



# India



FROM TOP LEFT: MUMBAI SKYLINE IN EVENING LIGHT © CHAMANZINGA/DREAMSTIME.COM; AGRASEN KI BAOLI, STEP WELL IN NEW DELHI © SURONIN/DREAMSTIME.COM; TEA GARDEN IN MUNNAR, KERALA © ARAVIND TEKI/DREAMSTIME.COM; THE EDEN GARDENS IN KOLKATA © PARTHA BHAUMIK.



LSE's world-renowned, inter-disciplinary expertise makes the South Asia Centre the ideal place to engage with India – whose complex particularities constantly challenge conventional social science thinking – and which holds the key to understanding how South Asia may emerge from being a regional power to a global force in what promises to be the Asian century.

**Dr Mukulika Banerjee**, Director, South Asia Centre

# South Asia Centre

Established in 2015, the South Asia Centre marks a step-change in LSE's engagement with India and the wider region. LSE has more than 80 subject experts whose teaching and research interests concern South Asia: the Centre harnesses this world class inter- and multi-disciplinary expertise to underwrite the School's fundamental mission of impacting public awareness through informed knowledge.

All activities of the Centre focus on public engagement and impact, human and skills development, and the creation of a global platform to engage with South Asia. India figures prominently on this map as one of the fastest growing economies, a dynamic democracy, and a geo-strategic powerhouse in what promises to be the Asian century. According to the latest report from the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy is the 'bright spot in the global landscape', and by 2030 it will have the largest and youngest workforce in the world.

The South Asia Centre is committed to engage with all sectors of society through capacity-building collaborations, research activities and events both in India and in the United Kingdom. The Centre's blog 'South Asia@LSE' is now one of the most important portals for issues of contemporary interest in India.

## India: Futures Present

Research on India is a global phenomenon, with every aspect of the country subject to academic scrutiny, debate, discussion, and analyses. The South Asia Centre networks with over 50 academics and researchers within LSE whose teaching and research expertise is on India either directly or indirectly.

The Centre is working to develop a dedicated community of researchers to develop a futuristic research agenda for India – one that builds on the strength of current global research, and addresses foreseeable issues of interest and concern in India over the next few decades – making the Centre the hub for India-related issues in the UK.

### Select themes include

- Youth, Skills and Leadership
- Political Futures of Democracy
- Living Heritage, Cultural Industries and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Water, Energy and Food Security
- Mental Health and Social Awareness
- Ageing and Infrastructure
- The Diaspora in India
- Regional to Global Muscle
- Social Media and Knowledge
- Education and Identity

'India: Futures Present' will comprise multiple elements of cross-cutting research and academic exercise, including focused research themes and clusters; Visiting Professorships and Senior Fellowships; Junior Fellowships; seminars, conferences, public lectures and other academic events; and internships and diffusion programmes for delegations from India. Through this, the Centre aims to contribute to capacity and skills development by working with governments, community leaders, businesses, higher education institutions, think-tanks, and NGOs alongside our alumni to create international networks of academics, business leaders and professionals to link up and debate India in a global future. An important aim of the South Asia Centre is to engage with the central and state governments through capacity-building initiatives and research-based policy planning.

A central component of LSE's engagement with India has been through its interactions with the Indian government. LSE has had several engagements with different government and parastatal organisations in meaningful dialogue and research; it has also worked with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and, until recently, hosted the Chevening-Gurukul Programme for mid-career Indians for 15 years, sponsored by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

### Supporting 'India: Futures Present'

To curate and sustain a dedicated India programme, the Centre needs to raise funds in committed donations and endowments to drive innovative, cutting-edge research, payable as a capital endowment or through serial deposits over the years. You can support any part of 'India: Futures Present' by making a donation of any amount to the South Asia Centre. Your name will be associated with your sponsorship, will appear in all related publicity materials, and will be included in the Annual Report.

Please write to Dr Mukulika Banerjee, Director, South Asia Centre, at [southasiacentre@lse.ac.uk](mailto:southasiacentre@lse.ac.uk) for further information.

### Practitioners-in-Residence

This is a six-week residential scheme for serving officers of the Ministry of External Affairs to be based at the South Asia Centre in LSE and develop a research paper on India's relations with the new international order.

### Delegations

In its first year, the South Asia Centre hosted 2 delegations of students sponsored by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India as part of the 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar. The Centre is actively building relations with the central and state governments, higher education institutions and businesses to host delegations of officers, students and other professionals for short-term stays at LSE.

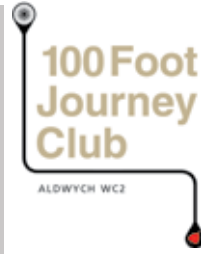
### India in the UK

The Centre works closely with the High Commission of India and the Nehru Centre in London, and other major British institutions to develop a calendar of programmes and events focusing on different aspects of modern India.

## RECENT VISITS & EVENTS (2015–16)

**Shobhana Bhartia (Chairperson, The Hindustan Times Group), S.Y. Quraishi (former Chief Election Commissioner of India), Sumathi Ramaswamy (Professor of History, Duke University) and Amitav Ghosh (award-winning novelist and author).**

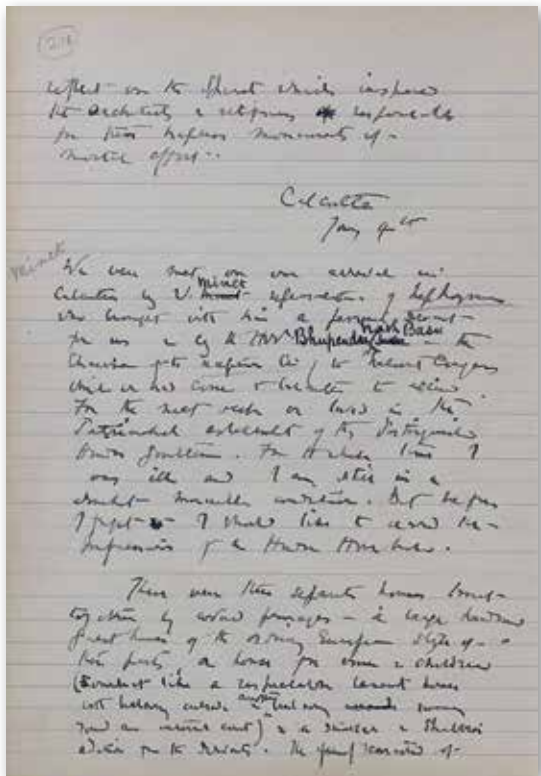
The **100 Foot Journey Club** was established in May 2016 to formalise the South Asia Centre's engagement with the High Commission of India in London – just about 100 feet away from LSE. It organises collaborative events, and celebrates LSE's long relationship with India. **Inaugural event:** Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India spoke on 'Rethinking the Global Monetary System' on 10 May 2016.



## LSE and India

LSE has had a long and rewarding relationship with India, attracting its best minds to come here to study, and in turn enrich the institution with their own energy. This mutual exchange has several important markers in LSE's proud history with India:

- In 1911-12, Sidney & Beatrice Webb travelled through India; Beatrice Webb kept a detailed diary of her travels, often reflecting on how much she learnt from her visit;
- Sir Ratan Tata made an endowment for a Professorial Chair to encourage research on India's economy & labour in 1913; Clement Attlee, later Prime Minister of Britain, was a holder of this Chair;
- Mr Nandlal Maneklal Mazumdar was the first non-European President of the LSE Student's Union as early as 1912.



BEATRICE WEBB'S DIARY FROM 4 JANUARY 1912 RECORDING HER VISIT TO CALCUTTA, ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND SIDNEY.

In 2015-16, Indian students at LSE number amongst the highest from a single country: we have 336 students from India – 107 undergraduates and 229 postgraduates – across 25 departments, and the Indian Students Society is one of the most vibrant in the School. LSE currently hosts the prestigious Sir Ratan Tata Post-Doctoral Fellowships, a relationship which began with a generous grant from Sir Ratan Tata in 1913; and more recently, the I. G. Patel Chair, funded by the Reserve Bank of India.

## LSE SU India Society

LSE SU India society is the largest and most active India-focused society on campus. It promotes Indian culture and celebrates major Indian festivals, hosts Bollywood nights and organises social events regularly. The India Society also hosts an annual conference that brings together eminent figures from India to deliver lectures on contemporary issues in India.



## Alumni

Over the last century, LSE has welcomed thousands of students from India, several of whom have since had illustrious careers in different parts of the world, and especially in India. Famous Indian alumni include Dr B R Ambedkar, architect of the Indian constitution; former President Dr K R Narayanan; Chief Minister Jyoti Basu; and former Permanent Representative of India to the UN Krishna Menon, amongst several others.

Alumni from India rank amongst the largest and most global, with hundreds of registered alumni working in several countries. According to latest figures (2013-14) LSE's Indian graduates are spread all over the world, working in the Financial sector (25%), Manufacturing & Retail (11%), Media, Publishing, PR & Advertising (9%), Law (4%), the non-governmental sector (5%) academics/research (12%) and politics/government (8%). There are active Alumni chapters in Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, and others being formed in Hyderabad and elsewhere.



## Celebrating India

The South Asia Centre organised the first LSE India Summit in Goa in January 2016 – a series of panel discussions over 2 days on Global Finance, India and West Asia, Civil Society, and Infrastructure. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of independence, the South Asia Centre will bring global experts to India in a specially curated 'India @ 70' event in New Delhi on 29-31 March 2017; simultaneously, we will celebrate the India-UK Year of Culture in the UK in 2017.



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### **LSE Institute of Global Affairs**

The South Asia Centre is a part of the LSE Institute of Global Affairs.

The Institute of Global Affairs offers a space dedicated to cutting-edge research, policy engagement and teaching across multiple disciplines to pioneer inclusive and locally-rooted responses to global challenges.

**[lse.ac.uk/iga](https://lse.ac.uk/iga)**

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