

## 10<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of China Studies Goa University, 12-14 December 2017

**The All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS)** is the flagship event of the ICS, convened annually every December, with the principal objective of spreading interest in and strengthening research on China and East Asian Studies in India. Each conference has a special theme and this year's 10<sup>th</sup> AICCS focused on "**China in the Maritime Domain**". The conference was organized in collaboration with the UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University in cooperation with the Naval War College, Goa from 12-14 December. Dr. Aravind Yelery, Assistant Director, ICS was the Convenor and Prof. Aparajita Gangopadhyay of UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University, was the Co-Convenor.

The inaugural session of the conference saw presentations by Prof. Varun Sahni, Vice Chancellor, Goa University and Commodore Ashok Rai, Officiating Commandant, Naval War College'. The three-day event saw 35 paper presentations in 7 sessions, by scholars from different parts of India. These papers had come through a rigorous selection process and were chosen through two stages from among 152 abstract submissions and 63 shortlisted paper submissions.

The conference, through the theme *China in the Maritime Domain*, focussed specifically on the commercial, security and diplomatic aspects of China's engagement, regionally as well as globally, and sought to draw out political, economic and security implications and trends in Chinese foreign and security policies. Under its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road project, that is part of its 'Belt and Road' Initiative – also known as the 'one belt, one road' initiative, China has engaged around the world in multiple projects in the field of infrastructure development and other commercial activities, together with increasingly close military and diplomatic interactions involving the PLA Navy. Goa with its location on the coast of India and its own extensive maritime history, as well as naval facilities and institutions, is an ideal location to analyze the developments and patterns of Chinese maritime activity and to explicate what these say about China's maritime strategy and ambitions regionally and globally. The AICCS also addressed themes related to China and East Asia besides those related to the maritime domain.

In addition to the technical sessions, there were two special panels organized on the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of China with ICS faculty, Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Prof. Alka Acharya, Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti and Dr. Jabin T. Jacob as speakers, and on India-China-Latin America Engagements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with speakers being Amb. R.Viswanathan, former ambassador of India to Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, Mr. Dattesh Parulekar, of the UGC Centre for Latin American Studies and Mr. Hari Sheshasayee, Advisor, ProColombia, India.

The valedictory session of the AICCS also encompassed the release of Prof. Tansen Sen's opus, *India, China and the World: A Connected History* with the discussion led by Prof. Prasenjit Duara, Oscar Tang Chair of East Asian Studies at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty and Dr. Madhavi Thampi, Editor, *China Report*.

The conference promoted active networking among scholars and raised awareness about research and study on China in India. This has been the motivation in holding the AICCS every year in collaboration with an academic institution/university outside Delhi, ideally – but not necessarily – where research and teaching in China Studies are conducted. Nine conferences have been held so far – Delhi (2006 and 2009), Jadavpur University (2010), Central University of Hyderabad (2011), Santiniketan (2012), IIM-Kozhikode (2013), Banaras Hindu University (2014), Sikkim University (2015) and University of Mumbai (2016). Like previous conferences, this year too the AICCS saw enthusiastic participation from students and think-tankers as well as representatives of various military and security agencies from around the country.

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the AICCS will be held in Bengaluru in November/December 2018, with Christ University as the host institution.

ICS acknowledges the unwavering support received from our Development Partner, Tata Education and Development Trust, in the successful conduct of the 10<sup>th</sup> AICCS. We express our sincere gratitude for the same.