

## REPORT

**11<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS)**

organized by



**Institute of China Studies, Delhi (ICS)**

And



**CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru**

In cooperation with



**National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru**

## DAY ONE – 15 NOVEMBER 2018

### INAUGURAL SESSION

**The All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS)** is the flagship event of the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi (ICS) convened annually every November/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 the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the conference focused on “**Science, Technology and Innovation with Chinese Characteristics**”. The conference was organised in collaboration with CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru and in cooperation with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, at the main campus of CHRIST in Bengaluru, from 15-17 November 2018. Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice-Chairperson, ICS was the Convenor and Dr. N. Manoharan, Associate Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, was the Co-Convenor.

The inaugural session began by paying homage to Prof. Huang I-shu, Emeritus Fellow, ICS, and one of the leading lights in instituting Chinese Studies in India, who passed away on the eve of the conference. Dr. Shailesh Nayak , Distinguished Scientist, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and Director, NIAS, Bengaluru was the Chief Guest at the event. Dr. Shailesh in his keynote speech , referring to the theme of this year’s AICCS, singled out the huge investments made by China in science and technology’ as one of the reason for its dramatic rise as a global economic power. He spoke at length on the need for regional cooperation with China to advance science and technology to meet challenges like climate change, environmental degradation and disaster management.

Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha, Director, ICS, Delhi, Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice Chairperson, ICS and Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS and Dr. Maher Spurgeon , Senior Regional Program Consultant for South Asia, United Board were among the other delegates who joined the inaugural session of the conference. Fr. Abraham V H, Pro Vice Chancellor, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru delivered the inaugural address and Dr. Madhumati Deshpande, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, welcomed the delegates and the gathering.

**SESSION 1: SPECIAL PANEL –  
STATE OF THE FIELD ON CHINA STUDIES IN INDIA**

**CHAIR: Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice- Chairperson, ICS, Delhi and Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup>  
AICCS**

Time: 10:45 am – 12:45 pm

The first session of the 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS was a special panel titled ‘State of the field on China Studies in India’. Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice Chairperson, ICS, Delhi and Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS chaired the session. The discussion comprised of scholars focusing on areas like international relations, foreign policy, security issues, society and culture, politics, economy and human development; and emerging trends within Chinese Studies.

The first speaker of the session was Dr. Maher Spurgeon, Senior Regional Program Consultant for South Asia, United Board. His presentation was based on a report prepared in collaboration with Dr. Cynthia Yuen, Program Officer for Northeast Asia, United Board. Dr. Spurgeon pointed out the efforts put forth by United Board in association with the ICS to introduce an interdisciplinary course for undergraduate students on Chinese Studies in colleges of India. Dr. Raviprasad Narayanan, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Adjunct Fellow, ICS, Delhi was the second presenter of the session. He, in his presentation defined China as a ‘trilemma’- at political, economic and strategic levels. Dr. Raviprasad pointed out that it is important that India discusses and analyses China at three lemmas. This, according to him should be done at institutional level through think tanks like ICS and by conducting annual meetings to discover alternative issues that may emerge in future.

Dr. Avinash Godbole, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana spoke on emerging trends in Chinese Studies such as the field of energy, minorities, environment, artificial intelligence, etc. During his presentation, he also discussed on the availability of employment opportunities for students of Chinese Studies. He further called for the need of developing an independent research methodology for studying the discipline.

The fourth presenter, Dr. P.K. Anand, Research Associate, ICS, Delhi spoke on politics, economy and human development in Chinese Studies. He pointed out the challenges of studying a complex and diverse country like China from an equally complex and diverse country like India. According to him, these challenges come in the form of availability of resources in attracting more fresh graduates to take up Chinese Studies and in encouraging more research in the field.

Prof. Sabaree Mitra’s – Professor, Centre for Chinese Studies and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi – paper was read out by Prof. Alka Acharya, Professor, Centre for Chinese Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and former Director, ICS, Delhi. Dr. Mitra’s paper was based on the linkages between society and culture, as well as connecting different aspects of Chinese Studies as discussed by the previous speakers. It also gave an overview of the growth of Chinese Studies in India over the last two decades.

The broad areas discussed in this special session were helpful in analysing the present state of Chinese Studies in India. The session also looked into the importance of encouraging more research in the field to fill in the gaps that exist in India in studying China.

## **SESSION 2: DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

**CHAIR: Prof. Arvind Kumar, Head of Department, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal**

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

The second session of the conference was dedicated to Defence and Security with Professor Arvind Kumar chairing the session. The session commenced with Prof. Arvind Kumar explaining how China is diversifying its application of innovation and technology by focussing both on outer-space as well as submarine missions. Lt. Col. Mohit Nayal, Research Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, Delhi, the first speaker of this session, spoke on China's space technology. He emphasised that an improved military capability owing to China's innovation in space technology has been a cause of concern for other nations. He also talked of the growing involvement of private sector in China in the project. The speaker also focused on how the countries who lag behind in space technology should be made part of the game by sharing of information and technology.

The second speaker, Mr Saurav Sarkar's, Research Assistant, ICS, Delhi, presentation was focussed on China's submarine technology. He noted that deterrence has been the main aim behind the impressive growth rate of China's submarine capabilities. Mr. Sarkar said that China's submarine technology has been an amalgamation of the best features of American, Russian, French and German submarine technologies. As a means of extending its influence, China has also been proliferating its submarine bases in various parts of the world.

The third speaker, Captain Kamlesh K. Agnihotri, Senior Fellow, Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, Delhi, discussed high technology developments in China. Captain Agnihotri explained in detail how the operational effectiveness of China's military forces will increase manifold by the development of high technology. In his presentation he gave an overview of the expansive use of high technology by the PLA in China and recommended that India should draw lessons from the Chinese experience and prepare along the lines to have effective deterrence capabilities.

Mr. Nitin Agarwal, Research Fellow, National Maritime Foundation, Delhi, the last speaker of the session, threw light on the growth of shipbuilding in China. He began by tracing the evolution of shipbuilding in China from ancient times to the present. He pointed out that in the last three decades, the Chinese shipbuilding industry has transformed from a 'basic ship producer' to an industry focusing on high technology and support equipment. Today China completely dominates the industry. He identified the strategies China used in promoting the growth of shipbuilding and the lessons that could be drawn by developing maritime nations for their own growth.

### **SESSION 3: SPECIAL PANEL – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS**

**CHAIR: Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi**

Time: 3:15-5:15 pm

The session was chaired by Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, Honorary Fellow, ICS Delhi. The first presenter Prof. V. S Ramamurthy, Emeritus Professor, NIAS spoke on the topic ‘Science, Technology and Innovation in China, Lessons for India.’ The speaker said that innovation and high technology has been instrumental in China’s technology led growth in the last two decades. The speaker emphasised that China’s growth story was driven largely by the investment in research and development and manufacturing in the early 2000s – a lesson which India could learn and adopt to achieve aspired development level.

Amb. Smitha Purushottam, founder and chairperson, SITARA, India’s first Do Tank Connecting Geopolitics and Science and Technology was the second speaker. Her presentation was focussed on the Geo-Technology race between the United States and China. Amb. Purushottam is of the opinion that this has led to heightened tensions between the United States and China. She also spoke about China’s APE strategy, cyber thefts of intellectual property, 2030 AI Vision, air power and aerospace strategy. The presenter ended by deliberating on the implications of the competition between US and China on India.

Prof. G. Balachandirane, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, spoke on the topic ‘Innovation and Human capital in China’. He in agreement with Prof. Ramamurthy emphasised the criticality of innovation to China’s growth trajectory. He threw light upon the issues for China when it comes to innovation and presented the quantitative facts substantiating his points. Prof. Balachandirane also dwelled at length on the importance and role of human capital in innovation.

The last presentation of the session was by Prof. Varaprasad Sekhar Dolla, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Dolla spoke on the topic ‘Science, Technology and Innovation in China : Contours and Complexities.’ The presenter, similar to the position taken by earlier speakers, spelled out the strong correlation between science , technology , innovation and China’s economic growth. He highlighted China’s effort in using science, technology and innovation towards eradication of poverty and how this has helped China to rise as a super power.

### **SESSION 4: PUBLIC SESSION – SALIENT ASPECTS OF CHINA’S ‘NEW ERA’ UNDER XI JINPING**

**CHAIR: Amb C. V. Ranganathan, Emeritus Fellow, ICS, Delhi**

Time: 5.30-6.30 PM

The fourth session of the 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS was a public session called the ‘Salient Aspects of China’s ‘New Era’ under Xi Jinping’. The session was chaired by Ambassador C.V. Ranganathan, Emeritus Fellow, ICS, Delhi. The session focused on the changes undertaken by Xi Jinping in China and the evolution of China under his policies.

The first speaker of the session, Amb. C.V. Ranganathan, drew similarities between China’s current president Xi Jinping and its founding father, Mao Zedong. The speaker pointed out that like Mao, Xi is not constrained by Party rules and both launched anti-corruption campaigns to cleanse the Party of adversaries. Xi has successfully abandoned the practice of collective decision-making in favour of centralizing power through the use of political institutions and political culture. The 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress further enhanced Xi’s position equating him to Mao Zedong. According to the speaker, Xi is not competing with the outside world he is trying to maintain control internally. He ended by saying that China is an illiberal state trying to seek control in a liberal world order.

The second speaker of the session was Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Honorary Fellow at ICS, Delhi. Prof. Mohanty discussed Xi Jinping’s initiatives in the political, social, cultural and economic domains of China. The speaker states that the ‘New Era’ is similar to the declaration of New China, as expressed by Mao Zedong in 1940s. The ‘New Era’ policies are characterised by shift in focus from quantity of growth to quality of development. Thus, the ‘New Era’ does not aim to instil a sense of fear rather it aims at providing opportunities to the world.

Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Director, ICS, Delhi said that China stands at a turning point today. China under Xi Jinping has progressively and decisively moved away from Deng Xiaoping’s legacy in key areas. In the economy, the share of private enterprises has reduced, while China has been imposing its aspirations through One Belt One Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Bank, etc. The speaker then emphasised on China’s great power ambitions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. This according to Amb Kantha has been challenging America’s position, who already views China as a competitor. Thus, Xi’s dream for a prosperous China has resulted in new geopolitical implications for India and the world.

The session ended with a fruitful discussion between the speakers and audience, which further explored the dimensions of ‘New Era’ China under Xi Jinping, and its relations with other global powers as well as implications for India.

## **DAY TWO – 16 NOVEMBER 2018**

### **SESSION 5: FOREIGN POLICY, BORDER MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**CHAIR: Amb. Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi**

**DISCUSSANT: Prof. Aparajita Gangopadhyay, Director,  
UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University**

Time: 9.15-10.45 AM

The session was chaired by Amb. Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group. The first paper 'China in Arctic: Interests, Strategy and Implications' was presented by Ms. Rashmi B.R., Master's Student, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Studies. By dissecting China's policies on Arctic through the perspectives of realism, neo-liberalism and geopolitics, she enunciated how China's Arctic policy is a strategy laid in economic approach and a bid to ensure its energy security. She also underscored the diplomatic imperatives of 8 Arctic nations, that are pressurised to accept the position of China as an important 'extra-regional partner' on the Arctic negotiating table.

The second paper was presented by Dr. Joshy M. Paul and Dr. Madhumati Deshpande, Assistant Professors at Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University). Speaking on 'China and the World: A Comparative Analysis of Foreign Policies of Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping', they highlighted the contrasts and similarities in the conduct of foreign policies of both the leaders. They asserted in their talk that while Deng worked to make China prosperous, Xi aims to make it strong. Alluding to the argot of 'China's Peaceful Rise 2.0', Dr. Deshpande contended that the rise under Xi Jinping features a more powerful and assertive pursuit of China's national interest while rigorously trying to maintain a peaceful world order.

In the third talk of the session, Col. Virendra Sahai Verma, Honorary Fellow, ICS, highlighted the border issue between India and China at Aksai Chin and Tawang. Deriving the title of his paper- 'Kadam Taal' from a pseudo-military drill of beguiling the enemy into thinking that you are making a move while actually remaining at halt, he captured the current state of border affairs between the two countries. Through a detailed policy paper that canvassed the entirety of the regions in dispute, Col. Sahai enumerated a 5 point programme that included cultural exchanges and territorial concessions on both sides to resolve the existing differences.

The last paper of the session was presented by Ms. Saloni Sharma, PG Diploma Student from Ashoka University. In her presentation titled 'Dawn of Ecological Civilization: The 'Beautiful' Chinese Dream', she presented the philosophical case of China adopting the Centennial Goals as a running thread, from the historical Chinese outlook on the environment. Highlighting Xi Jinping's vision for an 'Ecological Civilization', Ms. Sharma put forward her study of social media discourses revealing a positive attitude towards the fulfilment of this vision.

The discussant for the session, Prof. Aparajita Gangopadhyay, Director, UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University, brought out the common thread of foreign policy across the presentations, while also acknowledging the unique nature of each research. She lauded the fresh and original perspectives on issues of the sessions and stressed that these should be picked up for further research for a better understanding of the contemporary, and future policies of China.

## **SESSION 6: SPECIAL PANEL – INDIAN ARCHIVAL RESEARCH ON CHINA**

**CHAIR: Dr. Madhavi Thampi, Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi and Editor, China Report**

Time: 11.00 AM -12.30 PM

The Chair Dr. Thampi began the session by buttressing the usefulness of looking at archives in researching about China.

The first speaker of the session, Dr. S.P. Vagishwari, Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, compared the archival traditions of India and China and located the points of departure and similarities. She traced Chinese archival history based on the state sponsored *Shilu* or annalistic chronological records of different ruler's reign. Excluding a few linear geologies, there were no private records in China. Though certain resources like hand bamboo scripts still exists, a sizeable portion of the imperial records have been permanently lost in China. In India, on the other hand, apart from the state sponsored texts, there were also non-state composers of archival materials from ancient times.

The next speaker was Professor Kamal Sheel, Visiting Professor, Department of Humanistic Studies, Indian Institute of Technology – Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He spoke on the topic 'Non-official resources on China in India.' He first spoke about India's advantageous position in availability of resources on China. Prof. Sheel believed that studying these resources will help Indians to know China and their history better. He brought to light India's participation in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, available in literary works and news pieces in various libraries.

The third speaker was Dr. Nirmola Sharma, Research Associate, ICS, Delhi. She shed light on the 'Private Collection of the National Archives of India.' She spoke on the availability of considerable documents on China in the Private Collections of the NAI. Her focus was on various papers available in the Private Papers such as the Indian Independence League (IIL) Papers (1942-1945), Indian National Army (INA) Papers (1942-46), Subhas Chandra Bose Papers, K.M Panikkar papers (1938-1963) and Raja Mahendra Pratap Papers (1938-1963). She ended by urging researchers to not restrict themselves to the Public Records and look into other collections such as the Private Archives.

Dr. Madhavi Thampi, Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi and Editor, China Report was the last speaker of this special session. The theme of her presentation was in alignment with the third speaker. If Dr. Sharma spoke about the Private Archives, Dr. Thampi talked about the Public Archives, specifically the Foreign and Political proceedings of the Public Archives pertaining to the Republican era of Chinese history. These documents cater to different topics like Pan-Asianism, opium trade, wool trade, marine attacks on China. She concluded her talk by emphasizing on the relative under-utilization of these resources. The session ended with an active interaction between the audience and the panel.

## **SESSION 7: LITERATURE AND SOCIETY**

**CHAIR: Prof. Ranjana Sheel, Professor, Department of History,  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi**

**DISCUSSANT: Prof. Sabaree Mitra, Professor, Centre for Chinese and Southeast  
Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi**

Time: 1.15-2.40 PM

The first presenter of the session was Ms. Shruti Sonal, Master's Student, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST(Deemed to be University), Bengaluru. She presented a paper on 'Chinese Science Fiction and its Socio-Political Engagements.' She spoke about the developments of Chinese science fiction as well as the politics of science fiction and argues that contemporary science fiction has emerged as a critic of Chinese politics. The presenter spoke about how Chinese science fiction has tried to question and critique the Chinese model of development. The presenter concluded by speaking about the response of the state on Chinese science fiction.

Barnali Chanda's, Assistant Professor, English, Techno India University, Kolkata, paper was titled 'Travel as a Metaphor of Comparative Understanding and Reimagining India and China: Studying Travelogues written during 1930-1960'. In the presentation she examined five travelogues written in Bengali and Chinese depicting the journey to China and India written in between 1930 to 1960. In all these narratives the authors (mostly having left leaning ideologies) not only applaud the revolutionaries of China but also document their disappointment and disillusioning experiences in the post independent India. Apart from narrating China's new face of progress and revolution, the authors kept on drawing comparison between India and China while going on their travel and writing about it.

The third presenter of the session, Sharanya Menon, Master's Student, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai presented a paper on 'Redefining Citizenship and the Construction of an Ideal Citizen in Modern China'. The speaker began by tracing the emergence of the concept of citizenship in China since historical times to modern. In the paper, the speaker mentioned that the SCS (Social Credit System) has become a tool for the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) to assert control and redefine citizenship. It has, at the same time, constructed a new model of morality and sincerity. She concluded by stating the SCS has made the Western democracies uncomfortable.

Prabhat Katyayan Mishra's, M. Phil Scholar, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 'Political Propaganda and New Media in China: A Case Study of the Doklam Standoff'. The paper focused on the role played by media in shaping political opinion in China. Mr. Mishra's paper is an enquiry into the role of social media and the internet as sources of news and spaces of deploying nationalistic propaganda in

China and India. The presentation, also discussed in detail the role played by news agencies in India and China during Doklam crisis.

## **SESSION 8: ECONOMY AND INNOVATION**

**CHAIR: Dr. S.P. Vagishwari, Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru**

**DISCUSSANT: Dr. G. Venkat Raman, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Indore**

Time: 2.45 – 4.15 PM

The first speaker of the session was Ms. Tahera Daud, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She spoke on the topic of ‘Chinese Sovereign Wealth Funds: A Threat or A Remedy?’ and its standing in the global order today, and relevant consequential reactions. Ms Daud assessed whether Chinese Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) are trying to generate revenues for China and if they have the potential to alter the present world financial and economic structure. She further gave insight into the working management, investment portfolios and strategies of the Chinese SWF. She ended by examining the relationship between Chinese SWF and the emergence of Chinese State Capitalism.

The second speaker of the session, Dr. Khanindra Ch. Das, Assistant Professor, School of Management, Bennett University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Das spoke on the performance and survival rate of Indian companies in China and the need of analysing the same. This is important given the trade deficit numbers between the two countries in the fiscal year 2017 -18 which was \$63 million – the highest for India. However, Chinese investment in India exceeds Indian investment in China by a massive margin. According to Dr. Das, more than half of Indian enterprises in China register almost no profit and the ones that barely manage to survive are entities in the service sector. As per the conclusions of the paper, size of the firm has an impact on its survival – larger the firm, greater are the chances of survival. Similarly, more than national factors, provincial elements such as agglomeration of private and foreign funds play a larger role in a firm’s performance and survival.

Mr. Murali Murti, Doctoral Scholar, NIAS, Bengaluru was the third speaker of the session. He presented on ‘Innovation in Supercomputing in China and India–A Knowledge Process-Based Analysis’. The hypothesis as presented by Mr. Murti in his paper included the need for cutting edge innovation, the importance of strategy in this realm at the national level and the need to include knowledge process in innovation. Mr. Murti spoke on how India ought to consider supercomputing in the future as more and more sectors have come to become increasingly dependent on technology. The speaker opined that authoritarian regimes are not

necessarily better equipped at dealing with science, technology and innovation. In India, developments in the sector can still be aimed at and achieved if India can find a balance.

The fourth speaker was Dr. Panch Rishi Dev Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Lucknow. He presented on 'The Punch of Patent in Emerged China: Asia's rise in Technology Discourse through Patents of China'. The paper aimed at bridging the vast disparity between the patent registration and innovation in China; and other prominent countries who have for long featured in the technology and innovation indexes, such as Japan, South Korea and India. Dr. Sharma pointed out that between 1998 and 2016, patent grants in China (and from China) had increased staggeringly by 5275%. Of all the patent applications in the world, the ones from China account for nearly one-third of it. Chinese law, in these years, with respect to patents has also undergone drastic changes, leading to a sky-high increase in the number of patents from the country. However, the quality of these patents are debatable.

The last speaker of the session, Dr. Surajit Deb, Associate Professor, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi, Delhi, presented a paper on 'Regional differences and ownership roles in the research and development and innovation of activities of Chinese industrial enterprises'. Joining the conference via skype, the speaker examined the provincial geography as well as ownership pattern of STI activities in the Chinese industrial enterprises. He revealed that the provinces of Jiangsu, Guangdong, Shandong, Zhejiang, Anhui and Shanghai dominate in the R&D expenditures, number of inventions, new product development expenditures, sales revenue from new products and export of new product from the Chinese industrial enterprises. Moreover, the share of domestically owned enterprises remained prominent in the total R&D expenditures, number of inventions, number of new products developed, expenditures on new products development, sales revenue and exports of new products in the Chinese industrial segment.

**SESSION 9: SPECIAL PANEL - UNITED BOARD - INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES – HARVARD - YENCHING INSTITUTE - CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) INTERACTIVE SESSION – CAPACITY BUILDING IN CHINA STUDIES IN INDIA**

**CHAIR: Prof. Alka Acharya, Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi**

Time: 4:30- 6:00 PM

Dr. Cynthia Yuen, Program Officer for Northeast Asia, United Board, was the first speaker of the session. Dr. Yuen highlighted the importance of expanding Chinese Studies in India. She

emphasised on the need to trace the history of China, in order to be better equipped to understand the importance of the transformation that China has undergone. The quality of education as well as educators is very intrinsic to this process. She also emphasised on the importance of fieldwork that involves visits to China.

The second speaker was Dr. Veda Vaidyanathan, Research Associate at ICS, Delhi. She talked about the emerging field of study of China - Africa relations. She then reiterated the importance of research methodology in research in Chinese Studies. She ended by dwelling on the opportunities for creating platforms for multidisciplinary and cross-cultural exchanges.

The third speaker, Dr. Bhim B. Subba, Research Associate, ICS, Delhi, suggested that China needs to be understood in a nuanced manner. Dr. Subba also spoke about his own work on the Party system in China. He concluded by emphasising on the importance of learning Chinese language in doing research in Chinese Studies.

The fourth speaker of the session was Dr. N. Manoharan, Associate Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru and Co-Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS. He pointed out that one of the key aims of Chinese Studies in India should be to better understand China and foster peace and cooperation. In order to achieve this, the speaker proposed a framework, consisting of 3Cs: curriculum, collaboration and capacity building. As a concluding remark, the Chair, Prof. Alka Acharya agreed with the other speakers of the session on the importance of Chinese Studies and quoted that 'the journey of 10,000 miles starts with a single step'.

### **DAY THREE – 17 NOVEMBER 2018**

#### **SESSION 10: INNOVATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**CHAIR: Prof. Lalit Mohan Patnaik, Adjunct Professor and INSA Senior Scientist,  
National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru**

**DISCUSSANT : Dr. Ashok Immanuel, Associate Professor, Department of Computer  
Science, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru**

Time: 9:15 – 10:45 PM

The session commenced with a presentation by Mr. Rachit Kumar Murarka, doctoral student, Centre for West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 'Emerging Global Tech Entities and Innovation', which specifically dealt with the case of Chinese Tech Companies. Mr. Murarka analyzed the features of Chinese tech companies especially in fields such as innovation and sales figures. He concluded that the Chinese may not be very technically developed, but their proficiency in marketing innovation sets them apart.

The next speaker, was Mr. Pinaki Bhattacharya, Independent Scholar, who presented on 'China's Science and Technology Strategy: Product Innovation versus New Technology'. Stating that there has been a growth in the academic and political importance adduced to

science and technology in China, the presentation provided great insights into how China plans to nurture this further.

Up next was a jointly authored paper on ‘Artificial Intelligence in China and its Implications on World Politics’, by Dr. Ningthoujam Koiremba, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, and Dr. Anurag Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru. Examining the connections of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with politics, the speakers highlighted China’s continuing efforts to revolutionize AI, thereby preparing themselves for a futuristic power politics in the form of a probable Global Tech War.

Mr. Ravish Bhatia, Frédéric Bastiat Fellow at Mercatus Centre of George Mason University and Yenching Scholar at Peking University, Beijing, was the next speaker and he joined the session via skype. He spoke about ‘A Systematic Analysis of the State Council of PRC’s Next Generation AI Development Plan’. With a wide body of facts and figures, he covered the key principles of the Plan and posed interesting questions on whether the Plan could be a learning point for India in coming up with a national innovation system.

The last speaker of the session, who also joined via skype, was Dr. Radha Raghuramapatruni, Associate Professor, Economics and International Business, GITAM School of International Business, GITAM (Deemed to be University), Vishakhapatnam. In her paper titled ‘A Study on Trends and Prospects in China’s Research and Development (R&D) Sector’, she explained the existence of a pattern of China’s heavy investments in basic and experimental R&D, while it was missing with regard to advanced R&D. She also remarked on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues and other major challenges faced by China’s R&D sector.

The discussant of the session, Dr. Ashok Immanuel analysed the pointers put forth by all the presenters, and stated further, that China, today, is focused on deep learning and producing new knowledge. The presentations were followed by a constructive question-and-answer session.

## **SESSION 11: SPECIAL PANEL – DOING FIELD WORK IN CHINA**

**CHAIR: Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Honorary Fellow, ICS, Delhi**

Time: 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

The penultimate session of the conference, and the last one in terms of plenary sessions, was a special panel comprising of scholars and researchers who have done fieldwork in China. This session intended to provide deeper insights to the audience on the nature of fieldwork. The first speaker Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Honorary Fellow, ICS, set the tone by stating the value and importance of fieldwork compared to secondary research. Speaking of his experiences of conducting fieldwork in Wuxi, he spoke of the need to combine theoretical and normative research practices in fieldwork. He explained about the transformation of rural

dynamics in China and concluded by discussing how his research proved to be a merger between village study with Party reforms.

The second presentation was by Dr. Solomon Benjamin, Head of Faculty Development and Post-Doctoral Programme at Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, and he was joined by Dr. Tammy Wong, Post-doctoral researcher, Singapore-ETH Centre through skype. Engaged in the study of territorial governance in Indian and Chinese cities, the speakers addressed the nature of their approach to the field, the difference between the theoretical nature of institutions and the applied knowledge in fieldwork. They also opined that dialogue with people at the grassroots was essential in understanding the institutions rather than just have a policy diagram. Further, they explained the complexities of institutional structures that emerged due to the number of changes taking place as a result of constant urbanization.

The next speaker was Dr. Ritu Agarwal, Adjunct Fellow, ICS, Delhi and Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, who spoke about her research in the Chenggong county of Yunnan province in 2002. Emphasising on the importance of taking the county as the primary unit of analysis, she believed it helped in researching macro- level processes of economic transformation of the state, the functioning of the state and integration between agriculture and industrialization. She also remarked that local institutional support is key in carrying out such field research.

The last speaker of the session was Dr. Debasish Chaudhuri, Adjunct Fellow, ICS, Delhi, who elaborated on his experiences in Xinjiang. Starting with the sensitivities associated with the region, especially since 1990s, Dr. Chaudhuri spoke on the different constraints faced in conducting his field work while negotiating the vastness and the various places of importance. The session ended on a positive note with the audience actively interacting with the panel.

### **VALEDICTORY SESSION**

The valedictory session of the of the 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS, followed immediately after the conclusion of the Special Session on Fieldwork on China. The session was chaired by Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice Chairperson, ICS and Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS. Making his valedictory address, Dr. Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru spoke on the need to concentrate more on undergraduate studies and that Chinese Studies need to be introduced from that level. Dr. Avinash Godbole, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal Global University (JGU), made his brief remarks welcoming the delegates to the 12<sup>th</sup> AICCS to be held in JGU in 2019. Dr. P.K. Anand, Research Associate, ICS, Delhi, gave the report of the conference and reflected upon the depth of discussions that happened during the three days. Dr. N. Manoharan, Associate Professor, Department of International Studies and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru and Co-Convenor, 11<sup>th</sup> AICCS gave the vote of thanks with which the session came to an end.

