



International Centre for Sustainability (ICfS) Newsletter

Q1 2025



Q1 Newsletter

Welcome to the third edition of the International Centre for Sustainability's (ICfS) newsletter. In this quarterly update, we share highlights from January to March 2025, showcasing our team's work across operations, research and outreach. As always, our mission remains to deepen global ties with India by embedding sustainability into policy, practice and public understanding. From advancing water security and democratic resilience to exploring cultural heritage, inclusive development and strategic partnerships, our team continues to align people, planet and profit for a more sustainable future.

Q1 2025 Recap: January – March



Sachin Nandha

Leading Public Engagement and Book Launch

Sachin Nandha actively led the dissemination of research by chairing the launch of Dr. Cenkl and Dr. Petkar's paper on the crucial link between sustainable democracy and sustainable education, fostering discussions on higher education reform. He also moderated the February K-Lecture featuring OBE Dr. David Landsman, facilitating a discussion on the UK's position in a changing global landscape concerning leaders like Trump, Xi and Modi.

A significant personal achievement we're thrilled to share was the launch of his book, "Hedgewar: A Definitive Biography," with Penguin Random House India, culminating a seven-year research project on the founder of the RSS.

Sachin's Articles

- [The Looming Water Crisis: A Threat to India's Future](#) (February 6, 2025)
- [India's Green Energy Transition: A Strategic Imperative for Economic and Energy Security](#) (March 19, 2025)

The book launch commenced in Mumbai at Raj Bhavan, with the honourable Governor of Maharashtra State, C.P. Radhakrishnan serving as the Chief Guest, followed by events in Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Delhi. The book launch received significant media coverage, with interviews in the Times of India and other news outlets, alongside podcast features like The Carvaka Podcast.

Additionally, Sachin is guiding the ICfS's mission to support sustainable development through a strategic collaboration with Flame University, where the ICfS serves as a secretariat and advisor on key decisions. Plans for developing the first modern India library and study centre in the City of London have also progressed. Design plans for the library on the ground floor are now being finalised and work is scheduled to begin between June and August.



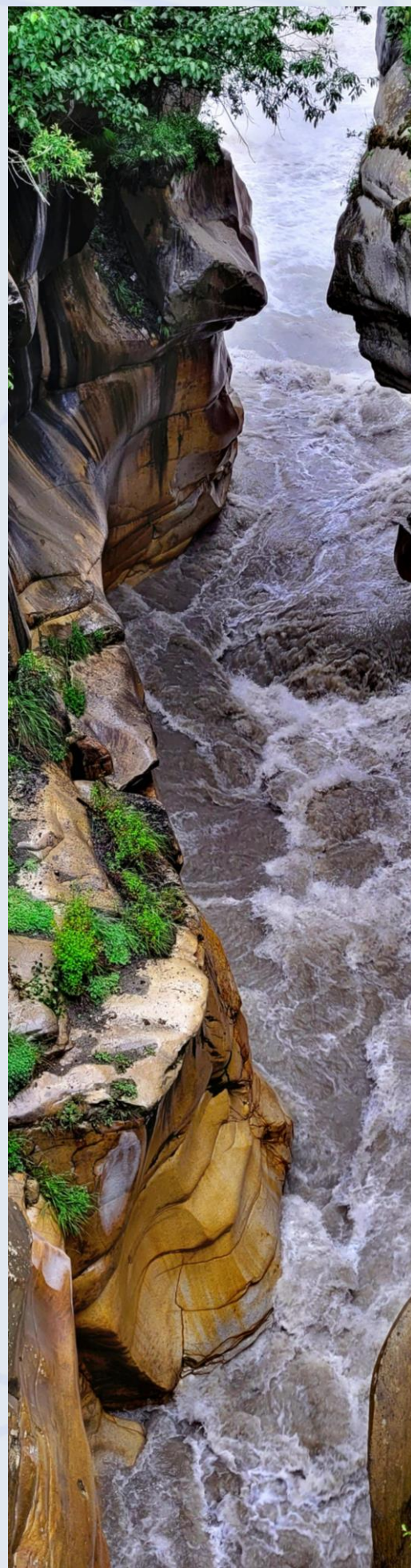
Shruti Kapil

Researching Water Security in India

Shruti Kapil reports significant progress across several key research initiatives. Her water security research is advancing under the guidance of a dedicated Steering Committee, with a comprehensive literature review currently in progress. A formal collaboration has been established with ICfS and the Pahle India Foundation to host a webinar focusing on the critical issue of water pollution. This event will feature research findings from both organisations on the impact of contamination on India's water crisis and security.

Concurrently, work is progressing with the Stockholm Centre for South Asian & Indo-Pacific Affairs (ISDP) to develop and publish a paper analysing the UK's Indo-Pacific Strategy. Shruti has also initiated new research exploring the important connection between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and women's empowerment in India, specifically examining workplace safety, with expert consultations actively informing this study.

Finally, she is preparing an analytical explainer on the complex situation in Manipur, India, designed to offer a nuanced perspective through stakeholder interviews and a critical look at prevailing narratives.





Jade Hagen

Strengthening Operations
and Research Partnerships

The ICfS team had a strong and productive start to the year. Jade Hagen's focused in Q1 on recruiting for the new Operations Assistant role, while also supporting the Research Team with their internship recruitment and onboarding. The internship cycle officially began in March, with four interns joining between March and April. A significant effort was also spent on KPI setting across the team, ensuring strategic alignment for the year ahead.

Jade also worked on promoting the Podcast Room for venue hire, meeting with podcast producers and podcast marketing companies to enhance its visibility. As a result, the ICfS is now on the radar of the City of London's small business enterprise community for venue rentals. See link [here](#) to enquire and book our spaces.

The ICfS hosted two webinars, both around mental health, led by our Fellow, Professor Rina Arya. Our K-Lecture series launched this quarter, fostering community engagement and knowledge sharing.

These events included a January panel discussion on AI and ethics, a February geopolitical lecture with one of our fellows Dr. Landsman and a March environmental talk with Sailesh Rao. We've experienced a steady increase in attendance and look forward to expanding these events each month. We invite you to join a K-lecture or to watch the recordings of each session on our [new YouTube channel](#).

In Q1, Jade also worked towards advancing the ICfS's research collaborations with two esteemed think tanks. Work is also being done on a larger collaborative project with two universities. Further updates with more specific information is expected to be shared in the next newsletter.

Lastly, Jade had the pleasure of interviewing world-renowned environmentalist Sailesh Rao for the inaugural ICfS podcast. The podcast will be available on our YouTube channel soon.



Pravar's Articles

- [Protecting British Democracy from Big Tech's Big Money](#) (March 13, 2025)

Research Paper

- [Interlinking Sustainable Democracy and Sustainable Education](#) (March 11, 2025)



Pravar Petkar

Researching Sustainable Democratic Systems

Pravar actively contributed to research and public discourse on democratic issues. His published work included an op-ed examining the challenges posed by large political donations in the UK and a co-authored research paper, which explored the connection between democracy and higher education in the UK, USA and India. He presented this research at its public launch and recorded a related podcast.

Pravar also attended the launch of a report on the impact of Brexit on the UK. His engagement extended to building connections with other researchers working on democratic reform within UK think-tanks and research institutes. Notably, he also engaged with India-focused institutions, including meetings with the team at India House in Delhi and individuals working in India's AI space.

Ongoing research includes a long-term project titled "India as a Civilisational-State," which analyses the cultural influences shaping India's foreign policy and governance systems. Additionally, he is supervising initial research into the potential for granting legal personhood to animals in the UK.





Nitish Rai Parwani

Exploring Diaspora and Sustainable Development

Nitish focused on significant cultural and developmental themes. A key activity involved extensive coverage of the Maha Kumbha Mela, the world's largest human gathering, where he spent 15 days in Prayagraj, India. His work highlighted various sustainability dimensions of the event, resulting in an article published on the ICfS website and a presentation delivered in February 2025.

Furthermore, the diaspora desk undertook a project to analyse the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a Dharmic lens. This initiative was suggested by Professor Nawalkant Prinja, a trustee of the ICfS, and a draft report was submitted to his office in March 2025, indicating a focus on integrating philosophical perspectives with global development frameworks.



Celia Illes

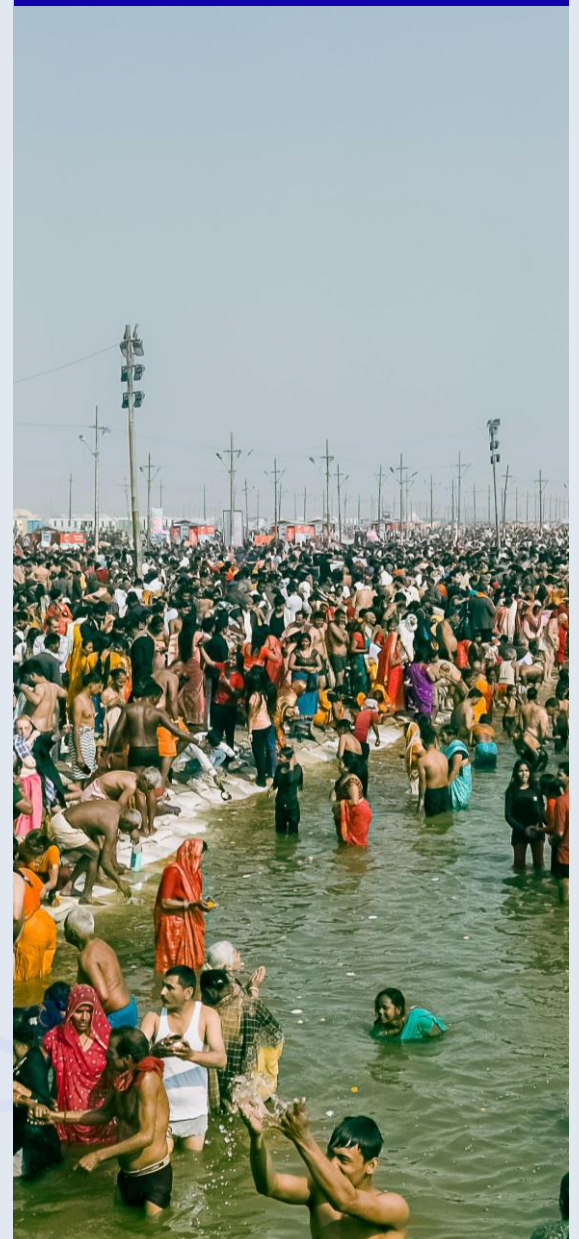
Coordinating Events and Supporting Operations

After joining the ICfS team in February, Celia became an integral part of the operations, providing crucial support to our Director-General, Sachin. Her responsibilities encompassed a wide range of activities, including logistical support for various events such as the K-Lecture with Dr. Landsman and a webinar on equitable mental wellbeing.

Celia played a key role in coordinating Sachin's book launch in India, managing the complexities of this international project. Her technical skills were utilised in developing Sachin's website and managing the Hedgewar Companion podcast, from recording and editing to its distribution on platforms like Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

Nitish's Articles

- [India's Kumbha: a testament to the world's largest traditional gathering to build social capital](#) (March 20, 2025)





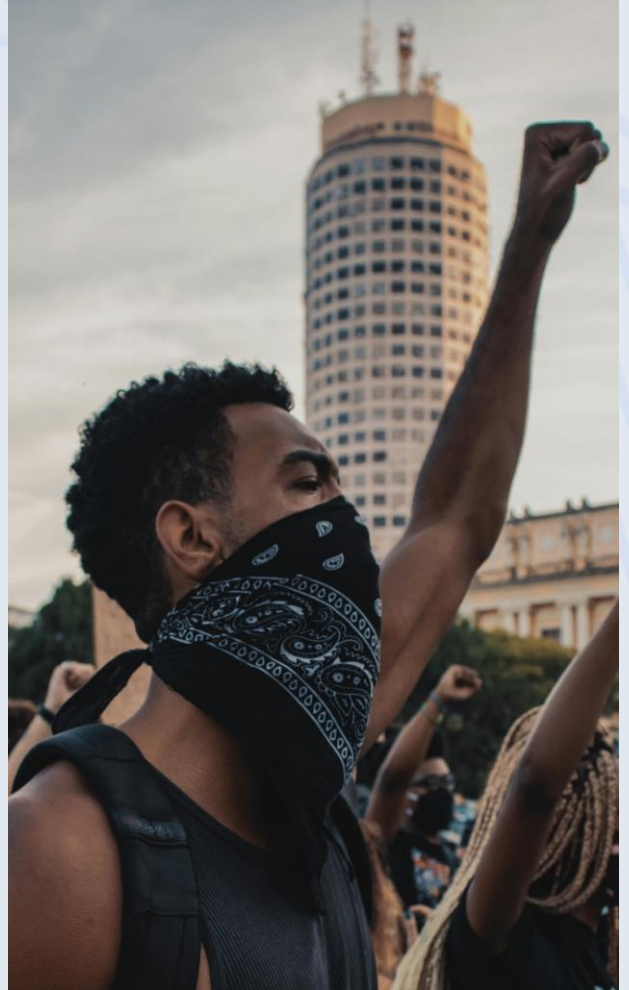
Chloe Schuber

Supporting Outreach and
Youth-Focused Research

In Q1, Chloe was actively involved in a variety of operational duties, including outreach and communications, as well as the planning and organisation of ICfS events. She played a key role in setting up the [ICfS YouTube channel](#), conducting market research, and preparing for venue hires and upcoming membership benefits.

In her research capacity, Chloe authored an article examining youth political engagement across the US, UK and India, focusing on the impact of digital activism. Her ongoing research includes an op-ed analysing youth disillusionment with the Democratic and Labour parties and a thorough investigation into the Indian Knowledge System, with a focus on its relevance to policy concerning LGBTQ+ rights.

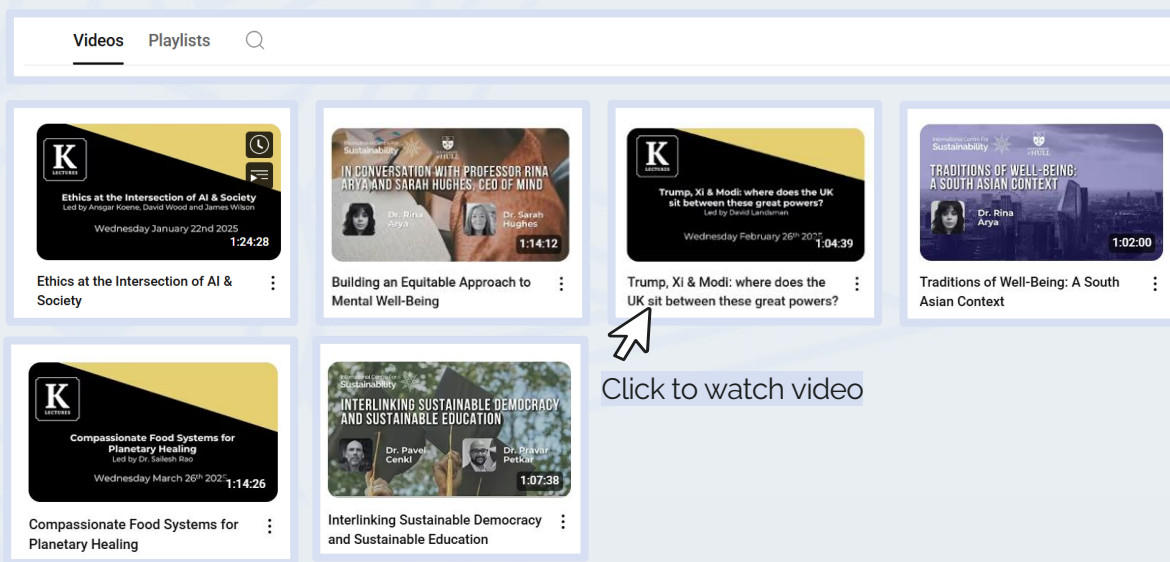
Additionally, Chloe attended two events at the Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre, focusing on sustainability in business and strategies for collaborative growth, demonstrating her and the ICfS's engagement with broader societal and economic issues.



Chloe's Articles

- [Youth Political Engagement in the US, UK, and India: New Forms of Activism](#) (March 11, 2025)

Our YouTube Channel



Looking Ahead

Upcoming Events (*In Person*):

- 24 April:** *K-Lecture 'NGOs, Power and Politics: Who Really Runs the Show?'*
Join Itai Reuveni, an expert on NGO influence and Director of Communications at NGO Monitor, as he uncovers how certain NGOs manipulate narratives, shape policies and even enable dangerous actors.
- 14 May:** *K-Lecture 'How British Indians and Nigerians Will Become the New Elite'*
This lecture by Lord Tony Sewell, based on his book '*Black Success: The Surprising Truth*', will explore lessons for social mobility from the success of black people in Britain.

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

If you would like to hire our venue or podcast room, please contact us at hello@icfs.org.

The ICfS Team

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, April 2025

