

HIMALAYAS PLUS

NEWSLETTER
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Dear All,

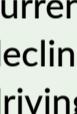
Greetings from the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies (CHS), Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence (SNiE). We are pleased to present the 16th edition of our Newsletter, covering the months of September and October 2025. Previous editions of HIMALAYAS PLUS can be accessed on our website.

IN THE MEDIA

CHS Distinguished Fellow, **Claude Arpi** wrote in *Firstpost* on India's efforts to strengthen border communities through the *Vibrant Village* Scheme, critiqued China's claims over *Barahoti* in Uttarakhand, and examined the recent *purges* within the PLA's top ranks.

Jabin T. Jacob, in conversation with *Frontline's Latitude* series, discussed the Modi-Xi meeting at the SCO summit, addressing border disengagement, trade imbalances, Pakistan, and India's role in a multipolar Asia. He also spoke to the *China Global South Project* on the continuing fragility of India-China relations despite the apparent thaw in relations.

Two superpowers



US-China rivalry is more than a tale of rise and decline – it will frame the new global order

ADMITTEDLY, MUCH discussion on the US-China relationship has focused on a contrast between the two countries. On the one hand there is hard-wringing and head-scratching over the other's political weakness and unpredictability. Its seemingly insatiable appetite for technological advancement worldwide and the chaotic policies of the other hand, meanwhile, there isudging – sometimes even admiration – for the Chinese party-state's determination, methodism, and pragmatism. Anybody who saw President Xi Jinping that the US may have ensured India's ascendancy in the region, and a growing perception that China's influence is on the wane.

ample, Chinese politicians refer to Trump's policies as "soft" and Clinton as "moderate". In this view, the South China Sea and the continuing contest over the South China Sea is the US's effort to "protect" its "new" superpower. This has led to a situation today where China naturally has the upper hand. But this is not what the US does not even in its first page news.

More recently, the US president has been dictatorial. Trump also flipped the script and claimed that the US had "the best country". China's policy around to acknowledge both sides of the equation. This proved that this new China policy became bipartisan in nature. The US president, Donald Trump, too, like Biden, also underscores a much-needed sense of American strength if America is to remain competitive.

Jacob also wrote in *The Indian Express* on the shifting contours of US-China relations, highlighting how current debates often focus narrowly on America's decline and China's rise, missing the broader forces driving this global rivalry. He was quoted in *ABP Live* and spoke on *DW News* on the SCO's evolving dynamics.

Anand P. Krishnan, writing in *The Indian Express*, analysed China's K visa initiative as part of its strategy to attract global STEM talent amid shifting U.S. immigration trends. He was also quoted in *The Hindu* on the implications of the K visa for Indian professionals and in France's *Le Monde* on South India's rise as a major iPhone assembly hub.

Jacob and Krishnan co-authored two Malayalam articles in the aftermath of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China for the SCO Summit. They analysed the regional and global forces shaping India-China relations in the *Malayala Manorama* while in their piece for the *Mathrubhumi*, they examined India's vulnerabilities amidst the push for more bilateral economic engagement, including the lack of economic-administrative reforms.