

## XIITH INDIAN CONGRESS OF ASIAN & PACIFIC STUDIES (ICAPS)

The XIIth meeting of the Indian Congress of Asian and Pacific Studies (ICAPS), supported by ICS and the Association of Asia Scholars (AAS), was held at Doon University, Dehra Dun, under the patronage of Prof. Girijesh Pant, Vice-Chancellor of Doon University and ICAPS President for 2011-12. The overall theme of the Congress was “China-India Historical Linkages and Future Partnerships: Implications for Cooperation between South and Southeast Asia”. The seminar was attended by a number of local scholars, whose inputs into the discussion were extremely valuable, as well as faculty and students from Doon University. A book entitled *A Planning Framework for the Mountain States of India*, written by R.S. Tolia of the Doon University Centre for Public Policy, was also released in the inaugural session.

Within the framework of the Congress, ICS had organized a special Panel on the overall theme of “Trade, Pilgrimage and Local Livelihoods on the India-China Border”, including presentations by: **Bharati Puri** (IIT, Delhi): “Traveler on the Silk Road: Rites and Routes of Passage in Rahul Sankrityayan’s Himalayan Wanderlust”; **Sunita Dwivedi** (Travelogue writer): “Ancient Trade Routes on the India-China Border”; **RS Rawal** (GB Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development): “India-China-Nepal Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Project”; **Vijay Bahuguna** (Govt PG College, Barkot, Uttarkashi): “Preliminary Study of the Source Materials on Trade, Religion and Livelihood in Mana – a Border Village in Uttarakhand Himalaya”; **Virendra Sahai Verma** (ICS): “Western Tibet: Buddhism, Trade Routes, and their Influence on Bordering States of India”; **Bhim Subba** (ICS): “Border Trade and People’s Livelihoods: A Review of the Opening of the Nathula Pass”; and **Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman** (JNU): “Tourism and Pilgrimage Development in Western Arunachal Pradesh”.

Eminent historian of the region, Prof. M.P. Joshi, also spoke on the pre-historical and ancient connections between the Uttranchal region, Tibet and China, while Dr Sher Singh Panythy shared his intimate knowledge of the Uttranchal-Tibet trade before and after the 1962 War.

A number of other papers in the Congress also focused on India-China relations and “border management”, including papers by B.R. Deepak (JNU) on “Sino-Indian Border Mismanagement: An Outcome of ‘Victim’s Psychology’ and ‘Tough Posture’”, and by Sangeeta Thapliyal (JNU) on “China-India Border Dispute in the Western Sector”. Also of interest to China scholars was Sharad Soni’s (JNU) paper on “Role of Buddhism in Tibetan-Mongol Linkages”; and, in the BCIM context, Sanjay Bhardwaj’s (JNU) paper on “Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations: Implications for Inter-regional Cooperation between South Asia and South-east Asia”.

At the invitation of Professor Mahavir Singh, Dean (Academic Affairs) of the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, the next meeting of the Congress is scheduled to be held at the Gautam Buddha University in January 2013.