

# **STS India Network**

## **Annual Activities Report 2025**



**Prepared by the Executive  
Committee of the STS-IN**

## **1. Conference Preparations for the First STS-IN Annual Conference, scheduled to be held at O.P. Jindal University, December 14–17, 2025:**

This year has been an exciting one for the STS India Network, with the planning of the first annual STS-IN conference and the first-ever conference on STS in India. This marked a significant step forward in strengthening the Science and Technology Studies (STS) community in India. Conceived as a foundational gathering for scholars, educators, and practitioners, the conference aims to consolidate existing work in the field, foster new collaborations, and highlight the contextual specificities of STS as it has taken shape in the subcontinent and among scholars working on the region from elsewhere. Building on discussions initiated during the December 2023 meeting at IIT Hyderabad, the conference reflects a commitment to broadening the intellectual and institutional landscape of STS in India.

The conference call invited contributions across multiple formats: closed panels, intensive workshops, and individual paper submissions to encourage a diverse and inclusive range of engagements. Closed panels allow coordinators to bring together small groups of scholars to explore a shared theme through coordinated individual papers and discussion. Each panel proposal includes a substantive description as well as associated paper abstracts. Workshop proposals offer a different mode of engagement rather than forums for presenting completed research; workshops are intended as spaces for methodological experimentation, conceptual exploration, and collaborative problem-solving. They emphasise interactive formats and are expected to articulate clear aims, approaches, and participant needs. Individual paper abstracts remain a vital part of the conference, providing opportunities for early-career researchers and established scholars alike to contribute original analyses grounded in concepts relating to STS in India.

A core guiding principle of the conference is the emphasis on perspectives that move beyond dominant or Global North frameworks. Contributors are encouraged to place regional histories, societal dynamics, epistemic traditions, and lived experience at the centre of their work. To help realise this goal, the conference features several thematic tracks. Histories of STS invited papers examining how scientific and technological inquiry has evolved in the subcontinent, including the intellectual traditions that have shaped current practices. Digital STS focuses on digital infrastructures and environments, highlighting the interplay of sociocultural, economic, and political forces that configure contemporary technological life. Feminist STS provides a lens for analysing how gender, along with class, caste, race, and other forms of social stratification, shapes experiences of science and technology. Environmental STS foregrounds people-centred analyses of climate change,

mitigation, and resilience, drawing on both grassroots knowledge and policy frameworks. The NEST & Society track opens space for examining new and emerging technologies and their reciprocal relationship with societal structures. A miscellaneous track ensures that work falling outside these themes continues to be represented.

Parallel to conference planning, STS IN has continued to refine its review processes to support fairness, rigour, and transparency by publishing the list of reviewers and also publishing a post on our review process. Review guidelines emphasise constructive engagement, attention to contextual relevance, and recognition of the varied methodological approaches characteristic of STS scholarship. Read more here: <https://stsin.org/behind-the-scenes-review/>. This year's efforts contribute to a sustainable framework for future events and publications, strengthening the network's broader mission to cultivate a vibrant and interconnected STS community.

## **2. STS-IN Winter School – 12-14 December 2025, IIT Sonipat**

This year was also pivotal in marking the first STS India Network Winter School for graduate students who work in and around the field of STS in the Indian context. The application process for the winter school was competitive, with over 55 scholars applying. A final list of 26 students was selected. The upcoming STS-IN Winter School is a direct response to needs articulated during the network's inaugural meeting in Hyderabad in December 2023. Many doctoral students and early career researchers noted that, although their work intersected strongly with Science and Technology Studies, they often found themselves situated in non-STS departments with limited formal training and little access to a broader intellectual community. Building on the success of the 2024 Writing Fellowship, which paired ten early-career researchers with senior scholars for intensive mentoring, STS-IN has expanded its training initiatives through the introduction of a two-and-a-half-day Winter School.

The Winter School is designed to strengthen conceptual foundations and methodological competencies in STS while cultivating a supportive peer network. By bringing together graduate students, early career researchers, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, the Winter School fosters collaborative inquiry and interdisciplinary dialogue. Its scheduling immediately before the first STS-IN conference ensures that participants can immerse themselves in the latest debates and emerging research in the field. Together, the Winter School and conference form a week-long ecosystem for learning, exchange, and community building within the growing STS landscape in India.

### 3. Establishment of a Formal Internal Complaints Committee

The STS-IN Network has formally established its Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to ensure that all members can participate in the network's intellectual and community spaces with safety, dignity, and trust. In keeping with the principles of transparency, accessibility, and fairness, the ICC has been constituted with a majority of women members and includes both senior scholars and early career researchers trained to address complaints with empathy and impartiality. The committee will oversee all matters related to harassment across the network's physical and virtual environments, which especially includes the upcoming conference and winter school, and will work closely with designated confidential points of contact. You can find the comprehensive ICC guidelines on the website. The inaugural ICC comprises:

- Usha Raman (Member, Conference organising committee)
- Yogita Suresh (Member, PhD scholar)
- Pankaj Sekhsaria (Member, Conference organising committee)
- Richa Kumar (Senior scholar and faculty, IIT Delhi)

### 4. Reading Group Seminars

The STS-IN conducted several online reading group seminars, featuring academic lectures and sessions from people across the country. In 2025, two groups held reading sessions: The History of Science and Technology Reading Group and Energy, Environment and Climate Change Reading Group. The reading group sessions are held online every month or every fortnight, where crucial concepts and works on STS are discussed by a discussant and the attending members. Below is a brief list of all the works discussed in this year's seminars.

#### ***The History of Science and Technology Reading Group (co-ordinated by Abhinav Tyagi)***

- *Indian Darkness: Science, Development, and the Needs Discourse of the Nation-State* by Srirupa Roy. Discussant, Abhinav Tyagi
- *Chapter Four: Modalities of Modernization – American Technic in Colonial and Postcolonial India* by Prakash Kumar, of the book *How Knowledge Moves: Writing the Transnational History of Science and Technology*, edited by John Krige. Discussant Aarjav Chauhan
- *Green-revolution epistemologies in China and India: Technocracy and Revolution in the Production of Scientific Knowledge and Peasant Identity* by Madhumita Saha and Sigrid Schmalzer. Discussant Devahuri Sarkar.
- *Science, Media, Risk Politics: Constructing a Scientific Public Sphere* from the book "Contested Knowledge Science, Media, and Democracy in Kerala" by Shiju Sam Varughese. Discussant: Shiju Sam Varughese.

- *Emergence and Deepening of Activism against GM Crops*, from the book “Genetically Modified Democracy: Transgenic Crops in Contemporary India” by Aniket Aga.
- *Recovering ‘Peripheral’ History: Genealogy of MRI Research in India*, from the book *Imperial Technoscience: Transnational Histories of MRI in the United States, Britain, and India*, by Amit Prasad. Discussant: Amit Prasad.

### **Energy, Environment and Climate Change Reading Group (co-ordinated by Ravi Bhushan and Prathamesh Antarkar)**

- *Bridging climate science, policy, and communities: collaborative pathways for climate resilience in the Indo-Pacific*. Discussant: Harsh Malhotra
- *‘That Night’: Seeing Bhopal Through the Lens of Disability and Environmental Justice Studies* by Anita Mannus (2014). Discussant: Misria Shaik Ali
- *Purifying the River: Pollution and Purity of Water in Colonial Calcutt* by Pratik Chakrabarti (2015). Discussant: Gaurav Kapse
- *Drawing Coastlines: Climate Anxieties and the Visual Reinvention of Mumbai’s Shor* by Chitra V (2024). Discussant: Chitra V.
- *Introduction – (Shades of Green)* from “Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism” by Ramachandra Guha (2024). Discussant: Dr Ashawari Chaudhary.
- *Case Study Pedagogy in Disaster Education: Integrating Knowledge While Cultivating Epistemic Reflexivity* by Perna Srigyan (2025). Discussant: Perna Srigyan.
- *The environmental politics of Palestine* discussed by Misria Shaik Ali

### **5. Nexus the STS-IN Blog**

Nexus, the STS-IN blog, co-ordinated by Vidya Subramanian and Yogita Suresh, was established last year to publish articles related to STS by scholars, researchers, activists, and policymakers, among others. This year, Nexus published several pieces relating to reflections on reading groups, problems of surveillance and the debates surrounding social constructivism in STS. Nexus also published a series titled *Productive Disruptions* that features contributions from Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers in Science and Technology Studies (STS), who reflect on how they enter and engage with the field through theory, methodology, and ethnographic practice while being “formally” enrolled in or affiliated with other disciplines such as Sociology, International Relations, and more. Serving as an introduction to the upcoming roundtable “Productive Disruptions,”

this series leads into the session scheduled for 16 December 2025 at the STS-IN Conference, hosted at O.P. Jindal University, Delhi NCR. Read all the articles here: <https://stsin.org/nexus/>

## **6. Establishing the STS-IN Repository and Bibliography Data Set**

We are excited to share that the STS-IN has put together a comprehensive bibliography of works in the field of STS from South Asia. This initiative is part of the Science and Technology Studies in India Network (STS-IN), led by Dr. Shiju Sam Varughese. This is a work-in-progress bibliography that currently includes bibliographic details for over 1,000 entries. The Zotero open-source platform allows you to custom-search the dataset and download the entries to your computer using your personal Zotero account. To access the STS-IN Bibliography and learn more about it, visit <https://stsin.org/zotero/>

## **7. Registering STS-IN as a Society in the Upcoming Year**

In other exciting news, the STS-IN is preparing to formally register the network as a society to conduct its activities in a more organised and structured way. Members of the network are in the process of preparing a comprehensive document outlining the structure and bylaws of the network that will be legally mandated and registered as a society. The report will be launched at the annual STS-IN conference in December 2025.

## **8. We are now on Social Media!**

We're excited to share that the Science and Technology Studies India Network is now officially on social media! You can now follow us for timely updates on all our activities, including announcements related to the upcoming STS-IN Conference and Winter School, calls for papers (CFPs), event details, deadlines, and more. This space will serve as a key channel for regular communication and engagement as we gear up for our first conference and Graduate Winter School scheduled in December 2025 in Delhi NCR. Whether you're a researcher, student, academic, policymaker, or just curious about STS in India, we invite you to stay connected with us online.

 [stsindianetwork](https://www.instagram.com/stsindianetwork)

 [stsindianetwork.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/stsindianetwork)

 [STSIIndiaNetwork](https://twitter.com/STSIIndiaNetwork)

You can find the previous year's annual report here: <https://stsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/STS-IN-Activities-Report-2024.pdf>