

International Centre For
Sustainability



International Centre for Sustainability (ICfS) Newsletter

Q3 2024



Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the International Centre for Sustainability (ICfS). In this quarterly update, we introduce our team and recap key projects and milestones from July to September 2024. Our mission is to foster a deeper alliance between the UK and India, by placing sustainability at the heart of everything we do. Through research, training and development and influencing policy, we focus on harmonising the needs of people, planet and profit to build a more sustainable future.

Meet the ICfS Team

We're proud to introduce the talented and dedicated individuals behind the ICfS, each bringing their unique expertise to drive our vision forward.



Jade Hagen

Chief of Staff
(London)



Shruti Kapil

Researcher, Security &
Mutual Dependence (Delhi)



Sachin Nandha

Trustee & Director
(London)



Nitish Rai Parwani

Researcher, Diasporic
Communities (London)



Pravar Petkar

Researcher, Strengthening
Democracy (London)



Chloe Schuber

Research & Operations
Assistant, (London)

In September we welcomed our new Chief of Staff, Jade Hagen. She is responsible for overseeing our finances, fundraising, team management, community building, strategic planning and overall operations. Jade comes from a background in international tax law, working as a commercial director in financial services in Asia and in more recent years consulting start-ups in London.



Q3 2024 Recap: July – September

This past quarter has been full of exciting developments as we deepened our research and engagement across key focus areas. Here's a look at what we've accomplished, with insights from each team member.



Sachin Nandha

Strengthening Partnerships in India

Sachin's travels to numerous regions across India were a defining part of Q3. From Mumbai to Kashmir and from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh, Sachin met with stakeholders on the ground, as well as political and business leaders, to reinforce the ICfS's commitment to firsthand research and relationship-building. These visits were pivotal in understanding local challenges, especially in politically sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where historic elections were held after a decade.

Sachin also formalised the **ICfS's Fellowship Programme**. This initiative brings together subject matter experts from various sectors to guide and mentor our research teams, ensuring that our work is both rigorous and impactful. *See related articles.*

Sachin's Articles

- [The Cost of Democracy: A Critical Look at India's Electoral Landscape](#) (July 18, 2024)
- [Reflections on India's New Budget](#) (July 25, 2024)
- [The Indian State: An Intrusive Legacy with Lofty Goals](#) (September 3, 2024)
- [Travelling 200 Years in 4 Hours: A Journey Across Arunachal and Assam](#) (September 3, 2024)
- [Navigating India's Path to Unprecedented Growth: A Call to Visionary Leaders](#) (September 10, 2024)



Shruti Kapil

Researching Security Matters

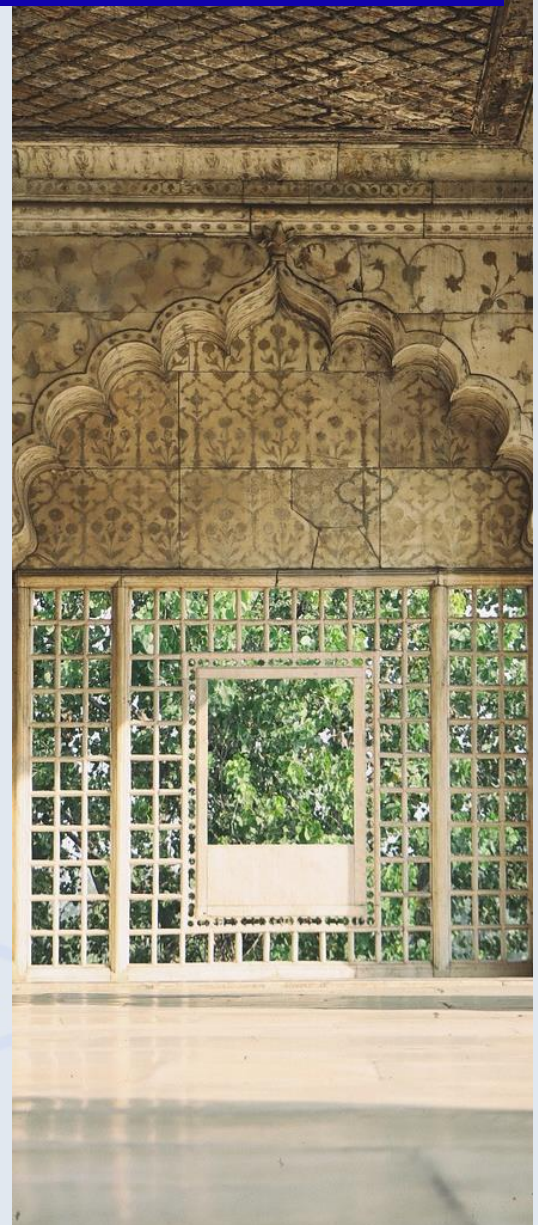
Shruti spearheaded major projects this quarter, beginning with the **Manipur Security Brief**. This project involved in-depth ground research and engagement with key stakeholders in the ongoing conflict, including individuals from the Kuki, Meitei and Naga communities, security personnel and regional experts. Her brief aims to provide a well-rounded perspective on the conflict, addressing narratives that can sometimes be disconnected from the realities on the ground. Through this initiative, Shruti seeks to shed light on the complex and multifaceted nature of the Manipur situation.

Shruti also initiated the foundation for her **2025 Water Security Project**, a long-term effort aimed at addressing India's escalating water challenges. This project seeks to counter approaches that may overlook local realities by focusing on critical, ground-level solutions. By fostering collaborations with scientists, activists and government bodies, the initiative is positioned to conduct extensive research across India, with the goal of identifying actionable solutions to ensure water sustainability from a security perspective.

Shruti visited **Jammu and Kashmir** as part of her work on monitoring the elections there. These elections are especially historic following the repeal of Article 370. This provision had given autonomy to the region in all matters apart from foreign affairs, defence and communications. By conducting in-person research, Shruti was able to assess local narratives and sentiments firsthand, gaining deeper insights into the aspirations of the region's people and the broader political implications for its future. Her presence in Jammu and Kashmir was crucial in providing a more nuanced analysis of the evolving dynamics in the area.

Shruti's Articles

- [Understanding Kashmir Post-370: Assessing Security Trends](#) (June 5, 2024)
- [Landmark Elections in J&K Begin: What's at Stake and Why It Matters](#) (September 20, 2024)





Jade Hagen

Building the ICfS's Operations framework

In September, Jade spent her time meeting our fellows, our partners in the wider community and getting to know our team and understanding more about their research. She has been working on shaping our research strategy, refining our mission, assisting with finance matters and setting the groundwork for measurable targets for the ICfS. She is also organising our **first Fellowship Roundtable** to be held in October, to help inform our 2025 research focus.

During Niti Aayog's trade mission to the UK in September, Jade represented the ICfS at a private discussion held at Rothschilds Bank. Indian officials and British business leaders discussed facilitating FDI into India for large-scale infrastructure projects, related challenges and green financing opportunities.



Pravar Petkar

Researching Sustainable Democratic Systems

Pravar analysed the results of the **2024 UK General Election**, showing how Labour's landslide victory came about and how the parliamentary map might better incorporate smaller parties under a more proportionate electoral system.

Pravar has also explored whether **Citizens' Assemblies** in the UK can promote greater democratic participation. His work reflects on the success stories from local councils in England and in other countries to refine British practice. The first part of this research will be published later this year.

Pravar's Articles

- [The Democratic Implications of the 2024 Labour Landslide](#) (July 12, 2024)
- [Accountability, Participation and Civic Education: The Roadmap Towards Sustainable Democracy?](#) (August 28, 2024)
- [Citizens' assemblies: miracle cure, or much ado about nothing?](#) (September 27, 2024)





Nitish Rai Parwani

Empowering Diasporic Communities

Nitish's research this quarter focused on **the participation of diasporic communities**, including Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi groups, **in the British general elections**. His engagement with these communities and analysis of their influence on political outcomes was published in the journal *Asian Voice*.

In August, Nitish took a field trip to India, meeting with top academic institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), the National Law School of India University (NLS), the Chanakya University and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to explore and shape future collaborations, further strengthening the ICfS's academic partnerships.

[Asians shine in UK election](#), *Asian Voice Journal* (10th of July)



Chloe Schuber

Political Research and Outreach

Chloe conducted **research on the UK elections**, analysing Rishi Sunak's national service proposal and its logistical challenges, as well as the impact of faith-based manifestos on democratic integrity. She also profiled the newly elected Labour cabinet, linking their focus areas to the team's interests.

Additionally, Chloe wrote an article on systemic failures highlighted by the RG Kar Medical College tragedy in Kolkata, advocating for reforms to protect women and healthcare professionals.

Chloe's Articles

- [Rishi Sunak's National Service: Insights and Discussion](#) (July 2, 2024)
- [Reflecting on Faith-Based Manifestos and Democratic Integrity](#) (July 5, 2024)
- [Catalyst for Change: Addressing the Systemic Failures Behind the Tragedy at RG Kar Medical College](#) (August 16, 2024)

Looking Ahead

As we move into Q4, the ICfS remains focused on key projects that will deepen our impact. Our ongoing work in water security, sustainable democracy and conflict resolution will continue to evolve, along with our collaborations with academic institutions and thought leaders.

In October, we will host our first fellowship roundtable at the Centre, with more events to follow. Our calendar includes a webinar on Indian Knowledge Systems with Dr. Manohar Shinde and a roundtable on Technology and Democracy with our Fellow David Wood. We also plan to launch public [ICfS events](#), such as book clubs and movie nights in Q4. More details coming soon. We are excited to expand our research in both India and the UK and look forward to sharing more progress in our next newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the work of the ICfS. Together, we are making strides towards a more sustainable future.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please follow [this link to our website](#) with information on our different offers.

For more information on hiring our venue or podcast room, [click here](#).

For more information, visit icfs.org.uk and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on our latest projects and publications.

International Centre for Sustainability, London, September 2024

