



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

INDIA INSTITUTE

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM INDIA INSTITUTE 2022

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## ANNUAL REPORT

# WELCOME



*Image: Professor Robin Mason,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International),  
University of Birmingham*

This is the fourth annual report for the University of Birmingham India Institute, and I am delighted that this year represented the most positive engagement for us since the start of the pandemic. This is all the more pleasing since it coincided with the 75th anniversary of India's Independence; and with the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Birmingham—on which, more below. We were finally able once again to visit India, to re-engage with old friends and to establish some exciting new initiatives. And we held a number of events on our campus enabling us to welcome visitors from India and to celebrate with our local community.

At the start of the year, the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR: the traditional starting event for the Commonwealth Games) reached India. The University was the Official Global University Partner of the QBR. We were honoured that Vinisha Umashankar agreed to carry the baton on our behalf. Vinisha was a finalist in Prince William's 'Earth Shot Prize' for her solar-powered ironing cart and spoke at COP26—a truly remarkable young lady.

We had many figures from the world of politics and business come and speak at the University. A real highlight for us was hosting Sadhguru: the first time we have welcomed such a spiritual leader. He launched his hugely important mission to raise awareness of soil degradation. His conversation with Lord Bilimoria before a packed house was a revelation.

Returning once more to the Commonwealth Games: Birmingham was transformed by the events which took place all around the city; our beautiful campus hosted hockey and squash. I managed to see some of the cricket (the Indian women played some superb cricket) and hockey matches, and it was an incredible atmosphere. This made me reflect on our sports collaborations in India: with Inspire Academy, part of the JSW group; and with the Sports Authority of India, with whom we are discussing how we can support their development of elite coaching and athletic performance, as we help India's vision to develop into a sporting powerhouse in more than just cricket.

The importance of India to our institution and to our region was demonstrated first in the visit by Andy Street, the West Midlands Mayor, whom I accompanied to Hyderabad and Mumbai to present our expertise in the field of health data. While some may think of the so-called "Golden Triangle" of Oxford, Cambridge and London, Birmingham and the West Midlands have a wealth of capacity and expertise in Life Sciences. These were ably demonstrated by Professor Jean-Baptiste Cazier from our Centre for Computational Biology and Professor Elizabeth Sapey from the University's Institute of Inflammation and Aging. This visit was a huge success, and a really strong example of how we work hand-in-hand with the regional government when working abroad.

Within two weeks of the visit by Mayor Andy Street, our Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Tickell visited India in November, spending time with a number of partners, alumni and stakeholders. At IIT Madras, he signed an agreement on what we expect to develop into being a

signature engagement in India. This will result in students benefitting from our shared strengths, but also our individual differences, to get the best of both institutions by being awarded a single degree: a first for a UK Russell Group and IIT partnership.

Now that the pandemic has abated, we are preparing to welcome Assistant Professor Anindita Sahoo from IIT Madras, who is spending time at UoB under the India Institute's "Women in Research" Fellowship scheme. This is once again open, as we look to encourage and celebrate female participation in research across any discipline. We are incredibly proud of this scheme, and it has been hugely successful in establishing and supporting links between our academics and researchers from across India.

In a packed schedule, Professor Tickell was also struck by the warmth and hospitality he received when visiting our partners at Amity and Manipal and he was able to sign agreements and MoU's relating to our research in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Hydrogen and Rail.

This year's Diwali was the first in-person event for three years. While the Online Diwalis were extremely popular (particularly the Ghungroo dance), this year we focussed on our existing Indian staff and students who came along in traditional Indian dresses, and danced all the way through the event, even through the exceptional speech by colleague Luke Wales. With Henna painting, traditional music and food, and Diya painting, the event was a reminder of the true spirit of Diwali.

I continue to be impressed with the India Institute team both in the UK and India, who exceed expectations. I am particularly delighted to congratulate Dipankar Chakraborty who, in recognition of the outstanding contribution he has made over the past few years, has been elevated to the position of Regional Director, responsible for our recruitment and partnership work across South Asia. To support Dipankar, we increased the team by three additional staff members based in India. This is a concrete example of the importance the University of Birmingham places in this region.

I look forward to 2023 with optimism and as I write this at the start of January, we already have a pipeline of exciting developments which will populate this introduction when we prepare the India Institute Annual Report for 2023.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

1,929

Twitter followers with over 109,400 impressions

6



incoming Indian government and university delegations to UoB

12



new partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) agreements signed

57



outgoing UoB students to India on Turing Scheme

110



staff members of Indian origin

33



activities (visits, workshops, cultural events) on campus and in-country

2



major high profile international events

Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE):

£121 million

UoB India work mentioned in media coverage (India):

4,716 articles

With a potential audience of

1.2 billion

709



new Indian students studying at UoB

90%

increase from 2021

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



L-R clockwise: Vinisha and Dipankar Chakraborty, Regional Director, South Asia and Middle East, UoB; Vinisha with Anne-Marie Trevelyan, former Secretary of State for International Trade; Alexander Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, Vinisha and Dipankar.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES QUEEN'S BATON RELAY (QBR) IN INDIA, 12-15 JANUARY 2022

The University of Birmingham was the official Global University Partner for the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022. QBR arrived in India in January. One of our batonbearers was Vinisha Umashankar, a 15-year-old innovator and entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu who spoke at COP26, and presented the baton to the Secretary of State. She participated in an "in conversation" with Lord Bilimoria to talk about her inspiration in becoming an innovator at the age of 12 and her aspiration for the future. During the QBR period, our India Office team worked with our partner institutions and stakeholders in Delhi and ran a series of events to celebrate the arrival of the baton. We co-hosted a panel discussion with the British High Commission in India on diversifying the future STEM industry. We co-led a panel discussion on the future of work and gender equality with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). We jointly delivered a workshop on sustainable cold chain with the Indian Government of Telangana, and we worked with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) on a joint panel on applied science for sports performance.



Images: Sadhguru; Omaar Singh, Chief of Staff to Lord Bilimoria; Mr Luke Wales, Director of International Strategic Engagement, Birmingham Global; Lord Karan Bilimoria, Chancellor of the University, Prof Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Sadhguru, Lord Karan Bilimoria, Chancellor of the University; Sadhguru speaking; image on the right: Lord Karan Bilimoria in conversation with Sadhguru.

## SADHGURU IN CONVERSATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHANCELLOR LORD KARAN BILIMORIA, 19 MARCH 2022

The speaker for this year's India Institute Annual Distinguished Guest Lecture was Sadhguru, a world-renowned Indian Yogi, *New York Times* bestselling author and climate change campaigner. The high profile event was hosted on campus in the Great Hall where the Chancellor Lord Bilimoria was "in conversation with Sadhguru". The focus of the discussion was the Conscious Planet – Save Soil, a campaign Sadhguru launched in March that encouraged people around the world to join forces and help to stop the planet's soil losing its vital organic content vitality.

# NEW PARTNERSHIPS

## UOB AND INDIA COLLABORATE ON RAILWAY STUDIES AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

University experts from the Birmingham Centre for Railways Research and Excellence (BCRRE) will work with K-RIDE – an urban rail transport joint venture of Government of Karnataka and Ministry of Railways – to launch studies into two major areas: power consumption and energy analysis and railway network operational simulation, resilience testing and optimisation.

Working in partnership with Aarvee Associates Ltd, a premier multi-disciplinary engineering consulting company



*Image: Professor Adam Tickell, Vice Chancellor and Principal; and Mr Gaurav Gupta IAS, Managing Director, K-RIDE sign an MoU between the University of Birmingham and K-Ride*

based in Hyderabad, University experts will help to develop railway condition monitoring and sensing equipment within tunnels and on bridges. Partnering with Efftronics Ltd, a major supplier to Indian railways, will see research and knowledge exchange projects developed in signalling projects, as well as training programmes and CPD courses.

Academics from Birmingham will work with experts at Hindustan Petroleum Company Ltd. – supporting the creation of a research Centre of Excellence and helping to develop innovative solutions to hydrogen production and storage, fuel cells, domestic hydrogen transportation and re-fuelling systems. The collaborations were supported by the Department for International Trade (DIT) British Deputy High Commission in Bengaluru.

Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, said: "I am delighted that the University of Birmingham is strengthening its presence in India across railways, sports science, education and community business. Together, British and Indian institutions can address shared global challenges through research, innovation and knowledge. The University has strong India partnerships. These new agreements will further benefit both our countries."

## UOB AND IIT MADRAS LAUNCH NEW PARTNERSHIP

The University of Birmingham and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) are joining forces to launch joint Masters' programmes that will see students studying in Birmingham and Chennai before receiving a single degree awarded by both universities. The collaborative study areas include data science, energy systems and biomedical engineering. This is the first such educational partnership at Masters' level between any IIT and UK Russell Group University. Students would benefit from academic flexibility to learn and work in current areas that would define the future of global engineering and technology.



*Image: University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Tickell with Professor Koshy Varghese, Director In-Charge, IIT Madras.*





*Image: Professor Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor & Principal, University of Birmingham and Sumit Mitra, CEO, Tesco Business Services & Tesco Bengaluru exchanging the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tesco Bengaluru and the University of Birmingham.*

## TESCO BENGALURU AND UOB STRIKE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The University of Birmingham and Tesco Bengaluru are joining forces to create postgraduate study programmes in data science and artificial intelligence. The partnership will see University experts designing and delivering educational programmes for the colleagues of Tesco Bengaluru. The programmes could range from training in specific professional areas to formal postgraduate qualifications. Tesco Bengaluru will also explore opportunities for suitably qualified Birmingham students to join placements at the company's data-science laboratories in India. The company's data-science experts will also offer guest lectures to Birmingham staff and students – broadening their understanding of academic trends with joint seminars and events.

## BIRMINGHAM GLOBAL COOLING SUMMIT LAUNCHES NEW PARTNERSHIP

Sustainable cooling experts came to Birmingham in October 2022 for a global summit organised by the Centre for Sustainable Cooling (CSC) – taking the next steps towards delivering sustainable and resilient cold-chains in a warming world. At the summit, the University of Birmingham and the Indian State of Haryana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a Haryana Centre

of Excellence on crop post-harvest management and sustainable cold chain. The agreement builds on the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES) developed with the Government of Rwanda and UN Environment Programme at the University of Rwanda.



*Image: Dr. Sumita Misra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of Haryana and Professor Toby Peters, University of Birmingham, sign the MoU in the presence of Mr Jai Prakash Dalal, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of Haryana (right) and Dr Arjun Singh Saini, Director General Horticulture – Haryana (far-right) and members of the team developing the Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Cold-chain.*

# EDUCATION AND MOBILITY

## PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT DUBAI CAMPUS, MARCH 2022

A group of 40 students from our partner in Gujarat, Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), visited our Dubai campus in March. They enjoyed the campus tour and were very impressed with the facilities. They were given a briefing on the quality of Dubai campus, the Business School, postgraduate study opportunities and experienced a taster lecture.



Image: Professor Zoe Pikramenou, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry and Photophysics, with Pratham Pahuja and Saurav Singh from IIT Delhi.



Image: PDEU students on UoB Dubai campus.

## UOB STUDENTS ON TURING SCHEME VISIT BENGALURU, AUGUST 2022

More than 38,300 UK students are expected to go to more than 150 destinations around the world in 2022–23 with the support of the government Turing Scheme funding. Last year, the University secured over £2.1m through the Turing Scheme to support our outgoing mobility strategy. In August 2022, 40 UoB students received both internal university and Turing Scheme funding to visit Bengaluru India for two weeks. While in India, students undertook a leadership programme, culture immersion and micro-internship in local social enterprises, schools

## IIT DELHI STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP AT UOB, JUNE 2022

2 IIT Delhi students, Pratham Pahuja and Saurav Singh, came to UoB and spent 8 weeks at the School of Chemistry on a research internship programme. They worked alongside with Professor Zoe Pikramenou, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry and Photophysics, in her laboratory on research projects based on novel materials for antibacterial delivery and detection, sensors and computational methods in chemical applications. Both Pratham and Saurav enjoyed their time at UoB very much and said they had learned a lot: during the internship Pratham developed nanoparticles for delivery of anticancer drugs and Saurav for antibacterial drugs.



Image: UoB students with Mr James Godber (the speaker in the photo), British Deputy High Commissioner to Bengaluru and Dr Andrew Fleming, former British Deputy High Commissioner to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (second from left).



and charities. All students who took part in this trip are from socio-economic groups who are underrepresented in educational mobility. Imogen Wall was one of the students who took part and interned at PACTA: "Overall I have gained a lot of confidence and cultural awareness – I appreciate the hard work ethic practiced and have learned to not take anything for granted and be kind to strangers as strangers have been to me." Feedback showed that the programme had raised or changed the future aspirations of the students involved and increased leadership skills such as cultural intelligence and problem solving.

The UoB students were welcomed by Mr James Godber, British Deputy High Commissioner to Bengaluru and Dr Andrew Fleming, former British Deputy High Commissioner to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on the International Youth Day. What a great way to celebrate the International Youth Day in India and these students are truly the living bridge between both countries!



Image: UoB students in Bengaluru.

## UOB AND MANIPAL UNIVERSITY COLLABORATE ON DUAL MASTERS PROGRAMMES, NOVEMBER 2022

UoB signed agreements with Manipal University to create a dual Masters Programme in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, as well as exploring new opportunities for student exchange between the two universities.



Image: Lt. Gen. (Dr) M. D. Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Learning and Professor Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham.

## POSTGRADUATE 1+1 DUAL DEGREE COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE OF INDIA (NRTI), OCTOBER 2022

The University and the National Rail and Transportation Institute of India (NRTI) collaborated on a dual MSc programme in Railway Engineering and it is the second year we received the NRTI cohort of students coming to study with us. Last year Dr Krishnan Venkateswaran from the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) was seconded to NRTI for one month to deliver railway courses. Current NRTI students at UoB said they enjoy their study and life in Birmingham.



Image: Dr Krishnan Venkateswaran from Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) gives a lecture to NRTI students in India.

"University of Birmingham is very special for me. Here I got the support and opportunity for developing skills and personality. UoB have a great career support service such as organising career fairs for students from all the schools and departments. As a student from a partner institution I felt lucky to have the excellent support for my application process, accommodation and welfare. I also enjoyed my experience as part of the global ambassador programme." – Vishal Kizhakkumkara Ramakrishnan from NRTI, current student studying MSc Rail Systems Engineering at the School of Engineering talks about his Birmingham experience.



NRTI students Akash Hebba, Prabuddha Barange, and Vishal Kizhakkumkara Ramakrishnan with Wenwei Wu, International Development Manager, Birmingham Global.

## JINDAL GLOBAL LAW SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENTS STUDY AT BIRMINGHAM LAW SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2022



### Jindal Global Law School

This year, Birmingham Law School was delighted to welcome the first exchange students from our Indian partner, Jindal Global Law School. Shalini and Sanat joined the Law programme at Birmingham for one semester, in order to develop their knowledge of the English and international legal systems. Both students excelled in their studies, and engaged fully with the many opportunities at Birmingham. Shalini commented: "The collective effort that goes into making UoB home, even if only for one semester, is phenomenal. The unparalleled opportunities, resources, and support provided by faculty, student groups, and administrative staff made a challenging educational experience in a new country effortless. My new friends around the world, the mind-blowing food, and the brilliant faculty – thank you for the experience of a lifetime."

Jindal Global Law School is the leading Law School in India, and Birmingham Law School has developed a number of collaborations with Jindal, including a pathway for Jindal students to join Birmingham for postgraduate studies, and a jointly taught postgraduate module. We look forward to welcoming further Jindal students in the future.



# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

## GLOBAL SURGERY



Image above: GSU team photo at NIHR Global Surgery Annual Meeting 2022.

The Lancet commission established that five billion people around the world lack access to safe and affordable surgical care. Similarly, 143 million additional surgical procedures are needed each year to save lives and prevent disability. 33 million people face catastrophic health expenditure happens every year due to out-of-pocket payment for surgery each year. Research in surgery is critical to assure quality care, improve patient outcomes and create future surgical leaders around the world.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Unit on Global Surgery (GSU) has been established to improve outcomes for surgical patients across the global south. It coordinates a global network of surgeons and leads international surgical research that has the ability to save millions of lives through delivery of better surgical care. It is based at the University of Birmingham Professor Dion Morton (OBE), Barling Chair of Surgery is the co-director. The Unit has established a “hub and spoke model” to coordinate surgical research globally in seven countries: India, South Africa, Rwanda, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and Mexico.

The India hub of the NIHR Health Research Unit of Global Surgery has developed a large and enthusiastic network of surgical researchers in all parts of the country which is growing rapidly. The research is focused on low-cost interventions to improve surgical outcomes. The unit has already delivered amongst the largest surgical trials and studies with a major contribution from India.

Within India, the national coordinating hub is based at Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab, led by Professor Dhruv Ghosh, with a clinical trial network of more than 30 hospitals in both rural and urban India.

In addition, the India network has a cohort study network of more than 75 hospitals extending from Kashmir to Kerala and from Gujarat to Assam.

Due to the huge interest, especially amongst young surgical scientists, the hub has set up Sub-Hubs (regional coordinating sites) at Kolkata (East), Vellore (South) and possibly soon one more in Western India.

The Indian network comprises of a mix of urban and rural hospitals, eaching hospitals and district hospitals, some in the most remote parts of the world. Our work therefore impacts the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations of the world.



Image above: Group photo at the launch for the first Indian sub-hub at Tata Medical Centre in Kolkata. From right to left: Professor Dhruv Ghosh, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana; Professor Dion Morton, Barling Professor of Surgery, Institute of Applied Health Research; Dr Pattatheyl Arun, Director Tata Medical Centre Kolkata and Senior Consultant – Head & Neck Surgery; Dr Sanjay Kapoor, Professor of Surgical Oncology, Deputy Director, Tata Medical Centre Kolkata.



## GROUNDWATER RESEARCH



*Image: Professor Dr Stefan Krause, Professor of Ecohydrology and Biogeochemistry, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UoB.*

Groundwater security is a pressing environmental and societal issue, particularly due to significantly increasing stressors on water resources, including rapid urbanization and climate change. Groundwater arsenic is a major water security and public health challenge impacting millions of people in the Gangetic Basin of India and elsewhere globally.

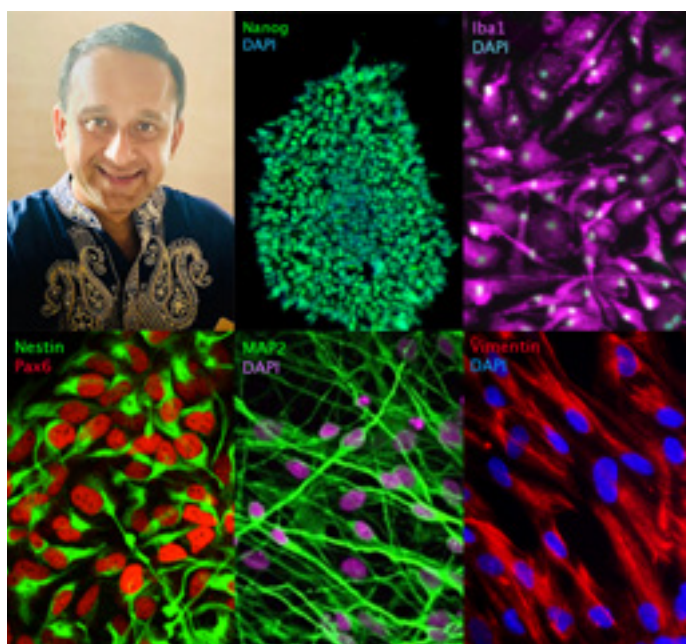
Professor Dr Stefan Krause is Professor of Ecohydrology and Biogeochemistry in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UoB. In the rapidly developing city of Patna (Bihar) in northern India, Professor Krause works with his collaborators to study the evolution of groundwater chemistry under the city following a three-dimensional sampling framework of multi-depth wells spanning the central urban zone in close proximity to the River Ganges (Ganga) and transition into peri-urban and rural areas outside city boundaries and further away from the river. Their findings have implications on groundwater management in Patna and other rapidly developing cities, including potential future increased groundwater vulnerability associated with surface-derived ingress from large-scale urban abstraction or in higher permeability zones of river-groundwater connectivity.

## AUTOPHAGY

The University leads on the study of autophagy. Dr Sovan Sarkar works on this fundamental biological process through which cells remove undesirable materials like protein aggregates and pathogens. This is essential for cell survival and combating infections, thus pertinent to human health, whereas malfunction of autophagy contributes to myriad diseases. His research involves understanding the homeostatic role of autophagy and its therapeutic exploitation in human pathologies, ranging from rare neurodegenerative disorders to global infectious diseases. He utilizes human pluripotent stem cells for differentiating into brain cells like neurons and immune cells like macrophages. Previously, he identified various autophagy-inducing pathways and small molecules of biomedical relevance. He has ~70 publications with 27,000+ citations and four patents.

Dr Sarkar has collaborations with Dr Dhiraj Kumar at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), one of the University's partners in New Delhi, and Dr Ravi Manjithaya at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bengaluru. These include studying the role and therapeutic

manipulation of autophagy in neurodegenerative and infectious diseases where small molecule autophagy inducers were shown to facilitate aggregate and pathogen clearance. Apart from research funding from the Wellcome Trust and LifeArc, his Indian collaborations have been supported by UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) grant and Newton-Bhabha PhD Placement Awards. His recent publications in high-impact scientific journals include *Developmental Cell* (2022) with Dr Manjithaya at JNCASR, elucidating the role of autophagy in promoting cell survival by maintaining NAD levels (relevant for ageing and neurodegeneration); and in *Autophagy* (2021) with Dr Kumar at ICGEB, identifying the autophagy inducer trehalose in enhancing the killing of pathogens (relevant for infectious diseases).



Images clockwise from top left: Sovan Sarkar; Microscopy images of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and hESC-derived macrophages, fibroblasts, neurons and neural precursors expressing cell-specific markers as indicated.





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# *Women in Research Fellowship*

**Promoting equality and inclusion in higher education is central to the mission and vision of the University of Birmingham, and to our work in India, which aims to address the challenges of gender discrimination and inequality in today's globalised society.**

This new University of Birmingham India Institute Women in Research fellowship scheme will enable prominent Indian female scholars from partner institutions, particularly in STEM science disciplines (e.g. life sciences, physical sciences, engineering, mathematics, computer science, health sciences etc - but open to other disciplines as well) to benefit from visiting and being based at the University of Birmingham for a period of time up to six months.

The Women in Research fellows will contribute to the intellectual life of the University through activities which may include seminars, active research, public lectures and curriculum development. These academics will return to India with a unique perspective having benefitted from spending time working in a different higher education culture and being immersed in the research community at a global top 100 institution.

For more information please see our website  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/india institute](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/india institute)





# EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY AT UOB, JUNE 2022

India is the birthplace of yoga and now yoga is universal and practised by many people across the world. The International Yoga Day has been celebrated annually in June since 2015. This year we invited two excellent yoga instructors and offered two yoga sessions for our staff and students in our UoB Sport and Fitness centre. Everyone loved it and it was a great way to improve physical and mental wellbeing.



Image: UoB students and staff in the yoga session at the UoB Sport and Fitness Centre

## DIT INDIA HYDROGEN VISIT TO UOB, JUNE 2022

The UK-India 2030 Roadmap, which was signed by two Prime Ministers in May 2021, includes deepening the India-UK Partnership on Green Hydrogen. DIT India organised a senior business delegation to the University to showcase our expertise in the area of hydrogen as an example of the UK's excellence in green energy. The delegates were from leading Indian private companies and government

business sector. Professor Clive Roberts, Head of School of Engineering, Dr Stuart Hillmansen from of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) and Professor Robert Steinberger-Wilckens, Chair Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Research led lab tours and held productive discussions with the delegates.



Image: The Indian delegates with Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Mr Luke Wales, Director of International Strategic Engagement Birmingham Global, Professor Clive Roberts, Head of School of Engineering, Dr Stuart Hillmansen from the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) and Professor Robert Steinberger-Wilckens, Chair Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Research led lab tours and held productive discussions with the delegates.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION ON INDIA'S INTERNATIONALISATION AGENDA, JUNE 2022

Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) met senior officials at University Grants Commission in India to understand India's internationalisation agenda and the new regulations introduced to promote international collaborations under the New Education Policy.

The University is excited with the opportunities presented through the new regulations and will continue to work with both existing and new partners to deliver impactful education programmes to students in India. Taking advantage of the new regulations, the University has launched a Dual Masters Programme and are in advanced discussions with other institutions to launch both Dual and Joint Masters Programme in India.



Image from left to right: Dr Manju Singh, Joint Secretary, UGC; Dipankar Chakraborty, Regional Director South Asia and Middle East; Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) UoB; Prof Rajnish Jain, Secretary, UGC.

## INDO-BRITAIN SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION (IBSA) VISIT TO UOB, JUNE 2022

IBSA was established 25 years ago and is an association of individuals and corporates, with connection to both India and UK, and who have benefitted from Britain's education and training or have worked in the UK. IBSA seeks to promote enduring relations between India and the UK through Education, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. It operates through memberships and provides its members the benefits of networking, business opportunities and academic collaborations between UK and India, CSR, alumni connection etc. Its corporate patrons include Tata Steel, Unilever etc. The delegation to UoB was led by Mr Rajive Kaul, president of IBSA. The delegates were from industries and Indian universities. Possible collaboration in education, R&D, joint research were explored. In the

following month IBSA and British Council India jointly organised a panel discussion on the topic of "progression in a gendered world". Dr Scott Taylor, Associate Professor & Director of External Engagement from Birmingham Business School attended the event and gave special remarks.



Image: Professor Jon Frampton, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham (in the middle in the front row) and UoB staff from academic schools and professional services meet with Mr Rajive Kaul, President of IBSA (second from right in the front row) and the IBSA delegates.

**BRITISH COUNCIL** **IBSA**  
Celebrating 25 years

PRESENT

**PROGRESSION IN A GENDERED WORLD**  
THURSDAY, 14TH JUL 2022, 6:30 PM

**Speakers**

 <b>Prof. Usha Menon</b> Professor of Gynaecological Oncology, MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL, London	 <b>Ms. Urmil Basu</b> Founder & Executive Director, New Light	 <b>Prof. Niladri Chatterjee</b> Professor of English and Gender Studies, Kalyani University
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**Special Remarks**

 <b>Dr Scott Taylor</b> Associate Professor & Director of External Engagement, University of Birmingham	<b>Moderator</b>
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 <b>Ms. Radhika Singh</b> Director Transformation, British Council
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167 CHAMBER, 16 CAMAC STREET, KOLKATA



## INDIA @75 BOOK LAUNCH EVENT WITH CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, JUL 2022

As part of the celebration of India's 75th anniversary of independence, we worked with the Consulate General of India Birmingham for a book event on campus. It was our great privilege to host the event for Dr Navdeep Suri, Ex-Ambassador of India to UAE, Egypt and High Commissioner of India to Australia for his book launch, a stunning translation of Hymns in Blood, set in the aftermath of the Partition of 1947. Dr Shashank Vikram, Consul General attended the event and a thought-provoking panel discussion was chaired by Professor Andrew Davies, Professor of Public Religion and Head of UoB Cadbury Centre and Dr Manu Sehgal, lecturer in South Asian History from the Department of History.



Images: group photos of the book launch event. Image of top left: Dr Navdeep Suri and Professor Andrew Davies. Bottom left: Dr Shashank Vikram and Dr Manu Sehgal.

## WEST MIDLANDS BUSINESS DELEGATION TO INDIA, OCTOBER 2022

Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Elizabeth Sapey and Professor Jean-Baptiste Cazier from Medical School joined a delegation to India led by the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to India in October 2022. The delegation visited Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi to promote opportunities for bilateral trade and investment between India and the West Midlands. Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (BHIC) was featured as an excellent example of a project that unlocks thousands of jobs and attracting investment. Positive connections were also made with a number of other higher education Indian institutions, businesses and SMEs, and there might be opportunities for collaboration, especially in health and life sciences.



Image: Roundtable in India on life sciences. Andy Street, WM Mayor on the far left and Prof Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) on the far right.



## BENNETT UNIVERSITY VISIT TO UOB, AUGUST 2022

Bennett is a fast developing and high-profile private University, which is owned by the Times of India Group. Birmingham Law School received an incoming visit from Bennett in August and an MoU was signed between Bennett and UoB in November 2022 during the University's Vice-Chancellor's visit to India. The MoU aims to foster and promote the collaboration between the two universities in the areas of education and research in law. The agreement will provide Bennett students the direct entry opportunity to join LLM at Birmingham Law School.

*Image: MoU signing between UoB and Bennett. From left to right: Aditi Jain, Head, Office of International Relations and Corporate Outreach; Professor Paul McConnel, Head of Global Engagement Birmingham Law School; Ailsa Chambers, Director of Birmingham Global; Professor Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham; Dr Prabhu Kumar Aggarwal, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Deepak Garg, Dean, International Affairs and Corporate Outreach; Aleksandra Cavoski, Head of Global Engagement, College of Arts and Law; Dipankar Chakraborty, Regional Director South Asia and Middle East*

## DIWALI CELEBRATION ON CAMPUS, OCTOBER 2022

Diwali symbolises the spiritual 'victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance'. We had online Diwali concerts during pandemic years. This year's Diwali was the first in-person event for three years. We were delighted that we were able to get together in person on campus to celebrate Diwali. We organised a lovely gathering in the Aston Webb building for our students, staff and community members to enjoy the festival with live Indian music, Henna painting and Diya (lamp) painting.



*Image: Bennett University delegates with Professor Paul McConnel (fifth from the left), Head of Global Engagement Birmingham Law School, and Mr Luke Wales (third from the left), Director of International Strategic Engagement, Birmingham Global.*



*Image: UoB students and staff at Diwali celebration in Aston Webb rotunda on campus.*



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