India Initiative

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
The India Initiative, founded in November 2015, builds on Georgetown University’s core strengths—academic excellence, location in Washington, D.C., 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.

India’s economic potential, democratic culture, and strategic importance make it a key player across a range of global challenges, including politics and identity, economic participation and innovation, technology and communication, environment and energy, and security. The India Initiative, a university-wide effort centered in the Walsh School of Foreign Service and its Asian Studies Program, builds knowledge and fosters dialogue around these and other issues of critical importance for India, the United States, and the world.

2016 Distinguished Fellow
As a 2016 India Initiative distinguished fellow, Rajdeep Sardesai of the India Today Group shoots a television interview with Georgetown students about the U.S. election.

World Bank Report Launch

The View from New Delhi
MP Jay Panda and MP Anurag Thakur give a talk at an initiative-sponsored event at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace during the FICCI Indo-U.S. Forum of Parliamentarians.

Low-Carbon Agriculture
Richie Ahuja, Asia director at the Environmental Defense Fund, gives a lecture on climate-smart agriculture in rural South Asia at the McCourt School of Public Policy.

“The Georgetown University India Initiative brings together Georgetown faculty and other experts from across sectors and around the world to advance research, teaching, and intellectual exchange on India, which has emerged as a key player across a range of global challenges in recent years.”

– John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University
The India Innovation Studio: Designing for Droughts is a studio-based course taught through a multidisciplinary lens in Georgetown’s Walsh School of Foreign Service. The class operates in partnership with government and civil society stakeholders to design, prototype, and implement a solution to a development problem facing India. Each year, the course examines a different challenge. This year, the topic is drought, which is particularly timely given indications that a severe drought is underway in Maharashtra.

The India Innovation Studio is team taught in modules led by Professors Irfan Nooruddin and Mark Giordano. In fall 2016, students explored the political and hydrological dimensions of drought. The spring semester focuses on the policy, economic, and ethical dimensions of potential solutions, which students will design working in close collaboration with experts in the field, stakeholders, and the Maharashtra government. The design-thinking component of the course exposes students to the nature and complexity of development problems and encourages them to identify solutions that are cohesive and multidimensional by visually mapping solutions.

During the duration of the course, students work in groups, identifying specific aspects of the drought they will focus on and attempt to solve. Select students will be offered the opportunity to travel to Mumbai, located in the state of Maharashtra, during the summer of 2017 to present policy recommendations to high-level officials in the Maharashtra government.

India Initiative Director

Irfan Nooruddin is director of the Georgetown University India Initiative, the Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor of Indian Politics, and the faculty chair at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He is currently affiliated with Lokniti: Programme for Comparative Democracy in New Delhi, India, and has been a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. His research focuses on economic development, democratization, and civil conflict. He co-authored Elections in Hard Times (2016, Cambridge University Press) with T. E. Flores.

Select Courses

- ANTH-185 Global South Asia
- HIST-129 Modern South Asia
- INAF-287 Politics of India
- INAF-311/312 India Innovation Studio: Designing for Droughts
- INAF-431 South Asia: Issues of War/Pace
- THEO-051 Hinduism Today
GUII Distinguished Fellow

Rajdeep Sardesai

Rajdeep Sardesai is a consulting editor at the India Today Group with 28 years of journalistic experience in print and television. He was the founder and editor-in-chief of the IBN-18 Network, which includes CNN-IBN, IBN7, and IBN-Lokmat. Prior to launching the IBN network, Sardesai was a managing editor of NDTV 24 x 7 and NDTV India. He has won more than 100 national and international awards for journalism, including the Padma Shri (fourth highest civilian honor) in 2008. During his career, he has covered major national and international stories, specializing in national politics. His book *2014: The Election that Changed India* is a national bestseller. He has a bachelor of arts, bachelor of civil law, and an M.A. from University College, Oxford.

GUII Distinguished Fellow

Sagarika Ghose

Sagarika Ghose is an Indian journalist, news anchor, and author. During her 26-year career, she has worked at the *Times of India*, *Outlook*, and the *Indian Express*. She was the deputy editor and a prime-time anchor on the news network CNN-IBN. Ghose has won several awards in journalism and is the author of two novels, *The Gin Drinkers* and *Blind Faith*. She is now consulting editor at the *Times of India* and hosts the show *Capital View* on ET NOW. She has received numerous awards for journalism, including the ITA Best Anchor Award from the Indian Television Academy in 2013. She holds a B.A. in history from St. Stephen’s College, Delhi and an M. Phil. from St. Antony’s College, Oxford.
SEED GRANTS

The India Initiative holds a yearly university-wide competition for collaborative grants designed to bring together faculty with Indian colleagues to advance research on U.S. and Indian approaches to global issues.

Research topics typically concentrate on one of the initiative’s key areas of focus, including politics and identity, economic participation and innovation, technology and communication, environment and energy, and security.

2016 AWARDS

Collaborations Between Georgetown and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore
Richard Weiss, Department of Chemistry, Georgetown College

Measuring the Impact of Real Estate Investment Trusts in India
Matthew Cypher, Edward Walter, and Sunil Madan, McDonough School of Business

Rethinking India’s Rise to Global Prominence: Challenges and Opportunities for Culture and Identity
Henry Schwarz, Colin Parsons, and Ananya Chakravarti, Departments of English and History, Georgetown College

Georgetown Hindu Chaplain Brahmachari Sharan and Protestant Chaplain Brandon Harris discuss campus religious diversity with the Fulbright-Nehru International Administrators Seminar at Georgetown.