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We know that academia is, even by those that inhabit it, described as an ivory tower. This is also true, although perhaps to a lesser degree, of the policy field, where conversations can often be disengaged from the landscape they operate in. In our interpretation of foreign policy and international security through an India-specific lens, we endeavour to bridge this gap.

As before, IPCS’ work in 2019 reflected this priority by anchoring it in interdisciplinarity across its four research verticals, and in collaboration with partner organisations. IPCS undertook 12 main projects this year, with varying emphasis on research and programmatic deliverables. Effectively, while continuing to evaluate global political and security trends, we turned the spotlight back onto India and its neighbourhood – a prong that drove most of our work.

*Engaging China* facilitated sustained engagement on the bilateral relationship between Indian and Chinese experts in a track II confidence-building format. To this end, IPCS hosted several Chinese delegations to formulate a composite view of how China sees its overseas initiatives, and how they are perceived in target countries. Another project that looked at the prevention, mitigation, and responses to the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials culminated in the *IPCS Workshop on Smuggling and Radiation Detection*, an interdisciplinary India-US track 1.5 dialogue on the subject. This initiative was the first of its kind in India.

In 2019, IPCS also took charge as the India anchor of *The Chao Track*, a joint India-Pakistan track II initiative set up after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks that facilitates multi-stakeholder discussions on the bilateral relationship. The dialogue aims to arrive at realistic recommendations to the governments of India and Pakistan in alignment with current policy and political priorities, and foster truly inclusive interaction. We also launched the *IPCS Alumni Series* to institutionalise our engagement with past colleagues. This platform creates opportunities for an emerging generation of experts distributed across the world to amplify their work to an Indian audience, and find new opportunities for collaboration.
On the research front, we began projects such as *Contested Waters*, which is carrying over into 2020. An effort to produce fresh analysis on the relationship between disputed water resources and geopolitical power dynamics, it explores the possibility of shifting the primary frame of reference from state to human security. *The Myanmar Project*, in addition to being developed as a repository of literature on the evolving political, security, and human rights situation in Myanmar, also explores newer synergies of cooperation between India and Myanmar.

Through the period of heightened tension between India and Pakistan in early 2019, and the rest of year, the Nuclear Security Programme and the Centre for Internal and Regional Security jointly examined if, and how, these events impact *South Asian stability and nuclear deterrence dynamics*. The publications within this focus covered the nuclear, military, diplomatic, and larger counterinsurgency and strategy implications for India.

Of course, numbers are not always an accurate reflection of quality. But, for a small team taking on a range of diverse responsibilities, quantity is a useful demonstrator of how best we are able to leverage the resources available to us to reach our research, engagement, and outreach goals. With nearly 400 by-lines, 12 projects, over 100 publications, 14 interns, 21 round-tables and panel discussions, two external fellowship appointments, and over 30 national and international speaking assignments, IPCS had a very full – and fulfilling – year.

I invite you to explore these numbers, and our work, in more detail in the following pages of the 2019 IPCS Annual Report, and welcome your feedback at ruhee.neog@ipcs.org.

As always, thank you very much for your support.

Ruhee Neog.
NumberSpeak

- 52 commentaries
- 31 columns
- 4 special commentaries
- 3 special reports
- 389 bylines
- 15 discussion reports
- 34 conference participation
- 21 discussions
- 1 research paper
- 12 projects
**NumberSpeak**

**14 interns**

**new faculty members 4**

Total page likes by end of year: **15,180**
Total reach in 2019: **1,52,268**

Total followers as of Dec 2019: **7,504**
Total impressions in 2019: **7,66,100**
Total profile visits in 2019: **14,155**
New followers in 2019: **1,256**

Total podcasts: **44**
Podcasts in 2019: **2**
Total plays in 2019: **480**

4 new faculty members
Please use this colour key as reference for all publications and discussions, which are colour-coded to their respective programmes.
8 February

The ‘Quad’: A Strategic Liability for India
Kushal Sinha argues that India’s military involvement in the Quad would not be complementary to New Delhi’s strategic objectives and long-term vision.

10 January

Countering Left Wing Extremism: Looking beyond Numbers
Dr Rajat Kumar Kujur identifies emerging trends in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India and makes recommendations to increase the efficacy of counter-LWE operations.

21 January

Can the EU secure its Strategic Interest through the JCPOA?
Manuel Herrera hypothesises the consequences of a possible Middle Eastern conflagration and the options to prevent such an eventuality from a European perspective.
22 February

**In the Wake of the Pulwama Massacre: What India Should Not Do**

Dr Manpreet Sethi identifies four key considerations India must take into account as it devises responses in the wake of the terror attack in Pulwama.

8 March

**Has the Pulwama Crisis Altered South Asia’s Strategic Dimension?**

Dr Shalini Chawla explores the emerging shape of the diplomatic and strategic calculus in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pulwama, India.

Commentary Series | **ASEAN and UN Security Council Resolution 1325**

16 April

**ASEAN and UNSCR 1325**

Akanksha Khullar explores how the ASEAN as a grouping and its individual member states have engaged with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

16 May

**ASEAN and UNSCR 1325: What Explains the Limited Engagement?**

Akanksha Khullar explores the challenges of institutionalisation and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in ASEAN structures.

12 April

**ASEAN and UNSCR 1325: Taking the WPS Agenda Forward**

Akanksha Khullar explores whether a Regional Action Plan might help overcome the challenges to achieving the goals of UNSCR 1325 in the ASEAN region.
16 May

**Prosecuting the Islamic State: The Case for a Hybrid Tribunal**

Bashir Ali Abbas explores the debate on whether 'Islamic State' fighters should be tried domestically or internationally and argues that hybrid tribunals could be an optimal alternative.

16 May

**Pulwama, Balakot and the Future: How the Chips Stack Up**

Dr Manpreet Sethi recommends consistency in upping the costs for Pakistan’s use of proxy terror as a tool against India.

22 May

**PESCO Vs NATO: European Integration and the Transatlantic Challenge**

Manuel Herrera Almela argues that both arrangements, which are typically seen in opposition, can instead be viewed as complementary to each other.

6 June

**Whither Indo-Pacific?: East Asia Compass**


11 July

**Reviving Jagargunda in Chhattisgarh’s Security and Governance Vacuum**

Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray describes the transformation of a village in Sukma, which continues to confront the impact of left-wing extremism in India.
The CPI-Maoist under Basarvaraj’s Leadership

Dr Rajat Kumar Kujur traces the behaviour and activities of the Communist Party of India-Maoist post Basavaraj’s ascension as the outfit’s general secretary, and identifies patterns and potential future scenarios.

Column | Maritime Affairs

Concerns over Chinese Naval Base in Cambodia Simmer

Dr Vijay Sakhuja calls for a more measured and balanced assessment of the concerns over the Koh Kong and Dara Sakor projects in Cambodia, and their possible military use by China.

Tensions in the Persian Gulf: Contextualising Iran’s Bolder Resistance to US Power

Dr Vijay Sakhuja contextualises the ongoing US-Iran tensions in the Persian Gulf, and the international responses to it.

Kashmir: Incorporating CEDAW into AFSPA

Anam Mumtaz argues for the integration of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into AFSPA based on a statistical analysis of crimes against women in the valley.

Why the India-China Border Issue Remains Intractable

Anand Benegal evaluates the possibility of a future resolution based on military, economic, political and normative conditions.

Researching the Unresearched: Left Wing Extremism and the Future Rules of Governance

Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray recommends expanding the scope of conflict research to address fault lines that have yet to be addressed through government policy.
26 August

**What Adeeb’s Escape Means for India and Indian Ocean Security**

Dr. Sripathi Narayanan contextualises the recent incident where the former Vice President of the Maldives, Ahmed Adeeb, was detected as a stowaway in a tugboat off the coast of Tamil Nadu, India.

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12 September

**Maritime Connectivity to the Russian Far East Necessitates Naval and Arctic Planning**

Dr. Vijay Sakhuja contextualises the relevance and significance of maritime communication between India and the Russian Far East.

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18 September

**It’s Still a Stalemate in the LWE Hotbed**

Dr. Bibhu Prasad Routray explores the potential strategies the CPI-Maoist is most likely to adopt in the coming months and how it might pan out in the near term.

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15 October

**Urban Maoism: Concerns and Cautions**

Dr. Rajat Kumar Kujur analyses CPI-Maoist literature to provide identify the outfit’s strategies to carry out its operations in the urban areas, and argues that the government must involve civil society in its counter-strategies.

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28 October

**Debates within the Counter-LWE Policy**

Dr. Bibhu Prasad Routray contextualises the debates on why terrorism occurs and the best way to deal with it in the context of left-wing extremism (LWE) and identifies key features of a successful counter-LWE policy.
27 November
The CPI-Maoist Tech Onslaught: Early Warnings
Dr Joyeeta Bhattacharjee assesses the outcomes of the recent directors general-level meeting between the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB)

10 January
Preventing the next 26/11: Intelligence and India’s Security Apparatus
Alok Joshi recommends closer inter-agency coordination and better use of technology to meet current and evolving security challenges.
21 March

**Pakistan and its Army of the Pure**

*Rana Banerjee*

This book on the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) is the culmination of years of painstaking research by renowned Georgetown University academic, Dr Christine Fair, who travelled through Pakistan first as a young doctoral student in the mid-1990s, and through subsequent decades, till the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) assessed that she was (in her own words) a “nasty woman.” Her earlier work on the Pakistan army, *Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army’s Way of War* (Oxford, 2014) argues that Pakistan is a revisionist state in Kashmir and seeks to resist India’s rise in the region. Fair holds here that the Army “fights to the end” more “for ideological rather than security reasons.”
Discussions

**Book Discussion**

**13 Feb**

*In Their Own Words: Understanding ‘Lashkar-E-Tayyaba’*

**Chair**

Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain  
Member, IPCS Governing Council, & former GOC, 15 Corps, Srinagar

**Speaker**

C Christine Fair  
Associate Professor,  
Security Studies Program,  
Georgetown University

Read the discussion report on the website.

**Discussion**

**13 Nov**

*Autonomous Weapons & the Ethics of Human Responsibility*

**Chair**

Ruhee Neog  
Director, IPCS

**Speakers**

Eva Svodoba  
Deputy Director, International Law & Policy,  
International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

Prof Subhashis Banerjee  
IIT Delhi
India-Pakistan Escalation Dynamics

On 14 February, a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vehicles at Lethpora in Pulwama district of the erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir state, killing forty service personnel. The attack was subsequently claimed by Pakistan-based Islamist militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). In response, on 26 February, the Indian Air Force conducted airstrikes deep inside Pakistani territory near the town of Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkwa province with the intent of destroying militant infrastructure. Thereafter, Pakistan scrambled its fighter jets and began to fly them into Indian airspace. This triggered a complex and unpredictable escalation dynamic between the two nuclear armed neighbours.

IPCS compiled a set of expert views on the escalation as and when it was unfolding. It was sent out as an alert to a targeted set of readers.

Expert contributors

Dr Tara Kartha
Distinguished Fellow, IPCS, & former Director, National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India

Sarral Sharma
Senior Researcher, Centre for Internal and Regional Security, IPCS

Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain
Member, IPCS Governing Council, & former GOC, 15 Corps, Srinagar

Rana Banerji
Member, IPCS Governing Council, and former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

Tanvi Kulkarni
PhD scholar, Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, JNU
The Chao Track (earlier, the Chaophraya Dialogue) is a joint India-Pakistan Track-II initiative, set up after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, that facilitates multi-stakeholder discussions on the bilateral relationship. It aims to arrive at realistic and feasible recommendations to the governments of India and Pakistan in alignment with current policy and political priorities, and foster truly inclusive interaction.

In 2019, IPCS assumed charge as the Dialogue’s India anchor, and has since worked towards its realisation in cooperation with the Jinnah Institute (JI), Pakistan. Over the years, the Dialogue has expanded its scope to go beyond traditional security issues to non-traditional security concerns such as climate change, economic connectivity, human security, gender, and water conflict. This aligns closely with IPCS’ own approach, which incorporates interdisciplinarity in its research and activities, bringing together diverse stakeholders and perspectives from a range of professional backgrounds.
15 January

**Trump and the China-North Korea Equation**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra contends that US’ misguided policy towards North Korea has inadvertently resulted in a closer alignment between Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un.

30 January

**The Abnormal Normal: Time Stand Stills at Two Minutes to Midnight**

Dr Manpreet Sethi rationalises the decision to keep the Doomsday Clock at the 2018 position based on an overview of the potential global scenario in 2019.
25 February

**A Post-INF Nuclear World**

Summaiya Khan discusses the INF Treaty breakdown and its complex security ramifications.

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22 March

**China’s Strategic Silence on the Hanoi Summit**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra contextualises China’s circumspect behaviour in the wake of the US-North Korea summit in Hanoi.

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27 March

**Hanoi Done: Now What for Trump and Kim**

Dr Manpreet Sethi makes a realistic assessment of the pros and cons of resuming nuclear and/or missile testing at this juncture from the North Korean perspective.

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27 March

**An Allied Approach to North Korea**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra weighs on the politics of the US-South Korea relationship and the fundamental differences in approach to denuclearising the Korean peninsula.

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24 April

**Why Nuclear Doctrinal Stasis is not a Bad Idea**

Vice Admiral (Retd) Vijay Shankar on the risk-mitigating benefits of fixity in nuclear doctrines.
29 June

2019 NPT PrepCom and Article VI: Fault Lines, and the Future

Shivani Singh considers the positions taken by states during the PrepCom this year.

11 July

The Spectacle and Substance of the Trump-Kim Meeting

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra cautions against completely writing off the recent meeting as being too theatrical and lacking in content.

11 September

US-North Korea Talks: Is Progress without Reciprocity Possible?

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra contextualises the consistent deadlock between the two countries in recent displays of bilateral behaviour.
The 2019 IPCS Workshop on Smuggling and Radiation Detection, supported by the Office of Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence (NSDD) of the United States Department of Energy (DOE), was the first interdisciplinary India-US track 1.5 dialogue on the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials to be held in India. With the participation of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Customs, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Himachal Pradesh Police, nuclear physicists, first medical responders, and government and non-government policy analysts from India and the US, this platform was convened by IPCS to approach the subject of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response to the smuggling of radioactive materials within a comprehensive framework.
In America We Trust: 
US Extended Deterrence from Obama to Trump

Over the years, different US administrations have adopted varying policies to protect allies from nuclear attack as part of the country's extended nuclear guarantees. This paper by Shivani Singh looks at what constitutes the ‘trust’ of allies under the US nuclear umbrella, and what parameters are considered pre-requisites for continued US extended nuclear deterrence guarantees. Against this background, this paper analyses the changes that have come about in US extended deterrence, especially in the nuclear umbrella, from the Obama years to the current Trump dispensation.
Citizenship Determination Processes in India

In 2019, Assam completed the National Register of Citizens (NRC), a citizenship determination exercise. The process was one of the most complex bureaucratic exercises carried out in independent India, and is complemented by pre-existing components like Foreigner Tribunals, the Doubtful-Voter system, and detention camps. It is also backed by a certain kind of local politics based on claims of indigeneity and preservation of culture. In 2019, IPCS critically engaged with the subject through research and round-tables to decode these processes unique to Assam. IPCS will broaden the scope of this project in 2020 and factor in other national and regional contexts within the existing framework. The project will also engage a larger pool of stakeholders and voices to understand the finer nuances and implications of India’s evolving citizenship determination regime.

Myanmar Project

This focused undertaking produces relevant literature on and assessments of the evolving political, geopolitical, security, and human rights situation in Myanmar through research and panel discussions with experts. The project also entails exploring newer synergies of cooperation between India and Myanmar within the former’s Act East Policy (AEP) while assessing existing cooperation within the broader context of regional competition. With the national elections in Myanmar scheduled for 2020, the project will continue this year.

Nuclear Deterrence in South Asia

Through the period of heightened tension between India and Pakistan in early 2019, and the rest of year, IPCS examined if, and how, these events impact South Asian nuclear deterrence dynamics. The panel discussions and publications within this focus covered the nuclear, military, diplomatic, and larger counterinsurgency and strategy implications for India.
Contested Waters

The project is an effort to produce fresh research and policy analysis on the complex relationship between disputed water resources, including rivers, and geopolitical power dynamics. A key theme within this is the intersection between traditional and non-traditional security threats, particularly across heavily contested international borders where competing claims of sovereignty run strong among riparians. Through this project, IPCS researchers have sought to understand transboundary water resources as a potential crisis trigger, and critically explore the possibility of shifting the primary frame of reference from state security to human security, in light of new, global challenges like climate change.

Germany-India-Brazil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue

Launched in 2007, GIBSA is a collaboration between four think-tanks representing Germany, India, Brazil and South Africa: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), the Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), and IPCS. The closed-door, Chatham House Rule-bound meeting is held on an annual, rotational basis.

Alumni Series

This series was launched to fortify the network of scholars and analysts who were trained at IPCS. We learn about their current professional engagements while giving them a platform to amplify their work to a relevant audience, and find new opportunities for collaboration with and between an emerging generation of experts distributed across the world.
Pulwama-Balakot Crisis

The Pulwama crisis, which culminated in the unprecedented bombing, deep inside Pakistan of a terror base in Balakot, was a seminal moment in that it shook several assumptions that India and Pakistan had based their nuclear deterrence on. This was because of two reasons: first given that airpower is seen as escalatory in South Asia, an air based punitive raid was unprecedented. Second is that it had always been assumed that an attack on Indian Kashmir would see a response only in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (for example as the Kargil conflict did not escalate beyond the line of control), yet Balakot was in Pakistan proper, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Through the period of heightened tension IPCS forecasted how these momentous events altered the nuclear deterrence dynamics of South Asia with in-depth analysis, covering the nuclear, military, diplomatic and larger counterinsurgency and strategy implications for India.

Engaging China

Focused on programmatic deliverables, this project facilitates critical and sustained engagement on the bilateral relationship between Indian and Chinese experts in a track II confidence-building format. To this end, in 2019, IPCS hosted several Chinese delegations to formulate a composite view of how China sees its overseas initiatives and how they are perceived in the target countries. This project will continue in 2020.

Women, Peace & Security Series

Conflict geographies intersect with gender at various levels, be it structural, social, legal, political, or economic. Given variations in gender equations across India, these intersections sometimes do not play out the same way. Socio-economic factors such as education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and access to resources further complicate the scenario. Little attention, however, is paid to this intersectionality when formulating policies in India. In this light, the IPCS Women, Peace and Security Series is an ongoing initiative that has seen interdisciplinary lectures and writing to facilitate an evidence-based and India-specific approach to implementing UNSCR 1325 in the country.
Emerging Discourses of Security in International Politics

These discussions explore language through which security is understood, represented, and practiced in various contexts. By examining how security is enacted and experienced by particular actors and groups – ranging, for instance, from nuclear strategists to women in armed conflict situations – the aim is to engender better informed approaches to address contemporary challenges.

The Chao Track

The Chao Track (earlier, the Chaophraya Dialogue) is a joint India-Pakistan Track II initiative, set up after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, that facilitates multistakeholder discussions on the bilateral relationship. It aims to arrive at realistic and feasible recommendations to the governments of India and Pakistan in alignment with current policy and political priorities, and foster truly inclusive interaction. It is administered by IPCS in cooperation with the Jinnah Institute (JI), Islamabad.

IPCS Workshop on Smuggling and Radiation

The IPCS Workshop on Smuggling and Radiation Detection, held at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, was an interdisciplinary India-US Track 1.5 dialogue on the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials, with participation from serving officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Indian Customs & Indirect Taxes, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF); nuclear physicists; Himachal Pradesh Police; medical first responders; and government and non-government policy analysts. This platform was convened by IPCS with the aim of approaching the subject of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response to the smuggling of radioactive materials within a comprehensive framework, and bringing together perspectives from a range of professional backgrounds.
India and the RCEP
Prof Amita Batra
Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Discussion on India’s recent decision to pull out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and in that context, political-economic linkages between India and Southeast/East Asia.

China’s Developmental Agenda & Environmental Degradation in Tibet
Michael Buckley
Canadian filmmaker, author and activist

Discussion on the scope and nature of China’s disruptive developmental activities in the geologically and ecologically fragile Tibetan Plateau, including along the Yarlung Tsangpo river, which becomes the Brahmaputra when it enters India.
12 September
**Food Security in South Asia and the Need for Consensus Building**

*Shatakshi Singh* explores the need and context of regional consensus-building for achieving food security in South Asia.

30 November
**Out of RCEP: Need for Synergising the Domestic and the International**

*Prerana Priyadarshi* identifies the core domestic factors inhibiting economic growth that India must comprehensively address in order to benefit robustly from free trade agreements such as the RCEP.
Discussion

One Hundred Homes: A Visual Survey of India

speaker

Dr Jeffrey Hammer
Member, IPCS Governing Council, and former Professor of Economic Development, Princeton University
I Am Not Your Negro

Raoul Peck

American writer and civil rights activist, James Baldwin, tells the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, Remember This House.

Balochistan: Pakistan’s Other War

Al Jazeera

This film offers a glimpse into a region which, in 2010, had the highest number of militant, insurgent and sectarian attacks of any province in Pakistan. It is a region torn apart with separatist organisations attacking the state, sectarian and ethnic attacks, and crime, including kidnapping for ransom.
Meltdown in Tibet

Michael Buckley

Using undercover footage and stills, *Meltdown in Tibet* blows the lid off China’s huge and potentially catastrophic dam-building projects in Tibet. It gives a macro view of how rampant hydropower and mining projects in the ecologically fragile Tibetan plateau are endangering both the local population and eroding critical freshwater sources for billions in the Indian subcontinent.

The screening was followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker over video conferencing.

Jade and the Generals

Global Witness

The film focuses on Kachin State in the north of Myanmar, home to the most valuable jade mines on the planet, and the site of some of the country's worst ethnic armed conflict. Since fighting in Kachin State resumed in 2011, 100,000 people have been driven from their homes and countless lives have been destroyed. Local communities are calling for an end to the fighting and reform of the trade that is driving it.
China’s Vanishing Muslims: Undercover In The Most Dystopian Place In The World

VICE News
VICE News’ Isobel Yeung poses as a tourist to gain unprecedented access to China’s western Xinjiang region, which has been nearly unreachable by journalists.

She and her crew experiences China’s Orwellian surveillance and harassment first-hand during their time in Xinjiang, and captured chilling hidden-camera footage of eight Uighur men detained by police in the middle of the night.

The Kurds between conflict and democracy

A team of DW reporters go to Rojava - the name the Kurds have given their northern Syrian enclave - to find out more about the volatile situation there. The documentary report looks at various aspects of the social and political experiment that the Kurds began years ago, which they now want to advance again.
Triumph of the Will
Leni Riefenstahl

This infamous propaganda film shows the 1934 Nazi party rally at Nuremberg. The screening was an attempt to understand how political propaganda is manifested in visual form within a particular political and cultural context.

Water, Not Weapons: The Greening of Afghanistan
James Jones, PBS

When a historic drought began in Afghanistan in 2000, Japanese physician, Tetsu Nakamura shed his white coat and set out to build an irrigation canal. This film follows his unrelenting effort.

Boko Haram: Terror in Africa
Patrick Forestier

The documentary attempts to better understand the terrorist group through interviews with former prisoners, repentant fighters, and state forces battling them at the front-line.
16 January

**India-Indonesia: A Natural Partnership for the Indo-Pacific**

Ashutosh Nagda traces the emerging depth in the convergence between the Indian and Indonesian visions for the Indo-Pacific, and argues that a partnership between the two is a natural one that must be nurtured further.

8 February

**What will the China-India relation look like in 2019?**

Dr Siwei Liu considers the sectors that can contribute to an overall strengthening of bilateral ties.

26 February

**Trump-Kim Summit in Hanoi: Optimism Despite Impediments**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra on what to expect from the second US-North Korea meeting.
14 March
**What Drives the EU Towards India?**
Pieter-jan Dockx and Manuel Herrera analyse the developments that motivate Brussels to seek closer alignments that go beyond the transatlantic relationship.

27 March
**Forced Labour and the Impact of History on Japan-South Korea Relations**
Sourina Bej and Prakash Pannerselvam consider the legal, political and economic aspects of the deterioration in the bilateral relationship.

8 April
**India: The Need to Engage with Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries Collectively**
Niranjan Marjani argues why India’s engagement with Iran, Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries requires a significant re-calibration.

11 April
**Mohammad Bin Salman and Imran Khan: An Emerging Alliance of Convenience**
Sarral Sharma and Pieter-jan Dockx examine the context of the emerging shape of engagement between Islamabad and Riyadh.

28 June
**China’s Engagement with Africa: Where does it Stand?**
Anand Benegal takes a synoptic view of China’s engagement with the African continent in conjunction with those of the US and the EU.

30 June
**Understanding Climate Change as a National Security Concern**
Avino Niphi explores the India-Bangladesh context and argues why viewing climate change as a national security concern could help facilitate sound policy-making and timely action on both domestic and trans-national levels.
21 August

**Insulating Cooperation from Cooperation: The Japan-South Korea Dispute**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra writes on the future of the bilateral relationship against a background of entrenched historical baggage.

11 September

**Modi’s Outreach to Bhutan: Perception Management and the Neighbourhood First Policy**

Ashutosh Nagda and Angshuman Choudhury consider the new contours of India’s approach towards Bhutan and contextualise it in the larger regional narrative.

16 October

**Japan’s 2019 Defence White Paper and the Contest for Southeast Asia**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra draws from the recently released document to discuss the country’s foreign policy approach to Southeast Asia.

14 November

**Trump’s Abandonment of Syria’s Kurds: A Catalyst for Division in Europe?**

Pieter-Jan Dockx considers the ramifications of the president’s decision for politics within Europe as well as the security and foreign policy dimension.

14 November

**India-China and the Sometime Pickle of Civilisational Connects**

Vice Adm (Retd) Vijay Shankar questions the relevance of civilisational linkages between the two countries in their attempt to build a mutually beneficial relationship.
19 November

**Why did South Korea Walk out of the GSOMIA?**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra examines the big picture narrative of South Korean foreign policy in light of the termination of the South Korea-Japan intelligence-sharing agreement.

23 December

**Making sense of China's Diplomatic Fig Leaf to South Korea**

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra considers this recent development against the background of regional and extra-regional equations in East Asia.

25 November

**India-Bangladesh Basin-wide Management: An Ecological Approach for Economic Growth**

Joost Fidder examines the current utilisation and management of Tripura’s rivers to identify opportunities for translating New Delhi’s objective of basin-wide management into a comprehensive and sustainable implementation policy.

22 October

**Japan-South Korea: Choking Global Technology Markets through a Bilateral Trade War**

Dr Prakash Panneerselvam and Sourina Bej consider the far-reaching implications of the ongoing dispute in the context of Japan’s export restriction policy towards South Korea.
Ambassador Lecture Series

Brazil and India in a Multilateral World

**Speaker**: H E Mr Andre Aranha Correa do Lago
Ambassador of Brazil to India

**Chair**: Ambassador (Retd) Sunil Lal
Former Indian Ambassador to Brazil & Spain

Korea-India Relations & the Situation in the Korean Peninsula

**Speaker**: H E Dr Shin Bong-kil
Ambassador of Republic of Korea to India

**Chair**: Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra
Associate Professor, JNU, & Visiting Fellow & Columnist, IPCS
India-China Rapproachment After Doklam

speaker
Dr Xie Chao
Assistant Research Fellow, Institute for International and Area Studies (IIAS), Tsinghua University, Beijing, & Visiting Faculty Scholar (2018-2019), Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University

chair
Ruhee Neog
Director, IPCS

Interaction

Interaction with delegation from Sichuan University

chair
Amb (Retd)
TCA Rangachari
Member, IPCS Governing Council
Mid-term assessment of Donald Trump’s foreign policy

**speaker**
Dr Amit Gupta  
Associate Professor, Department of Strategy and International Security Studies, USAF Air War College

**moderator**
Akanksha Khullar  
Researcher, IPCS

India-China Relations

**speaker**
Prof Long Xingchun  
Director, Center of India Studies, China West Normal University

**moderator**
Amb (Retd) TCA Rangachari  
Member, IPCS Governing Council

Read the discussion report on the website.
Discussion

27 Sep

Perspective on China’s Belt and Road

**speaker**

Dr Richard Ghiasy  
Senior Fellow, Leiden Asia Centre,  
& Associate Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

**moderator**

Amb (Retd) TCA Rangachari  
Member, IPCS Governing Council
IPCS in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea organised closed door round-table discussion on Synergising Security Cooperation Between India and the Republic of Korea on 19 December at The Claridges, New Delhi.

Speakers

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra
Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU, and Visiting Fellow and Columnist, IPCS

Dr Bora Park
Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS), Republic of Korea (ROK)

Rajeshwari Krishnamurthy
Deputy Director, IPCS

Chair

Lt Gen (Retd) AS Lamba
President, IPCS, and former Vice Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army
The IPCS Contested Waters Project is an effort to produce fresh research and policy analysis on the complex relationship between disputed water resources, including rivers, and geopolitical power dynamics. A key theme within this is the intersection between traditional and non-traditional security threats, particularly across heavily contested international borders where competing claims of sovereignty run strong among riparians. Through this project, IPCS researchers have sought to understand transboundary water resources as a potential crisis trigger, and critically explore the possibility of shifting the primary frame of reference from state security to human security, in light of new, global challenges like climate change.

Contested Waters has relied on both primary and secondary sources for research. This includes, but is not limited to, government documentation, media reports, academic studies, policy analyses, interviews, and vernacular media reportage (such as Arabic in the case of Iraq).

Contested Waters is thus an attempt to supplement existing literature through a 'critical hydropolitics' lens in which water is seen as part of a larger, more complex ecosystem of hegemonic power relations, community and stakeholder interests, and political aspirations. By doing so, it outlines potential future conflict scenarios between traditionally hostile powers (such as India and China, or India and Pakistan) in the face of emergent dividers and triggers over resource control. A study such as this can shed new light on the academic and policy scrutiny of bilateral conflict by providing a more comprehensive framework that is responsive to evolving eco-political contexts.

IPCS was pleased to announce the launch of its Contested Waters Project with the release of Special Report 203, Water Scarcity in Iraq: From Inter-Tribal Conflict to International Disputes, in which Pieter Jan-Dockx investigates the impact of the decreasing availability of water on security and politics in Iraq by shifting focus from international dynamics, which form a bulk of the existing research on the subject, to domestic hydropolitics.
9 January

Where is Kabul Headed?

Maryam Baryalay and Abdul Mateen Imran contextualise recent developments pertaining to Afghanistan’s peace process and politics.

29 January

State vs. Students: Why Marxism Troubles Xi Jinping

Palden Sonam examines why the Communist Party of China is actively repressing young communists in the country for practising what the Party has for long preached through its ideologically greased education system.

31 January

Iraq: Why the ‘Intra-Shia Civil War’ Narrative is Flawed

Pieter-Jan Dockx argues that the prevailing narrative on contemporary Shia politics in Iraq is a vast oversimplification of a complex reality.
Alternative Development and Manipur’s ‘War on Drugs’: Need for a broader framework

Anjali Gupta argues why the objectives of Manipur’s ‘War on Drugs’ and alternative development plan can be comprehensively achieved only through a holistic approach, whose implementation strategy takes the state’s internal complexities into account.

Xi’s Disquieting Dream of National Rejuvenation

Vice Adm (Retd) Vijay Shankar sketches the contours of a restraining balance to counter China’s increasing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

HAL and India’s Race to the Bottom

Group Captain (Retd) Murli Menon considers the PSU’s lack of accountability and non-performance in light of the recent Mirage 2000 crash in Bengaluru.

Balochistan: Contextualising the Recent Spike in Attack

Anwar Ali Tsarpa analyses the recent spike in insurgent attacks in Balochistan.

Is Japan Getting Isolated?

Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra contextualises why Tokyo is increasingly seen ‘less as a pivot to Asia and more as stumble’ and argues that a course-correction is required.
25 February
**Part I: Emergence and Political Framing**

Angshuman Choudhury investigates the group’s origins, motivations, and vision for the future of Rakhine State in Myanmar.

27 March
**Part II: Insurgent Strategies and Tactics**

Angshuman Choudhury identifies trends in the recent clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar’s military, and argues that much of the group’s future strategies and operational design will depend on its relationship with the local population and the frequency and degree of the military’s response.

12 April
**Part III: Understanding the Myanmar State’s Response**

Angshuman Choudhury analyses how the Tatmadaw and the civilian government have responded to the Arakan Army’s offensives, and what that reveals about the character of the conflict in Myanmar’s Rakhine state.

4 March
**Experiential Learning and India after Pulwama**

Shubhra Chaturvedi considers the signs that indicate a change in India’s approach to dealing with cross-border terrorism.

21 February
**Is Human Rights Making a Comeback to Chhattisgarh’s Counter-Naxal Doctrine?**

Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray reviews the outcomes of the implementation of a force-centric counter-LWE doctrine in Chhattisgarh and identifies options for the way forward.
29 April
**Sri Lanka Terror Strikes: What Next?**
Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray traces the big picture issues Sri Lanka will have to consider and address in the wake of the Easter Sunday bombings in the country.

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**Column | East Asia Compass**

22 May
**Japan’s North Korea Reset**
Dr Sandip Kumar Mishra comments on the discernible softening in the Shinzo Abe government’s previously hard-line approach towards North Korea.

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**Column | The Strategist**

23 May
**Xi and China’s Fourth May Revolution: Can State Control and People’s Empowerment be Reconciled?**
Vice Adm (Retd) Vijay Shankar asks how Xi Jinping will address tensions between the CCP’s iron hold and domestic democratic impulses in the implementation of the country’s socialist modernisation.

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**Column | Dateline Colombo**

17 June
**Towards Post-Terror Stability in Sri Lanka**
Asanga Abeyagoonasekera explores the domestic and international contexts and factors to be taken into account in Sri Lankan stabilisation efforts in the wake of the Easter Sunday attacks.
18 July
Pakistan and the ICJ Verdict on Kulbhushan Jadhav
Rana Banerji reflects on the recent decision at The Hague and its implications for Jadhav’s immediate future.

31 July | Contested Waters Project
How do US-Led Sanctions on Iran Harm Iraq’s Water Resources?
Pieter-Jan Dockx highlights the linkages between external pressure and transboundary food and water security in West Asia.

31 July
Kulbhushan Jadhav: Understanding the ICJ Verdict from a Legal Standpoint
Govind Manoharan explains the legal ramifications of the July 2019 decision.

2 August
Amending Myanmar’s Military-Drafted Constitution: The Prime Agendas and Actors
Angshuman Choudhury contextualises recent developments pertaining to the constitution amendment process currently underway in Myanmar.

6 August
2019 Shangri-La Dialogue: The Shadow of China
Vice Adm (Retd) Vijay Shankar considers the trajectory of China’s growth and ambitions, and what this portends for the region.

8 August
Women’s Participation in Myanmar’s Peace Process
Akanksha Khullar examines the challenges and opportunities to women’s inclusion and participation in the peace process currently underway in Myanmar.
9 August

5G: Assessing India’s Options on Huawei

Anand Benegal examines the merits and demerits of three broad options India might have pertaining to Huawei’s participation in 5G development in the country.

29 August

China Vs International Law: The Vanguard Reef Incident

Professor Srikanth Kondapalli considers China's moves in the South China Sea, and the responses they have elicited from regional and extra-regional stakeholders.

26 September

In Context: Singapore’s Decision to Boost the RSN’s Operational and Combat Capabilities

Bahauddin Foizee examines the ongoing naval competition in the Pacific to contextualise Singapore’s rationale for boosting the operational and combat capabilities of the Republic of Singapore Navy.

21 November

Sri Lanka: Beyond the Presidential Elections

Dr Sripathi Narayan contextualises the results of the recently concluded Sri Lankan presidential elections.

27 December

CAA and Citizenship Determination: An ‘Assamese’ Exception

Niharika Das contextualises the implications of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, for the Indian state of Assam.
15 March

**Afghanistan: Prospects of a Political Settlement with the Taliban**

Dr Omar Sadr examines a variety of mechanisms and evaluates their merits and de-merits with regard to the inclusion of Taliban in Afghanistan's political future.

19 July

**Sri Lanka’s Easter Bombings and the need for a Regional Counter-Terror Strategy**

Lt Gen AS Lamba evaluates domestic political, regional and institutional faultlines in light of the bombings.
Article 370 and the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir

In this Special Report, IPCS brings together multidisciplinary opinion on the legal, political, administrative, security, and foreign relations dimensions of the abrogation of Article 370 and the legislation to reorganise the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir (with a state legislature), and Ladakh (without a state legislature).
Citizenship Amendment Bill and Assam’s Immigration Politics

speakers

Ajit Lal
Retired IPS officer and former Chairman, Joint Intelligence Committee, Government of India

Subimal Bhattacharjee
Former Country Head, General Dynamics, & working in rural Barak Valley through ‘Jookto’

Nitin Gokale
Senior journalist & defence expert

DP Singh
Senior advocate, Supreme Court of India

chair

Angshuman Choudhury
Senior Researcher, IPCS
Dr Avijit Banerjee
Associate Professor &
Head, Department of
Chinese Language &
Culture, Visva-Bharati
University, Birbhum

Palden Sonam
Researcher,
China Research
Programme, IPCS

Medha Chaturvedi
Senior Research Fellow,
IPCS, and doctoral
candidate, South Asia
Institute, University of
Heidelberg

Field Notes | The Red River of India: Impact of Open
Cast Mining on Human Health and Environment in
Dantewada District of Chattisgarh

India and the Belt and Road:
A Perspective from West Bengal
Return of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): An Outsider’s Insider View

Discussion

Jammu and Kashmir Today
Book Discussion

16 Sep

‘K-File: The Conspiracy of Silence’

speaker/author

Bashir Assad

Srinagar-based senior journalist and researcher engaged in peace building initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir
Assam’s National Register of Citizens (NRC): What Happened and What Now

speakers

Nandita Saikia
Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU

Anas Tanwir
Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and founder, Indian Civil Liberties Union (ICLU)

chair

Angshuman Choudhury
Senior Researcher, IPCS
Discussion

India and a Gendered Understanding of Climate Change

speakers

Dr Mini Govindan
Fellow, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)

Aditi Kapoor
Director, Alternative Futures

chair

Garima Maheshwari
Research Fellow, IPCS, & PhD scholar, JNU

Read the discussion report on the website.

Book Reading & Discussion

‘Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum’

chair

Rana Banerji
Member, IPCS Governing Council

speaker/author

Tilak Devasher
Member, National Security Advisory Board, & Consultant, Vivekananda International Foundation
Conference Participation

Abhijit Iyer-Mitra  
Senior Research Fellow

- **Jaipur Dialogues**  
  19-20 October, Jaipur  
  ‘India’s Security: Second Wave Economic Reforms’

- **Defending India**  
  5 November, IIT Kharagpur

- **Strategic Autonomy: A Chimera**  
  7 November, IIT Madras

- **Gender and LGBTQ Inclusion in the Workplace**  
  8 November, Chennai

- **Noida Lit Fest**  
  18 November, Noida  
  ‘LGBTQ Rights: The Way Forward’

- **Pondicherry Lit Fest**  
  29 November, Puducherry

- **India’s Geo Economics**  
  6 December, New Delhi  
  The High Level Business Delegation for King Gustav’s visit to India

Sarral Sharma  
Senior Researcher,  
Centre for Internal & Regional Security

- **Political Economy of Terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir**  
  3-4 June, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla  
  ‘The Parallel Economy of Militancy in J&K: The Current Context’
Pramod Jaiswal
Senior Visiting Fellow

- **Demystifying Big Powers Interplay: China and India Rivalry in Nepal**
  14 January, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

- **Extremism and Counter Extremism in South and South East Asia**
  26 July, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
  ‘The Geopolitics of Violent Extremism’

- **China-India-Nepal Trilaterism: An Initiative beyond Geopolitics**
  26 September, Jinjiang College, Sichuan University, Pengshan, China

- **Contours of Nepal-China Relations**
  26 September, Jinjiang College, Sichuan University, Pengshan, China

- **International Conference on the Sino-Indian Border Issues in New Situation at the Center for South Asian Studies**
  2-3 November, Center for South Asian Studies, Fudan University, China
  ‘India China Border Dispute Post Wuhan’

- **Buddhist Culture Exchange for an Enhanced People-to-People Connectivity: China, India and Nepal**
  24-25 November, Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University, China
  ‘China Meets Nepal and India in Lumbini’

Prerana Priyadarshi
Senior Researcher

- **13th Annual Germany-India-Brazil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue: Democracy and Authoritarianism**
  27-30 October, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, Germany
  ‘Democracy and Indian Foreign Policy: India and Global Internet Governance’
Munich Security Conference  
15-17 February, Munich, Germany

Closed-door briefing: Indian Foreign Policy and the 2019 Lok Sabha Election  
20 February, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin, Germany

Southern Asia Strategic Futures: Competition, Consequence Management, and Resilience  
1-3 March, Stimson Center (US) and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka), Colombo, Sri Lanka  
‘INFCIRC/549 - The Guidelines for Plutonium Management’

Living with Difficult Neighbours: Lessons Learned from the Israeli Experience  
17-19 March, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (US) and Institute for National Security Studies (Israel), Tel Aviv, Israel  
‘Emerging Indian Approach to Deterrence’

Workshop on Practical Measures to Reduce Nuclear Risks from Fissile Material  
18-19 June, International Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Elliot School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, Vienna, Austria  
‘Models for collaboration between civil society, the private sector, and government’

CTBTO Science and Technology Conference  
24-28 June, CTBTO, Vienna, Austria  
‘CTBTO for UN 2030: Empowering Diplomacy Through Science in South Asia’

Emerging Leaders’ Forum of The Chao Track: India-Pakistan Dialogue  
8-9 July, Bangkok, Thailand  
‘India-Pakistan Relations: A Gendered Perspective’
Investigations Abroad
17 October, Central Detective Training School, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, New Delhi
‘Intelligence and Foreign Policy’

13th Annual Germany-India-Brazil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue: Democracy and Authoritarianism
27-30 October, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, Germany
‘Democracy and Indian Foreign Policy: India and Global Internet Governance’

Tech Against Terrorism and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism Workshop
14-15 November, Tech Against Terrorism and GICFT, New Delhi
‘Models for collaboration between civil society, the private sector, and government’

Halifax International Security Forum
22-24 November, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
‘India à la Modi’

Rajeshwari Krishnamurthy
Deputy Director

The Franco-German Relationship from Outside: Adaptability of a Myth and Patterns of Interpretation
3 July, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin, Germany
‘The Franco-German Model of Reconciliation and the India-Pakistan Context’

South Asia Security Sector Governance Forum
5-7 September, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Dhulikhel, Nepal
13th Annual Germany-India-Brazil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue: Democracy and Authoritarianism
27-30 October, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, Germany
‘Democracy and Indian Foreign Policy: India and Global’

Synergising Security Cooperation between India and the Republic of Korea
19 December, IPCS and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in India, New Delhi
‘National Threat Assessments: India’

**Angshuman Choudhury**
Senior Researcher & Coordinator,
South East Asia Research Programme

The NRC and its Implications
21 September, Lawyers’ Collective, New Delhi

Papery Lives: Citizenship from Accord to NRC and Beyond
26 September, Ashoka University, Haryana

13th Annual Germany-India-Brazil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue: Democracy and Authoritarianism
27-30 October, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, Germany
‘Shrinking spaces and participation’

The National Register of Citizens (NRC): Contested Citizenship and Statelessness in India’s Assam
11 December, University of Bonn, Germany
South Asian Voices Visiting Fellowship 2019-20, The Stimson Center, Washington DC, US

One year fellowship, with two months (June-August 2019) spent at The Stimson Centre, Washington DC, US.

GIBSA Visiting Fellowship 2019, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin, Germany

Visiting research fellowship under the annual Germany-India-Brasil-South Africa (GIBSA) Quadrilogue, supported by Hans Seidel Stiftung (HSS).
The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) was founded in 1996 as an independent think-tank, and aims to develop an alternative framework for peace and security in South Asia through independent research and analysis.

Dedicated to independent, non-partisan research and analysis, its policy recommendations do not subscribe to any particular political view or interests.

Design and compilation

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