

Institute of Chinese Studies

# PANEL DISCUSSION

*The 19th India-Russia-China  
Trilateral Academic  
Conference, 2024*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speakers :

**Anuradha Chenoy, Jabin T.  
Jacob, S.L. Narasimhan,  
Aravind Yelery**

*9 December 2024*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Speakers:** **Prof. Anuradha Chenoy**, Adjunct Professor, Jindal Global University, Sonipat

**Dr. Jabin T. Jacob**, Associate Professor, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

**Lt. Gen. S.L. Narasimhan**, Adjunct Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai; and, Adjunct Professor, NIAS, Bengaluru

**Dr. Aravind Yelery**, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

**Moderator:** **Prof. Alka Acharya**, Chairperson and Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and, Honorary Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

**Date:** 11 December 2024

**Venue:** Zoom

- The seminar explored the outcomes of the recently concluded 19<sup>th</sup> Russia-India-China Trilateral Academic Conference (RIC). Initiated in 2001, the trilateral conference has provided a platform for scholarly dialogue, focusing on multipolarity, regional dynamics, and non-military cooperation in fields like agriculture, health, and education. While the early years of the RIC emphasised shared goals, recent discussions reflect divergences due to changing geopolitical imperatives.

- The discussions aimed to advance multipolarity, establish norms for a rules-based order, and foster collaboration without alliances or antagonistic stances, and highlighted the collective strengths of the three nations in civilizational, economic, and strategic domains. The RIC reaffirmed support for international pluralism, inclusive economic systems, and democratised multilateral institutions like BRICS, emphasising peaceful coexistence and countering hegemonic dominance without targeting specific powers.
- The discussions also looked at divergences, with China advocating the sidelining of border disputes to enhance trade, while India emphasized resolving key issues. Russia supported increased cooperation within the framework of RIC, but refrained from mediating. Russia also noted that the recent steps toward disengagement undertaken by India and China are positive for trilateral dialogue.
- The speakers addressed regional and global challenges, including India's need for investments, China's search for markets amidst Western pressures, and Russia's focus on trilateral cooperation to maintain regional relevance. The speakers noted that bilateral tensions, limited organisational scope, and contrasting agendas create barriers. While Russia seeks alignment, China's focus on ideological initiatives and pragmatic cooperation often results in scepticism about achieving substantial outcomes.
- In conclusion, the speakers highlighted that progress in RIC energy collaboration remains limited. While Russia benefits from hydrocarbon exports, energy transition efforts are hindered by inadequate investment, innovation, and cooperation, with key benchmarks like accessibility and affordability, unmet. Divergent priorities and transactional relationships limit collaboration in new energy and technological sovereignty. China's minimal investment in innovation projects in Russia and India hinders trust and tangible outcomes, affecting sustainable energy advancements.

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