

Institute of Chinese Studies



Centre for Policy Research



**Indian Council of Social
Science Research**



India International Centre



International Conference

India, China and the Emergence of Post-War Post-Colonial Asia, 1945-50

10:00 AM, 17-18 MARCH 2017

**India International Centre,
Conference Room II,
New Delhi**

International Conference

**“India, China and the Emergence
of Post-War Post-Colonial Asia,
1945-50”**

Organised by



THE INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES (ICS)

in collaboration with the



CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH (CPR)



**INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH (ICSSR)**



**INDIA INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE**

& the **INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (IIC)**

**Venue: IIC, New Delhi, Conference Room II,
17-18 March 2017**



CONCEPT NOTE

India, China and the Emergence of Post-War Post-Colonial Asia, 1945-50

March 2017 marks the 70th anniversary of the first post-war conference of Asian countries, the Asian Relations Conference, which was held in New Delhi, India, against a background of political turmoil occasioned by the end of World War II, the start of the Cold War and the upsurge in the process of decolonization in Asia. These processes were to greatly impact the development of relations between India and China, two of the largest countries in Asia both of which were on the cusp of momentous changes. The objective of this Conference is to take a close look at a very crucial but relatively understudied period in the development of India-China relations, in

the context of the larger developments taking place in Asia and the world at that time. On the one hand, the Asian Relations Conference and its stated objectives appeared to be a culmination of the anti-imperialist and Asian solidarity discourse that had permeated India-China relations in the 1920s, 30s and early 40s. On the other hand, it took place in radically changed geopolitical circumstances. The defeat of Japanese imperialism and the imminent withdrawal of British power from South Asia had created a power vacuum in the region of Asia. At the conclusion of World War II in 1945, China, as the only Asian among the victorious Allied powers, appeared to be in the best position to fill this vacuum and emerge as the leading Asian power. However, by the time the ARC was held, matters had changed significantly. China was caught up in a civil war and the Nationalist Government of Chiang Kai-shek was under

increasingly severe pressure from the Chinese communists. In India, an Interim Government had been formed to oversee the transition to independence, and its leader Jawaharlal Nehru lost no time in taking the initiative to convene the first conference of Asian countries and peoples. His opening speech made clear his understanding of the central role that India would play in the emerging Asia. The ARC not only stirred up the embers of rivalry over Asian leadership between India and China, but its proceedings also brought to light the anxiety felt by some other Asian countries over the possibility of India-China domination of Asia.

Issues of territoriality, borders and sovereignty, which were to bedevil India-China relations in later years, also came to the fore in this period. Foremost among these was Tibet, its status and its relationship with China and India. The decision to invite a delegation

from Tibet to participate separately in the ARC was deeply resented by China. Despite this, India and China sought to upgrade and manage their diplomatic relations in this period of great complexity marked by the rapidly changing political situation in China and the violent upheaval of Partition in India. Throughout all this, trade and the movement of people between India and China continued in a relatively unrestricted fashion compared to subsequent decades, although both came under increasing pressure. Overall, this short period is of great significance as it was a time of considerable flux in India-China relations, in which ardent notes of Asian solidarity and cooperation were juxtaposed with hard-nosed calculations of national interest and big power rivalry.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

17 March 2017

Inaugural session

(10 am – 11.30 am)

Chair: Nalin Surie,

Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi

Welcome on behalf of Institute of Chinese Studies by **Alka Acharya,**
Director, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Delhi

Introduction to the Conference and its objectives by **Madhavi Thampi,**
Conference Convenor

Keynote Address by Prasenjit Duara

**“Post-colonial Visions and State Strategies:
Soft Power or the Imperialism of Nation-states?”**

TEA/COFFEE BREAK (11.30 am – 12 pm)

Session I

Asian Relations Conference – Prelude and Aftermath

(12 – 1.30 pm)

Chair: C Raja Mohan,
Director, Carnegie India

Srinath Raghavan

“The Second World War and India's Strategic Role in Asia”

Tansen Sen

“Pan-Asianism in Times of Nation States: India, China, and the Failure of the Asian Relations Conference”

Carolien Stolte

“Afro-Asian Transformations: Cold War Afterlives of the 1947 Asian Relations Conference”

LUNCH (1.30 – 2.30 pm)

Session II

India-China: Bilateral Relations and Diplomacy

(2.30 - 4 pm)

Chair: Sreemati Chakrabarti,

Head, Department of East Asian Studies, DU and Honorary Fellow ICS.

Wen-shuo Liao

“Nationalism and Decolonization in Asia: Chiang’s and Nehru’s Postwar World”

Nirmola Sharma

“Collaboration: The Bitter Aftermath of Support for the INA among Indians in China”

Narayani Basu

“The Tussle over Consulates in Kashgar & Kalimpong: Emerging Fault-lines in India-China Relations, 1947-1949”

TEA/COFFEE BREAK (4 – 4.15 pm)

Special Lecture

(4.15 – 5.15)

Chair: Ashok Kantha,

Former Indian Ambassador to China and Director-designate, ICS

Madhavan Palat

“From Geopolitics to Cold War and Beyond”

DAY TWO

18 March 2017

Session III

Expanding Dimensions of India-China Engagement

(10 – 11 am)

Chair: Manoranjan Mohanty,

Honorary Fellow ICS, Distinguished Professor Council for Social
Development

Sabaree Mitra

“India-China Post-War Cultural Engagement and Diplomacy:
Towards a Framework for the Future?”

Arunabh Ghosh

“The Science in Asian Relations: Xu Ren and Sino-Indian scientific
exchanges before and after the Asian Relations Conference of 1947”

TEA/COFFEE BREAK (11 – 11.30 am)

Session IV

Xinjiang and Tibet

(11.30 am – 1 pm)

Chair: Siddiq Wahid,

Historian of Central Asia and Tibet, Adjunct Fellow ICS

Atul Bharadwaj

“Post-war games in Xinjiang -- The Hunt for the Key to China's Backdoor”

Tsering Shakya

“Tibet on the Chessboard of Imperialism of the Nation State”

Madhavi Thampi

“Issues in India-Tibet-China Relations, 1945-50: a View from the National Archives of India”

Valedictory Session

(1 – 1.20 pm)

Concluding remarks by **Patricia Uberoi**, Chairperson, ICS

LUNCH

International Conference on "India, China and the Emergence of Post-War Post-Colonial Asia, 1945-50",

New Delhi, 17 March 2017

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(In order of the sessions)

Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies , Delhi

Prasenjit Duara, Duke University

C Raja Mohan, Director, Carnegie India

Tansen Sen, City University of New York

Carolien Stolte, Leiden University, Netherlands

Sreemati Chakrabarti, Head, Department of East Asian Studies, DU and Honorary Fellow ICS.

Nirmola Sharma, PhD scholar, Delhi University

Narayani Basu, Independent researcher

Madhavan Palat, Editor, *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*

International Conference on
"India, China and the Emergence of Post-War Post-Colonial Asia, 1945-50"

Manoranjan Mohanty, Honorary Fellow ICS,
Distinguished Professor Council for Social Development

Sabaree Mitra, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Institute
of Chinese Studies, Delhi

Arunabh Ghosh, Harvard University

Siddiq Wahid, Historian of Central Asia and Tibet,
Adjunct Fellow ICS

Atul Bharadwaj, Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Chinese
Studies, Delhi

Tsering Shakya, University of British Columbia

Madhavi Thampi, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi

Patricia Uberoi, Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies,
Delhi

China Report

ICS PUBLICATIONS

ICS *Monograph*

ICS *Working Paper*

ICS *Occasional papers*

ICS *Analysis*



8/17 Sri Ram Road, Delhi-110054, INDIA
Tel: +91-11-23938202, Fax: +91-11-23992166
E-mail: info@icsin.org, Site www.icsin.org