ABOUT THE INDIA INITIATIVE

The India Initiative, founded in November 2015, builds on Georgetown University’s core strengths—academic excellence, location in Washington, DC, and Jesuit mission of service to the world—to advance research and teaching around India and world affairs and create a platform for high-level dialogue among American and Indian leaders from government, business, civil society, and the academy.

ABOUT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Established in 1789, Georgetown is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in the United States. One of the world’s leading academic and research institutions, Georgetown enrolls more than 17,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across nine schools. A global institution, Georgetown provides a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. The university’s educational mission and international partnerships seek to advance the global common good.
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INDIA INITIATIVE
of Georgetown University

India in Georgetown

The initiative brings India to Georgetown through:

• Curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students
• Hindi language courses
• India-focused courses and events

Georgetown in India

The initiative brings Georgetown to India through:

• Student travel - study abroad, India Innovation Studio trips
• Student and faculty research support
• Fulbright and Critical Language Scholarship winners

Flow of Ideas and People

The initiative supports the exchange of ideas and people through:

• India Ideas Conference
• FICCI India-US Forum of Parliamentarians
• Georgetown Leadership Seminar
• Fulbright-Nehru Scholars
• International Visitor Leadership Program guests
• Indiaspora Philanthropy Conference
• U.S.-India Knowledge Exchange
The India Initiative was begun in 2015 with the goal of making Georgetown University a premier hub for conversations about India and U.S.-India relations. While much remains to be done to fulfill the full scale of that ambition, we are humbled by how far we have come in just a few years.

The initiative has helped bring over a hundred different events and speakers to campus over the past three years, and the breadth of our programming has widened. While political and policy discussions dominate, as befits our location in the capital of the United States, during the 2018-2019 academic year we also supported major cultural events featuring world-class musicians and dancers such as Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna, Sufi singer Zila Khan, and the ever-popular Georgetown tradition of Rangila. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors or the logistical backing of our many partners on campus.

The most gratifying outcome of this collective effort on India is the engagement of our students. This year Georgetown had two Fulbright-Nehru fellows in India, and, by year’s end, another two students had won this prestigious post-graduate fellowship. Three recent graduates have taken full-time positions with IDInsight, a leading research organization in New Delhi, joining other young Hoyas who are hungry for the professional opportunities today’s India offers. This flow of people and ideas from the Hilltop to India is fueled by student trips organized by the Center for Social Justice, Research and Teaching’s MAGIS program; the McDonough School of Business’s Global Business Experience program; and the Walsh School of Foreign Service’s Centennial Lab initiative. In fall 2019, Sara Rotenberg (NHS’20) and Kyra Kocis (SFS’20), both of whom have spent considerable time in India over the past two years on university-sponsored global experiences, won Rhodes and Marshall scholarships respectively. Our students and graduates are the best advertisements for the value of a Georgetown education, and this sustained, multifaceted engagement with India is being reciprocated by rising enrollment of Indian students in Georgetown’s world-renowned undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

We hope you share our pride and excitement as you read about our inspiring faculty, students, and guests in this annual report. We could not – indeed, we would not – do any of this work without you, and we welcome your ideas and continued partnership to do even more. Hoya Saxa!

Sincerely,

Irfan Nooruddin
Director
Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor of Indian Politics
The 2019 India Ideas Conference focused on India’s strategic importance, democratic culture, economic potential, and the 2019 elections with the theme “India in Transition.” Taking a forward-looking approach to India in a moment of transition, the conference addressed the 2019 elections, infrastructure development and urban growth, innovation in business and social impact sectors, geopolitics in South Asia, and Indian identity. The 2019 conference was a collaborative, solutions-oriented platform, convening thought leaders from the United States and India to explore India’s complexities, challenges, and opportunities in an era of social and economic change.

Sponsors of the 2019 conference included McLarty Associates, the Asia Group, Indiaspora, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SOCIAL IMPACT AT SCALE
Prerna Mukharya – Founder, Outline India
K. Thiagarajan – COO, Agastya International Foundation
Elizabeth Vasquez – CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International
Roopal Shah – Education Advisor, Embassy of India; Co-Founder, Indicorps (moderator)

PHILANTHROPY FOR IMPACT
Megha Desai – President, Desai Foundation
Suresh Shenoy – Board of Directors, WHEELS Global Foundation; Executive Vice President, Alyx Technologies
Smita Siddhanti – Founder, EnDyna
Alex Counts – Former President and CEO, Grameen Foundation (moderator)

BUILDING INDIA
Sujoy Bose – CEO and Managing Director, National Investment & Infrastructure Fund of India (NIIF)
Penny Anne Bodle – Partner, Head of EMEA IR, Softbank Investment Advisors
Rajan Bharti Mittal – Former President, FICCI; Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises
Sunil Madan – Adjunct Faculty, Steers Center for Global Real Estate (moderator)

THE RISE OF HEALTH-TECH
Shelley Saxena – Founder, Sevamob
Sara Eapen – Vice President, Aetion Inc.
Rajesh Veeraraghavan – Assistant Professor, Georgetown University (moderator)
TOP LEFT
Barkha Dutt analyzes freedom of speech and India’s media landscape.

TOP RIGHT
Ambassador Teresita Schaffer reflects on her experiences with crisis diplomacy in South Asia.

BOTTOM LEFT
Panelists discuss India’s 2019 elections.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Penny Bodle assesses investment in India.
INDIA IDEAS PANELS AND KEYNOTES

Opening Keynote
Sandip Somany, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Government of India Chief Economic Advisor
Milan Vaishnav, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace South Asia Program (moderator)

From the Campaign Trail: Jayant Sinha
Jayant Sinha, Indian Ministry of State for Civil Aviation

Keynote: The Modern Media Landscape
Barkha Dutt, Journalist and Author
Irfan Nooruddin, Georgetown University (moderator)

2019 Elections
Rick Rossow, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Seema Sirohi, Economic Times
Milan Vaishnav, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace South Asia Program (moderator)

Plenary Session: Crisis Diplomacy in South Asia
Ambassador Hussain Haqqani, Former Pakistani Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the United States
Ambassador Teresita Schaffer, Former U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka
Dhruva Jaishankar, Brookings Institution
Ambassador Richard Verma, The Asia Group (moderator)

Closing Plenary: The Significance of a Century
Ramachandra Guha, Historian and Author
Georgetown University has long served as an international convening power in Washington, DC—attracting leaders from a variety of industries and disciplines for constructive discourse. Drawing on this strength, the India Initiative invites leading academics, industry practitioners, and policy experts to engage in dialogue with the Georgetown community. India Initiative events raise awareness in political and scholarly communities as well as among the broader public about pressing issues facing India. The India Initiative strives to make Indian culture accessible to the Georgetown community by engaging with leading artists, performers, religious leaders, and intellectuals to host Indian cultural events and discussions.
TRANSFORMATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM: LITIGATING AGAINST SECTION 377

In September 2018, the Supreme Court of India overturned Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, a colonial-era law that criminalized homosexuality. On February 7, 2019, the India Initiative—in partnership with Georgetown Law organizations Georgetown Law Outlaw, Georgetown South Asian Law Students Association, and Georgetown Center for Asian Law—hosted Dr. Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju, who litigated the Supreme Court case to decriminalize homosexuality in India. In a conversation with Sunu Chandy, the legal director of the National Women’s Law Center, they discussed their careers, their activism work for LGBTQ rights, and the importance of constitutional law.

A GLASS HALF FULL

In partnership with South Asia Policy & Research Initiative (SAPRI) and Georgetown’s Asian Studies and Human Development Programs, on March 20, 2019 the India Initiative hosted Dr. Sanjay Kathuria, a lead economist in the World Bank’s South Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, to speak about his work on the World Bank report *A Glass Half Full: The Promise of Regional Trade in South Asia*. *A Glass Half Full* documents the gaps between current and potential trade in South Asia and unpacks critical barriers to trade in the region—including tariff and non-tariff barriers, connectivity costs, and trust deficits. The report also offers policy recommendations for deeper regional trade integration.

STEVE COLL

On September 24, 2018 prominent American journalist Steve Coll discussed his latest book, *Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America’s Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan*. Resuming the narrative of his earlier Pulitzer Prize-winning work *Ghost Wars*, in *Directorate S* Coll tells for the first time the story of America’s intelligence, military, and diplomatic efforts to defeat Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan since 9/11. Coll currently serves as the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University and also served from 2007 to 2013 as president of the New America Foundation, a public policy institute in Washington, DC. In his time as a journalist, Coll served in Delhi for a number of years as the *Washington Post*’s South Asia bureau chief before returning to the United States to write for the *New Yorker*. 
CULTURAL EVENTS

ZILA KHAN

As part of the Embassy of India’s India@70 Celebrations and the India Initiative’s ongoing commitment to bringing India to Georgetown by promoting cultural diplomacy between India and the United States, on September 16, 2018 the initiative hosted renowned Sufi musician Zila Khan. Khan sings classical and semi-classical musical forms and performs in the tradition of Imdadkhani gharana. She sings in eight different languages and was awarded the prestigious “Roll of Honor” by former prime minister Manmohan Singh. Khan also has experience as a composer, director, and actress and works with India’s Tourism Ministry as a representative of Indian heritage and culture.

RANGILA

Keeping in the spirit of inclusivity and cultural exchange, Georgetown University’s South Asian Society is one of the university’s most active cultural organizations. The South Asian Society seeks to raise awareness of South Asian culture, ideas, and issues through cultural dialogue, academic panels, and charity events. Rangila, the largest of the group’s events of the fall semester, is 23 years old and is the largest charity showcase on the eastern seaboard, with over 500 students participating. In November 2018 it featured 12 South Asian fusion dances performed in historic Gaston Hall. All proceeds from the show benefited Lend A Hand India, a nonprofit focused on providing career development resources and vocational skill training for youth in India.

HASAN MINHAJ

The India Initiative was excited to partner with Georgetown University’s South Asian Society in bringing Hasan Minhaj to Georgetown on March 28, 2019. Famous for his work as a comedian, actor, and writer, Minhaj is well-known for his Netflix shows Homecoming King and Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj. His visit to Georgetown included a moderated discussion in Gaston Hall on his career in comedy, the role of comedy and satire in political discourse, and the importance of Minhaj’s South Asian identity to his work.
TOP LEFT
Georgetown students perform at Rangila 2018.

TOP RIGHT
Zila Khan performs Carnatic music.

BOTTOM
Hasan Minhaj speaks about his career in comedy.
School of Foreign Service Dean Joel Hellman meets with members of a delegation from the FICCI Indo-U.S. Forum of Parliamentarians as part of a Georgetown-hosted workshop.

Indian Ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla reviews the evolution of Indian diplomacy.

Participants discuss their research on the Indian Ocean at a two-day conference co-sponsored by Georgetown University in Qatar.
TOP RIGHT
Pek Koon Heng-Blackburn speaks about nationalism and religion in the Indian Ocean region.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Dancers from Manav Sadhna perform Jai Jagat.
UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT

The India Initiative is committed to expanding educational opportunities for students. In addition to bringing practitioners and experts on Indian politics, industry, and culture to campus, the India Initiative promotes opportunities for innovative cross-curricular classes, issue-focused travel, and academic research. The initiative promotes project-based experiential learning through the India Innovation Studio, facilitates student travel to meet with local stakeholders and engage with the communities they study, and supports student research on India in topics ranging from environmental conservation to public policy to international security.
ICRDCE PARTNERSHIP

The Indian Center for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) was founded in 1999 by Fr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J. The center coordinates a network of 174 community colleges that prepare young people for the labor market and imbue them with Jesuit values of social responsibility. Over the past decade, the center has trained 2,900 teachers and served 125,000 students. In 2018, Georgetown initiated a partnership with ICRDCE to improve teacher training and evaluate and implement best practices across the center’s network.

U.S.-INDIA WOMEN’S ALLIANCE

India Initiative is proud to be part of the U.S.-India Alliance for Women’s Economic Empowerment, a public-private partnership to accelerate the growth of women-owned or -operated businesses and women’s workforce participation in India by increasing access to finance, mentoring, and technical assistance. Members include the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, Georgetown University, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

As part of this project, Georgetown students from the India Innovation Lab course worked to identify potential partners doing work in women’s leadership, job market, and skills training.
INDIA INNOVATION STUDIO – WORLD BANK IRRIGATION RESEARCH

The India Innovation Studio is a solutions-based course that examines policy problems in India from a multidisciplinary perspective. Over the course of a year, students develop scalable approaches to India’s challenges in both urban and rural contexts. This year’s studio partnered with the World Bank to research bureaucratic resiliency and reform in irrigation governance. As part of the World Bank’s Canal Irrigation State Cases Report, students researched, analyzed data, conducted interviews, and drafted findings on irrigation governance in five Indian states. As part of the School of Foreign Service’s Centennial Labs program, the studio also included a week-long trip to India that provided students the opportunity to discuss irrigation governance with policymakers and other stakeholders.

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS PROGRAM – MAGIS: INDIA

The Center for Social Justice, Research and Teaching’s Alternative Breaks Program is designed to bring Georgetown community members together to foster intersectional solidarity and inspire lasting commitments to service and social justice through direct service, immersion, and reflection. Magis: India, a collaborative trip between the Office of Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Justice, focuses on cultural and societal factors related to public health care and its accessibility for the marginalized. This program encourages participants not only to examine health care access in India, but also to discover how their own identities fit into the power dynamics of accessibility, both in India and in Washington, DC.
FULBRIGHT SPOTLIGHT

KATIE HYLAND
As a Fulbright-Nehru English Teaching Assistant, Katie Hyland (C’18) worked at Baptist Girls’ School in Kolkata. She supplemented her students’ regular curriculum with classes that helped them practice their English in an informal setting. Hyland also planned lessons that helped them exercise their creativity with art and games and organized a pen-pal program where they wrote to students in Waltham, Massachusetts. Her students continue to write her letters to practice their English and stay in touch. In addition to teaching, Hyland took Bengali lessons, attended historical tours of Kolkata, and during school holidays visited the Himalayas and the Sundarbans.

AINSLEY TRAHAN
Ainsley Trahan (SFS’19) is a Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Scholar working with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies in Mumbai. She is researching the gendered effect of heat waves on Mumbai’s vulnerable populations. Climate change is causing heat waves to grow in frequency and intensity, but they garner relatively little attention in comparison to other disasters. Through her research, Trahan hopes to contribute to building a stronger narrative around the severity of these disasters, and to point to the need for more inclusive adaptation and mitigation measures. Alongside her research she is taking intensive Hindi classes.

DREW DIPRINZIO
Drew DiPrinzio (B’17) was a Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Scholar with the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management. He researched ways for the government to support agricultural technology startups. The research focused on agricultural data and open data platforms. DiPrinzio also organized a conference to discuss the role of the public and private sectors in creating new applications for agricultural data. The conference convened government officials, startup founders, venture capital investors, and experts on farmer organizations.
TOP LEFT
India Innovation Studio students visit a watermelon farm to better understand village-level water management.

TOP RIGHT
Gabriel Perez-Alvarez (SFS’21) checks the news on the way to a government meeting on Mumbai infrastructure.

BOTTOM LEFT
India Innovation Studio students learn about irrigation and companion planting.
India Innovation Studio students visit a reforestation test site.

India Innovation Studio students visit Maharashtra’s War Room to learn about infrastructure projects in Mumbai.

India Innovation Studio students visit Maharashtra to learn about drought and water management.
In addition to providing educational opportunities to students for curricular and experiential learning, the India Initiative is committed to supporting faculty efforts in discovering and communicating new knowledge about India and its role in world affairs. The initiative draws on the deep and broad expertise on India found throughout the university. Scholars across Georgetown’s nine schools explore multidisciplinary issues related to India, and faculty collaborations with institutions on the subcontinent are increasing.
COILIN PARSONS

Cóilín Parsons is an associate professor in the English Department, Georgetown College, and a member of the India Initiative Faculty Advisory Committee. His work focuses on twentieth century literature in English from Ireland, India, and South Africa.

He is currently working on a book called *The Novel and the Planet*, which looks at the ways novelists at the turn of the last century represented, translated, and reimagined the insights that advances in astronomy gave into our place in the universe. As part of this project, Parsons has undertaken archival work in astronomical observatories in India. At St. Xavier’s College in Kolkata, a Jesuit school, Parsons studied the impact of the work of Fr. Eugene Lafont, S.J., on climate science, and on the career of the physicist and short story writer Jagadish Chandra Bose. Parsons has also conducted extensive research at Osmania University in Hyderabad, where he studied the history of Nizamia Observatory.

CHANDAN VAIDYA

Chandan Vaidya is a professor and chair in the Department of Psychology and is affiliated faculty with the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience at Georgetown University Medical Center and the Children’s Research Institute at Children’s National Medical Center. She is also a member of the India Initiative Faculty Advisory Committee.

Vaidya’s work focuses on characterizing the neurobiological basis of goal-directed purposeful behavior and how this influences metabolic functioning and early development of psychiatric disorders. She also works to discover the roots of these problems through the Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (DCNL). The DCNL links behavior to brain by isolating cognitive processes in healthy people and in those with executive functioning problems in psychiatric and metabolic conditions. Researchers then image these cognitive processes in the brain with functional magnetic resonance imaging.

Vaidya teaches undergraduate and graduate cognitive neuroscience courses, serves as a research mentor, and teaches about neuroscience internationally. Vaidya recently conducted a two-week intensive course on Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience at the Center for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Allahabad, India under the Global Initiative for Academic Networks, an initiative of the Government of India.

SELECT 2018-2019 COURSES ON INDIA

**ANTH-185**
GLOBAL SOUTH ASIA

**ASST-001/021**
INTRODUCTORY AND INTERMEDIATE HINDI

**ASST-404**
RELIGION IN MODERN SOUTH ASIA

**ENGL-197**
POSTCOLONIAL NOVEL: INDIAN OCEAN

**GBUS-461**
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CITIES: LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

**INAF-212**
DEMOCRACY AND INEQUALITY: INSIGHTS FROM INDIA

**INAF-311/312**
INDIA INNOVATION STUDIO

**INAF-431**
SOUTH ASIA: ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE

**SEST-573**
SECURITY ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA