



# International Centre for Sustainability (ICfS) Newsletter

Q2 2025



## Q2 Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth edition of the International Centre for Sustainability's (ICfS) newsletter. In this quarterly update, we share highlights from April to June 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 infrastructure investment and electoral reform to water security, migration, and geopolitics, our team shapes global policy conversations across sectors. This issue captures the ICfS's growing role in advancing sustainable and inclusive development in a complex world.



## Q2 2025 Recap: April – June



### Sachin Nandha

Strengthening Global Policy and Research Impact

This quarter, Sachin Nandha continued to drive the ICfS mission with energy and focus, expanding its network, deepening its research impact, and positioning the ICfS as a thought leader in sustainable development.

He chaired the ICfS Fellowship Roundtable, bringing together Fellows from across the globe, from Arizona, USA, to Delhi, India. Our Fellowship acts as a strategic steering group for the Centre's research agenda. Researchers presented key updates, and Fellows offered guidance, critique, and access to their networks. This Roundtable now plays a central role in shaping the ICfS's research priorities.

He also authored and published a flagship white paper on De-risking Infrastructure Investment in India that was launched during India Global Forum Week at a closed-door roundtable with twelve senior industry figures.

### Sachin's Articles

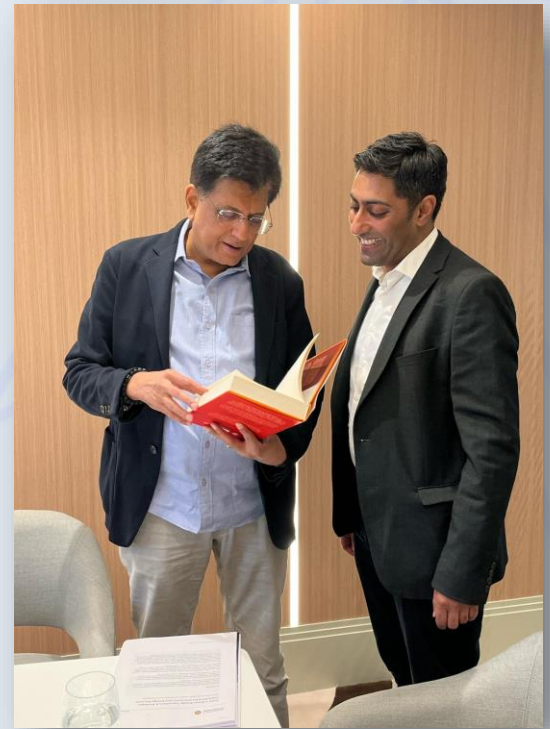
- [The Strategic Edge of Conscious Governance](#) (May 20, 2025)
- [From Capital Gap to Capital Magnet: De-Risking Infrastructure Investment in India](#) (June 16, 2025)

Their discussion helped validate the paper's relevance and amplified the call for reforms to unlock global infrastructure capital into India.

On May 3rd, Sachin hosted India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, for a private visit to the Centre. The Minister met senior ICfS staff, including Jade Hagen and researcher Ornicha Daoreung before holding a 45-minute private meeting with Sachin to discuss strategic policy reforms aimed at strengthening FDI flows into India. It marked an important moment of recognition and trust.

Sachin also undertook a strategic visit to the United States, meeting scholars and potential collaborators at UC Berkeley, Stanford, and UCLA, before delivering remarks at a policy conference in Atlanta. These engagements laid the foundation for future research collaborations and bolstered the ICfS's presence in the United States.

The past quarter reflects a steady consolidation of the ICfS's intellectual, diplomatic, and policy footprint—quietly but firmly shaping the global conversation.



*Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, at the ICfS*

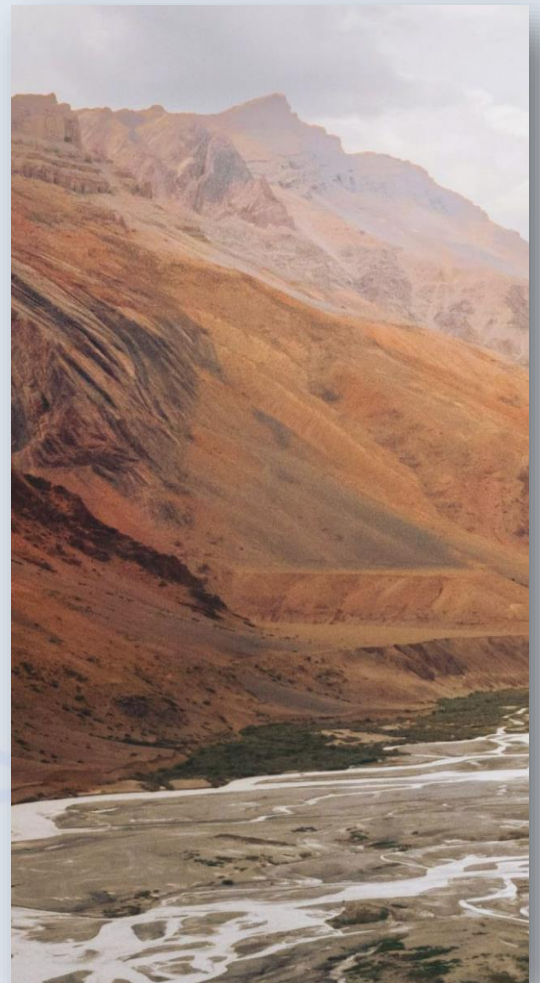


### **Shruti Kapil**

South Asia Security & Water Futures

Over the past quarter, Shruti's work has continued to grow around the ICfS's South Asia and water security portfolios. A detailed report was published on the Pahalgam terror attack, unpacking its broader context and implications. This was followed by two analytical briefs on the India-Pakistan 4-day conflict, mapping recent developments and identifying future risks, compiled in collaboration with Dr. Petkar and with the support of the wider team.

Shruti also represented the ICfS at a regional development conference in Arunachal Pradesh, India, where our Himalayan initiatives and the role of the global Indian diaspora were discussed. Under the India Water Security Project, data collection was completed for Haryana and Tamil Nadu, and an article on India's Water Crisis was published. Her current work includes analysis of China's territorial strategy in the Himalayas, the gendered impacts of water insecurity, and data evaluation for the next phase of the project.





## Pravar Petkar

Shaping Reform and Global Partnerships

### Published Research

Recent publications from the ICfS examined key political and economic developments: An analysis of the 2025 English local elections emphasised the disproportionate rise of Reform UK and the case for electoral reform. An op-ed explored how electoral reform could address India's delimitation deadlock, and two explainers outlined the significance of UK-India cooperation - one on bilateral ties in a shifting global context, and another on the benefits of the new UK-India Free Trade Agreement.

### Speaking Engagements

Pravar and Dr Pavel Cenkľ presented their paper 'Interlinking Sustainable Democracy and Sustainable Education: A Roadmap for Reform' at a conference in Atlanta, GA on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The paper's holistic focus on sustainability and innovative thinking around educational reform was well-received by members of the Indian diaspora in the USA.

### Strategic Partnerships

Pravar has represented the ICfS at several events this quarter including at the Institute for Government and Chatham House. He attended a panel discussion on UK-India-Latin America collaboration hosted by Lord Krish Raval in the UK Parliament on June 25. Alongside Ornicha Daorueng, he also represented the ICfS at a private roundtable with India's All-Party Parliamentary Delegation on June 2<sup>nd</sup> focused on India-UK's collaboration against cross-border terrorism following Operation Sindhoor. Through a series of other project launches and conferences, Pravar has begun building relationships with researchers at Demos in London and the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC. He has also established connections with academics at the Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics and UCL's Global Centre for Democratic Constitutionalism.

### Pravar's Articles

- [Expanding Bilateral Cooperation in an Uncertain World](#) (April 15, 2025)
- [Understanding the UK-India FTA](#) (May 7, 2025)
- [Unpacking the Results of the 2025 England Local Elections](#) (May 27, 2025)
- [Could Electoral Reform Solve India's Delimitation Dilemma?](#) (June 3, 2025)

During his recent visit to the USA, Pravar and Dr Pavel Cenkl initiated discussions to facilitate experiential sustainability courses for Indian diaspora students.

In June, Pravar also chaired a roundtable at the ICfS with J Sai Deepak on the role of India's legal system in supporting national development.

### Ongoing Research

Pravar is in the final stages of a report unpacking India's foreign policy through a new model of the 'civilisational-state', which he has independently developed. He is also working on research papers on a functional approach to second chamber reform in the UK and India, and the policy distortions caused by the First-Past-the-Post electoral system in both countries.



**Jade Hagen**

Handover and Maternity Leave

Jade ensured the smooth handover of all her tasks between the team and Trustees before her going on maternity leave. Jade ensured that the ICfS has all the systems and processes in place in order to continue to deliver high impact reports in her absence. We send our warmest congratulations to her and her family and wish them all the very best during this special time. Jade is expected to return to her role in a part time capacity in 2026.



**Chloe Schuber**

Event Strategy and Political Commentary

Chloe played a key role in operations and editorial work this quarter. She supported the One-Year Anniversary, Fellowship Roundtable, and K-Lecture management by overseeing planning, scheduling, and outreach. She also led the hiring of a Social Media Intern and supported work on membership benefits, venue research, and event promotion. Toward the end of her time at the ICfS, she began developing a project on funding and grant applications and coordinated handover processes.

Simultaneously, Chloe authored two op-eds: one on youth disengagement from left-wing parties in the UK and U.S., and another exploring how Indic knowledge systems might shape India's queer rights policy.

She now heads to Columbia University to pursue her masters in Human Rights. We wish her well and every success in the future.

### Chloe's Articles

- [How Labour and Democrats Let Youth Down — And Why It Matters for Democracy](#) (June 9, 2025)
- [Queer Futures, Ancient Roots: Reimagining Policy Through Indic Knowledge](#) (July 9, 2025)





### Celia Illes

Strategic Engagement and Leadership

In this quarter, Celia led strategic, operational, and public-facing initiatives. She coordinated Sachin's India and UK book launches of *Hedgewar: A Definitive Biography*, with events across five Indian cities and a high-profile discussion at King's College London on pluralism and civic responsibility. Celia also managed the summer and fall internship cycles, supporting recruitment and mentoring across teams. She provided editorial oversight for ICfS's 2024-25 Annual Report.

Representing the centre at India Global Forum London, she engaged with experts on sustainability and innovation. Additionally, she oversaw venue logistics for the EY Peru Board Update Programme, co-hosted with EY and the Institute of Directors.



### Ornicha Daorueng

Training, Innovation and Cultural Insight

Ornicha focuses on developing the ICfS's training programmes to convene global stakeholders including policymakers, academics, journalists, business leaders, and influencers for dialogue and cross-border collaboration. She conducted market research on UK-based training programmes related to sustainability, modern India, technology, and democracy and helped develop three core offerings: *Democracy & AI*, *Understanding Modern India*, and the *Executive Leadership Programme*.

Her writing explores the intersections of religion, migration, and identity, examining how cultural and theological forces shape community life, political discourse, and global institutions.

She is also contributing to a research project on Hindu hate and discrimination in the UK, highlighting lived experiences and offering recommendations for institutional response and accountability toward British Hindus.

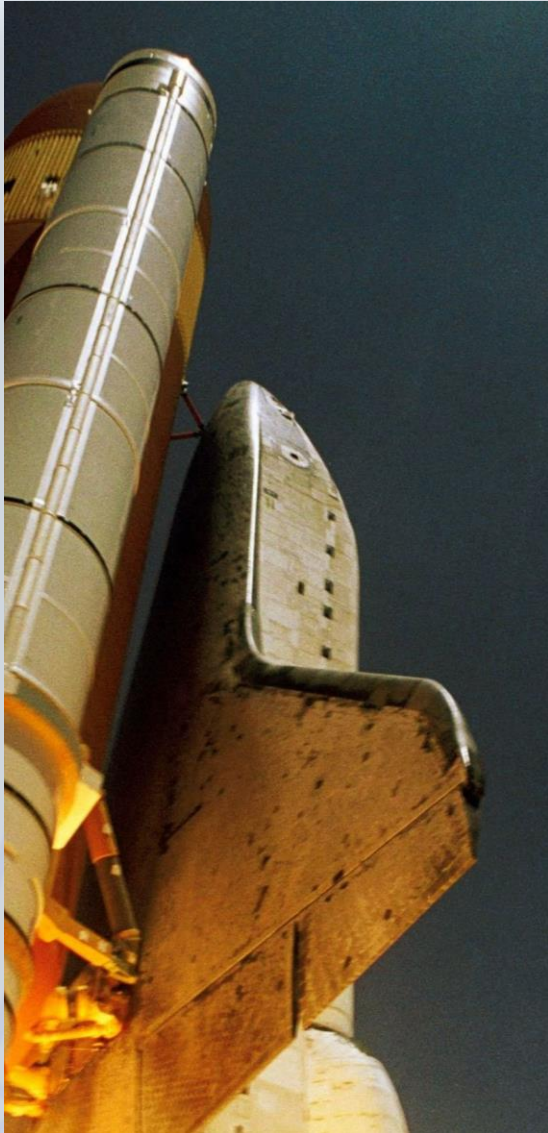


#### Ornicha's Articles

- [Is UK Becoming "an Island of Strangers?"](#) (June 4, 2025)
- [The future of Christianity lies in the Global South, but that's not the whole story](#) (June 17, 2025)

### Zoe's Article

- [India's 'Opportunity' in the US-China Trade War: Trump's Strategy Behind India Tariffs](#) (May 6, 2025)



### Amy's Article

- [Examining India's role as a rising space power – what duties does it have to encourage responsible space behaviours?](#) (May 14, 2025)



### Zoe Neiman

Geopolitics & Strategic Insight

Zoe authored an op-ed arguing that Trump's recent tariffs mask a broader calculated strategy of advancing the US-India partnership against China, placing India in a strong regional position. She also contributed to the centre's UK-India FTA analysis, the 13th Economic and Financial Dialogue, and briefing papers on the Pahalgam attacks and India-Pakistan tensions post Operation Sindhoor.

Zoe collaborated with Pravar on India's foreign policy and 'civilisational-state' research, and with Shruti on India's water crisis and the UK's Himalayan policy. She also attended the Indo-Pacific Roundtable at the Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics in May 2025, contributing to strategic discussions.



### Amy Wonnacott

Space, Reform & Security

Amy authored an op-ed on India's emergence as a space power, highlighting its potential to promote responsible space behaviours in a new era of sustainability. She also contributed to the Centre's explainer on the 2025 English local elections and supported analysis of the UK-India FTA, the Pahalgam attacks briefing papers, and India-Pakistan tensions following Operation Sindhoor.

Amy has been working with Pravar on a research paper proposing a functional approach to second chamber reform in the UK and India. She attended several events at the Institute for Government and the Royal United Services Institute on behalf of the Centre, strengthening engagement with key policy communities.



### **Niharika Girsra**

Sustainability & Security Research

Niharika Girsra is a research intern contributing to projects under the Security and Mutual Dependence Desk. She is currently developing literature reviews for two ongoing research papers: Water Security in India and role of FDI and ESG frameworks in Women Empowerment in India.

She has contributed to the centre's briefings on the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, the Pahalgam Attack, and Operations Sindhoor. She also authored an op-ed on AI's water consumption and recently attended a three-day conference on co-creating sustainable and equitable cities.

### **Niharika's Article**

- [AI's Invisible Price: Water Use and the Sustainability Dilemma](#)  
(June 5, 2025)

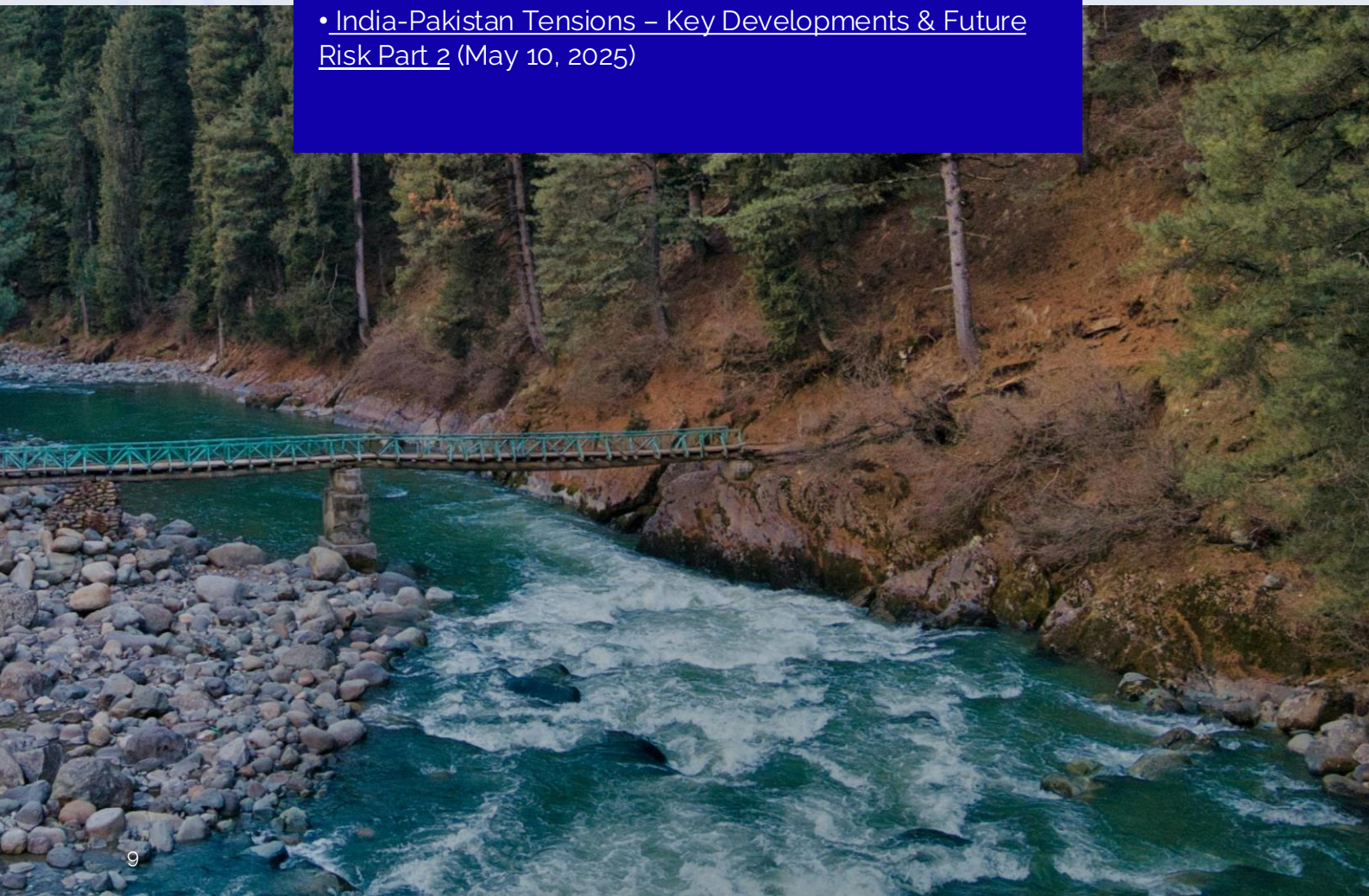
## Our Briefing Papers on the Pahalgam Attack

Following the terrorist attacks in Kashmir in late April, the ICfS responded swiftly with briefing papers offering unique insights and hard-to-access intelligence. Produced within 24 to 48 hours of key developments, they were shared with senior stakeholders in Delhi, Washington, and London.

Led by Pravar Petkar and Shruti Kapil, with support from the entire ICfS team, the briefings provided timely perspective during a fast-moving, complex situation.

### India – Pakistan Briefing Papers:

- [The Pahalgam Attack: Context, Impact, and Implications](#) (April 25, 2025)
- [Securing India's Future: Lessons from the Pahalgam Terror Attack](#) (April 30, 2025)
- [India-Pakistan Tensions – Key Developments & Future Risk](#) (May 8, 2025)
- [India-Pakistan Tensions – Key Developments & Future Risk Part 2](#) (May 10, 2025)



# Looking Ahead

## Upcoming Events (*In Person*):

### September: *K-Lecture*

We are excited to resume our K-Lecture series this September following a short summer break. Keep an eye out on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Eventbrite](#) and our [website](#) for the latest updates.

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](mailto:hello@icfs.org).

### The ICfS Team

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

**International Centre for Sustainability**, London, July 2025

