



Science and Technology Studies-India Network (STS-IN)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

(December 2023 to December 2025)

INTRODUCTION

The Science and Technology Studies - India Network (STS-IN) is a community of scholars dedicated to exploring the intricate relationships between science, technology and society across the Indian landscape. Historically, Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholarship in India has thrived within the broad umbrella of the social sciences and has often lacked a cohesive infrastructure. The STS-IN emerged as a response to this fragmentation, aiming to provide a formal platform for collaboration, discussion, and research; while embracing the inherently interdisciplinary nature of STS scholarship. At the heart of our mission is the promotion of STS teaching and learning, facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue, and fostering collaborative research endeavours. From organising workshops and conferences to facilitating reading and writing groups, we strive to cultivate an environment that nurtures intellectual exchange and innovation.

After some initial online consultations, a group of approximately 80 scholars met and deliberated at IIT-Hyderabad on 14th and 15th of December 2025 and resolved to form the STS-IN. An interim Executive Committee (EC) was formed to coordinate the activities of the network and to establish the Network as a formal Society. Dr. Naveen Thayyil, who took the initiative to form the Network, was nominated as the Coordinator of STS-IN. City chapters and reading groups were also formed as informal collectives of the STS-IN to function in consultation with the EC. In the last two years, STS-IN organised several programmes and events and created avenues for interaction and collaboration.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2024-2025)

1. Aalok Khandekar, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
2. Janaki Srinivasan, IIIT Bengaluru (currently at University of Oxford)
3. Mahendra Shahare, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
4. Naveen Thayyil, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (Coordinator, STS-India Network)
5. Rohit Negi, Ambedkar University Delhi (currently at Indian Institute of Management Calcutta)

6. Shiju Sam Varughese, Central University of Gujarat, Vadodara
7. Usha Raman, University of Hyderabad
8. Vidya Subramanian, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat
9. Yogita Suresh, Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida (Student Representative)

INFORMAL COLLECTIVES

1. Reading Groups

Reading groups were established with the intention of facilitating academic interaction among scholars working in a sub-field of STS in India. During the STS India inaugural workshop in December 2023, we identified four thematics with which to kick off the reading groups in 2024. These are History of Science and Technology, Feminist STS, Digital STS, and Environmental STS (Energy/Environment/Climate). These reading groups and meetings were open to all, and readings were identified by the groups themselves. A combined online meeting of all four reading groups was held in February 2024 and since then group meetings have been sequentially organised every fortnight so that each group can host a reading session bimonthly. All groups were active during 2024 and 2025.

General coordinators: Janaki Srinivasan and Usha Raman

Group coordinators:

- *Digital STS:* Parikshith Shashikumar and Arjun Ghosh
- *Environmental STS:* Ravi Bhushan, Anita Pinheiro and Prathamesh Antarkar
- *Feminist STS:* Aswathy Raveendran and Santosh Kumar
- *History of Science and Technology:* Madhulika Banerjee, Abhinav Tyagi and Aditi Dey

2. City Chapters

City chapters of the network were established in five cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai/Pondicherry. The Chapters facilitate ground-up organisation and building of the network. These nodes help locally situated STS scholars in and around the region to meet, share, respond, and collaborate.

Coordinators:

- Bengaluru: Joyeeta Dey (NIAS), Aditi Dey (The New School) & Siddharth (NIAS)
- Chennai and Pondicherry: Faheem Muhammed MP (Pondicherry University) & Ajisha K.V. (MIDS)
- Delhi: Ashish Gosain (JNU), Santosh Kumar (JNU) & Rishabh Kachroo (SNU)
- Hyderabad: Coordinator: Manisha Madapathi (University of Hyderabad)
- Mumbai: Prathamesh Antarkar, IIT Bombay; Hariprasad V.M., IIT Bombay

The Bengaluru Chapter organised a reading group in Cubbon Park to plan future meetings and discuss their respective research questions. **The Delhi Chapter** met online to discuss possible venues and themes for lectures to be held in 2025. **The Mumbai Chapter** organised several impactful activities, with a focus on engaging early career researchers and fostering discussions around STS issues. They organised

a kick-off meeting on January 16, 2024 at IIT Bombay, where early career researchers from IIT Bombay and the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) gathered to discuss potential activities. It was decided to organise reading sessions, seminars, and discussions, aiming to include participants from other institutions like TISS, Mumbai University, and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. The first seminar, “The Gendered Nature of Science and Technology”, was held on January 16, 2024, with Aswathy Raveendran, a faculty member at HBCSE, as the speaker. She explored the intersections of gender, science, and technology, examining how gender representation in these fields affects research and innovation. This session drew participants from IITB, TISS, and HBCSE. In November 2024, Dr. Tridibesh Dey presented a seminar titled “Let’s Talk about the Rural Plastic Problem!” at IIT Bombay. He discussed the challenges of plastic pollution in rural India and proposed sustainable, community-driven solutions by leveraging local knowledge. A discussion session on December 5, 2024, titled “Deliberating Concepts and Methods for Transformation and Sustainability”, was chaired by Dr. Saurabh Arora. Researchers from various disciplines shared their work on sustainability, and the session focused on transdisciplinary methods and concepts to support transformative change. The chapter plans to continue hosting such activities, with a goal of increasing participation and creating a robust network of early career researchers across Mumbai-based institutes.

PROGRAMMES ORGANISED

STS-IN Inaugural Meet

STS-IN was established at the Inaugural Meet at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, held on the 14th and 15th of December 2023. Aalok Khandekar was the convenor of the event. The roundtables and panel discussions at the Meet were attended by graduate students, researchers, and faculty members working on themes related to STS from across the country. The first roundtable at the Meet titled “Inter/Anti Disciplinary Dialogues: Pathways to STS” drew on the experiences of participating scholars to explore how disciplinary locations shape engagement with what is recognised as STS, and attempted to understand what generative possibilities existed at the intersections of disciplines. The second roundtable on “Questions of interest in the Indian/subcontinental landscape: Pathways for STS” explored what it means to ‘do STS’ in contemporary India. The panel discussion on “Building collaborative STS infrastructures from near and far” explored the possibilities of connecting with STS scholars in other South Asian countries to build inclusive knowledge infrastructures. The second panel, “Making the network work for us: Perspectives from Doctoral Scholars”, initiated an open-ended conversation about the range of experiences that shape PhD journeys. The session was a visioning exercise for doctoral scholars, broadly located within STS, to discuss and explore the utility of STS-IN for their professional and academic growth.

An interim executive committee was formed to jumpstart the network's activities such as organising a biannual conference, launching a mentorship program for students and early career academics, conducting online and offline seminars and workshops, and building a digital, institutional, and financial infrastructure for future activities. The network resolved to work on the tension between South Asia and India as the appropriate framing for the network’s activities, without appropriating the scholarship from other parts of South Asia. The following four sub-

themes were suggested to facilitate immediate academic collaboration and create indicative themes for the reading groups: Feminist STS, Digital STS, Climate/Energy/Environment STS, and History of Science and Technology. Lastly, city chapters of the network were established in five cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai/Pondicherry. Misria Shaik Ali was assigned the task of networking with STS scholars from other South Asian countries. In this inaugural workshop, STS-IN set the foundation for an academic community that can become the cornerstone of the STS research landscape in India.

Workshops for Research Scholars

During the network's inaugural meet at IIT Hyderabad in December 2023, many doctoral students and early career researchers noted that, although their work intersected strongly with STS, they often found themselves situated in non-STS departments with limited formal training and little access to a broader intellectual community. The STS-IN research workshops were a direct response to the needs articulated by young scholars. Rohit Negi coordinates the research training programmes of the Network.

STS-IN Writing Fellowship Programme (May-September 2024)

The Fellowship Programme aimed to provide academic assistance to PhD and early career scholars in STS at various stages of communicating their research. Ten doctoral and early career scholars were selected as Fellows. As part of the programme, STS-IN hosted a series of workshops and facilitated mentoring by experienced scholars in the field to support the completion of the fellows' writing. The Fellowship was designed to support several aspects of the writing process, including i) clarification of conceptual framing; ii) development of arguments and claims; and, iii) finalisation of a publishable manuscript. A series of online workshops focused on common elements of producing academic work in STS, along with one-on-one mentorship from a senior scholar were organised to assist the fellows. The Fellowship Programme concluded with a Fellows' Roundtable titled "Science, Technology, Society" at the 11th Creative Theory Colloquium – Technology and Society: Hierarchies & Contestations, held at the India International Centre from 5th to 7th September 2024.

STS-IN Winter School (12-14 December 2025, IIT-Delhi's Sonipat Campus)

This year was also pivotal in marking the first STS-IN Winter School for graduate students who work in and around the field of STS in the Indian context. Building on the success of the Writing Fellowship in 2024, which paired ten early-career researchers with senior scholars for intensive mentoring, STS-IN expanded its training initiatives through the introduction of a two-and-a-half-day Winter School. The Winter School was designed to strengthen conceptual foundations and methodological competencies in STS while cultivating a supportive peer network. The application process for the Winter School was competitive, with over 55 scholars applying. Finally, 26 students were selected. By bringing together graduate students, early career researchers, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, the Winter School fostered collaborative inquiry and interdisciplinary dialogue. Its scheduling immediately before the first STS-IN Conference ensured that participants could immerse themselves in the latest debates and emerging research in the field.

Together, the Winter School and the Conference form a week-long ecosystem for learning, exchange, and community building within the growing STS landscape in India.

Meetup and Roundtable at the annual EASST-4S Conference, 2024, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Members of the STS-IN organised a Meetup titled, “Pathways of STS in South Asia: Where We Came from and Where We Can Go” and a Roundtable discussion titled, “Building STS Networks: Motivations, Strategies and Challenges” at the annual EASST-4S (European Association for the Study of Science and Technology–Society for Social Studies of Science) Conference, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam July 2024. The meetup and roundtable aimed to bring together a diverse group of scholars working within South Asian STS to explore opportunities for future collaboration and networking. The roundtable explored ways to bring together and collectivise strategies of various regional STS networks for the transnationalisation of current and future STS scholarship. Duygu Kasdogan (Turkey STS group, and Assistant Professor, Izmir Katip Çelebi University, Turkey), Noela Invernizzi (former president of ESOCITE – the Latin American Association of Social Studies of Science and Technology, and Associate Professor, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil), Angela Okune (Director of Programmes, Code for Science & Society, Nairobi, Kenya), Thao Phan (AusSTS, 4S council member, and research fellow at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia), and Wen-Hua Kuo (President of the Society for Social Studies of Science: 4S, and Professor, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan) spoke at the session. Naveen Thayyil (Coordinator of the STS-IN network, and Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi) moderated the session.

Roundtable at the Creative Theory Colloquium, New Delhi.

Members of the STS-IN organised a roundtable titled, “Science, Technology, Society” at the 11th Creative Theory Colloquium – Technology and Society: Hierarchies & Contestations, held at the India International Centre, New Delhi from 5 to 7 September 2024.

The First STS-India Network Conference at O.P. Jindal University, December 14-17, 2025

The year 2025 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 Indian STS community. 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 STS Dialogues Symposium on the Genealogies of STS in India at 4:00 PM on 14th December at the Sonipat Campus of IIT Delhi, was designed as the overture to the proceedings of the Conference. The speakers at the Dialogues Symposium explored the multiple genealogies of STS in India by reflecting on their own

intellectual journey that led them to work on social relations and cultural embeddedness of science and technology. The subsequent roundtables and plenaries are designed to continue the conversation. The aim of these sessions is to critically reflect on what it means to do STS in Indian/South Asian context(s). The first roundtable will discuss the relationship between *knowledge and democracy*. In the *second roundtable* ('Productive Disruptions'), graduate students and early career scholars will share their personal sojourn as STS thinkers. *The third roundtable* ('Decolonising STS') will critically engage with decolonial thought and turn the decolonial lens to knowledge production in STS itself. *The first evening plenary* ('In Memory of JPS Uberoi') will explore the contributions of the late Prof. JPS Uberoi to STS. In the *second plenary* (Fractal Margins of South Asia and Technoscience beyond Colonialism), scholars from other South Asian countries will speak about doing STS in their contexts (this session will be held in hybrid mode). Apart from these sessions, *three network panels* that focus on building STS infrastructure in India will be organised: Archiving and documenting ('Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums for STS'), pedagogies and curriculum ('STS in the Indian Classroom') and 'Publications and Digital Resources' respectively. *The parallel sessions* of the Conference are organised around five thematics: 1. Histories of Science & Technology (S&T) in India, 2. Feminist and Gendered Technoscience, 3. Environment, Ecology and Technoscience, 4. Digital Technologies, Data and Society, and 5. New and Emerging S&T (NEST). The parallel sessions will help us engage with the current debates in STS in India. There will also be ten poster presentations. *The concluding symposium* of the conference ('Collaborations and Steps Ahead') will explore possibilities of building the STS-India Network Society further ahead.

The individual papers and closed panels for the Conference were selected out of nearly 200 submissions received, through an independent peer review process that involved 55 experts from STS and allied fields.

The conference organising committee consists of Aalok Khandekar (IIT Hyderabad), Aswathy Raveendran (HBCSE-TIFR, Mumbai), Janaki Srinivasan (University of Oxford), Madhulika Banerjee (Delhi University), Mahendra Shahare (IIT Bombay), Misria Shaik Ali (IIT Delhi), Naveen Thayyil (IIT Delhi), Pankaj Sekhsaria (IIT Bombay), Rohit Negi (IIM Calcutta), Shiju Sam Varughese (Central University of Gujarat), Usha Raman (University of Hyderabad), Vidya Subramanian (Jindal Global University; Convenor of the Conference) and Yogita Suresh (Shiv Nadar University).

PROJECTS

Registration of STS-IN Society

The STS-IN is preparing to formally register the Network as a Society to conduct its activities in a more organised and structured way. The EC is in the process of developing a comprehensive document outlining the structure and bylaws of the Network that will be legally mandated for its registration as a Society. A subcommittee, with Shiju Sam Varughese and Yogita Suresh as members, is coordinating the efforts towards the registration of the STS-IN Society. The subcommittee will present its report and the draft of the bylaws of the proposed Society at the business session of the First STS-IN Conference.

Internal Complaints Committee

The STS-IN began the process of establishing its Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in early 2024. The process culminated in formally establishing the ICC in 2025 to ensure that all members can participate in the Network's intellectual and community spaces with safety, dignity, and trust. The subcommittee that worked towards the establishment of the ICC consisted of Aswathy Raveendran, Naveen Thayyil, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Usha Raman and Yogita Suresh. 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.

The inaugural ICC has the following members:

1. Pankaj Sekhsaria (Member, Conference organising committee)
2. Richa Kumar (Senior scholar and faculty, IIT Delhi)
3. Usha Raman (Member, Conference organising committee)
4. Yogita Suresh (Member, PhD scholar, SNU)

The Committee has established guidelines in reference to sexual harassment and a code of conduct for all members. It has also formulated anti-discrimination guidelines and established redressal mechanisms as well as a confidential point of contact.

Mailing List

An STS-IN mailing list (sts-india-network@googlegroups.com) has been active since 25 November 2023, serving as the primary channel of communication and interaction among the members. Joseph Satish provided technical assistance to launch the list. Currently the list is accessed by more than 370 members.

Website

The STS-IN launched its website (<https://stsin.org/>) in April 2024. The website serves as a means of communication to document the activities conducted by the STS-IN and also as a repository for academic literature on STS. The repository is still under construction, and we hope to establish it in 2026. Mahendra Shahare coordinates the website development and management.

Nexus: The STS-India Blog

Nexus, the STS-IN blog, was launched in 2024 (<https://stsin.org/nexus/>). The blog provides a platform for researchers to publish short, accessible write-ups to enhance and enrich STS in India, where they can weave together the complex threads of the social, the scientific, and the technical. The blog aims to create a space that encourages scholarly discourse that is more conversational and easily accessible to the larger public, thereby bringing together the different categories of people that make up the discipline of STS. Vidya Subramanian and Yogita Suresh are the editors of the blog. *Nexus* has published several pieces related to reflections on reading groups, issues of surveillance and debates surrounding social constructivism in STS.

It also features a series titled *Productive Disruptions* that includes contributions from graduate students and early career researchers in STS reflecting 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.

STS-IN Bibliography

STS-IN has compiled a comprehensive bibliography of works in the field of STS from South Asia (<https://stsin.org/zotero/>). The data set was made available on the website in August 2024. STS research in South Asia has a long history that dates back to the early twentieth century and this work-in-progress bibliography project aims to showcase the richness and diversity of this literature. This initiative is led by a subcommittee consisting of Shiju Sam Varughese (convenor), Kumar Gaurav (Central University of Gujarat) and Aalok Khandekar. The STS-IN Bibliography currently includes bibliographic details for over 1,300 entries. The data set was built on Zotero, an independent online open-source bibliographic data management platform that allows users to custom search the dataset and download the entries.

Social Media Handles

STS-IN launched its social media handles on *Instagram* (<https://www.instagram.com/stsindianetwork/>), *Bluesky* (<https://bsky.app/profile/stsindianetwork.bsky.social>) and *X*. (<https://x.com/STSIndiaNetwork>) in 2025. This allows researchers and interested members of the public to follow the network for timely updates on all its activities and programmes. An STS-IN WhatsApp group has also been active since December 2023, currently with more than 90 members. Yogita Suresh coordinates the social media related activities of the Network.

CONCLUSION

It is delightful to see that the STS-IN is gradually growing with several activities, projects and programmes. We hope that we will be able to maintain this momentum in the coming years while spreading our wings and establishing ourselves as a Society. On behalf of the EC of the STS-India Network, we thank all the members for their creative contributions and active participation in the Network.

Report prepared by the Executive Committee of the STS-India Network

12.12.2025