and by showing how harmony and hierarchy can coexist within China's engagement with different forms of international order.

VALEDICTORY SESSION
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Chair



Moamenla Amer is a Professor in the Department of Political Science and Director-in-Charge of the Centre for South East Asian Studies at Nagaland University. She holds postgraduate degrees in Political Science and Gender Studies and a Ph.D. Her research interests include gender studies, gender and politics, structural inequalities, and youth political engagement. She has authored *Women's Political Status and Engagement: A Study of Nagaland* (2013) and *Youth and Democracy* (2018), alongside numerous journal articles and book chapters on political participation, gender, democratic engagement, and political awareness in Northeast India. Her work has appeared in publications including the Indian Journal of Gender Studies, The Indian Journal of Political Science, and Social Action. She has served as Principal Investigator for research projects funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), examining youth political participation and gender in Nagaland. Her broader scholarship engages with democratic processes, women's political representation, and socio-political inequalities in the Northeast.

Special Remarks



B. Kilangla Jamir is Professor in Economics and Dean of School of Social Sciences, Nagaland University, Lumami. She holds her PhD in Economics from North Eastern Hill University, Meghalaya. Her area of specialisations are Developmental Economics, Environmental Economics and Agricultural Economics. She is associated with Watsu Mungdang (NGO) in various capacities, especially for promotion of livelihood of women farmers through agricultural marketing. She is also associated with ATMA, Department of Agriculture, GoN for imparting training to farmers on agricultural marketing. Her latest book was published in 2019 titled "Patterns of Agriculture and Rural Transformation in India: Issues and Challenges (Eds.) " with Prof. Giribabu M by Rawat Books publications, New Delhi.

Valedictory Address



Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

Presentation on ICS-HYI Multi-Year Fellowship



Tiasangla Longkumer is a researcher in China-India public health studies, with research interests spanning the history of medicine, public health, medical humanities, and global health. She is currently a UoH-HYI (University of Hyderabad–Harvard Yenching Institute) Postdoctoral Fellow. She earned her Ph.D. from the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her academic work has been supported by several fellowships and grants, including the ICS-HYI Multiyear Pre Doctoral Fellowship in China Studies, the CIVS Fellowship at Ashoka University, the Ashoka-HYI MLSP, the AAS EIAC Research Grant, and the Ashoka MacFarquhar Fellowship. As an ICS-HYI Fellow, she has held research fellow positions at the Harvard Yenching Institute, Peking University, Fudan University, and Central China Normal University. She has presented her work at several international forums, including Harvard, Oxford, the European Association of Medicine, the National University of Singapore, the Association for Asian Studies and others.

TITLE: ***Introducing the ICS-HYI Multi-Year Doctoral Fellowship in China Studies: Unique Opportunity to Pursue Research on China***

Convenor's Report



Rityusha Mani Tiwary, Convenor, 19th AICCS; Associate Professor, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College; Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

Welcoming Delegates to the 20th AICCS



Nishit Kumar, Assistant Professor, Subhas Chandra Bose Chair of International Relations, Chanakya University, Bengaluru

Vote of Thanks



Deepak Kumar Bhaskar, Co-Convenor and Organising Secretary, 19th AICCS; Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Nagaland University

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

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The Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi (ICS) is one of the oldest research institutions on China and East Asia in India, devoted exclusively to the study of China and East Asia. It evolved from the China Study Group (CSG), an initiative by teachers, scholars and researchers from Delhi University, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, as well as some diplomats, in 1969, in Delhi. Over the years the ICS mission and objectives have been substantially supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indian Council of World Affairs, India International Centre, TATA Trusts, Gargi and Vidya Prakash Dutt Foundation, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and the Pirojsha Godrej Foundation.

Website Link: https://icsin.org/mission-history

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY, hqrs: LUMAMI

Nagaland University, the 13th Central University of India and the only Central University in Nagaland, was established under the Nagaland University Act, 1989 (No. 35 of 1989), which received the President of India's assent on 20 October 1989 and came into force that month. The University formally came into existence on 6 September 1994, with jurisdiction over the entire state of Nagaland, inheriting the Kohima and Medziphema campuses of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and its affiliated colleges in the state. Initially headquartered at Kohima, the University shifted its headquarters to Lumami in Zunheboto district in mid-2010, following the development of the necessary infrastructure. It currently operates across three campuses: Lumami, Kohima at Meriema, and Medziphema, which houses the School of Agricultural Sciences. The School of Engineering and Technology, formerly located at Dimapur, was shifted to Kohima in 2024. The University has 44 departments offering undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes across the arts, commerce, sciences, agricultural sciences, engineering and technology, and management, with 69 affiliated colleges across Nagaland.

Website Link: https://nagalanduniversity.ac.in/about/genesis

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