



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

INDIA INSTITUTE

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ANNUAL REPORT

2021

WELCOME



Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International) and Director of India Institute

Headlines over the past year have once again been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns, quarantines and new variants once again contributed to substantial disruption to our engagement in India. Despite this, last year I reflected on how the investment made in our Delhi-based India office had enabled us to continue to engage effectively, and this continued to be the case throughout 2021.

We continue to lay foundations for future developments through some really notable successes. In addition to students coming through education pathways with partners including Amity, Manipal and Chitkara, we welcomed the first cohort of students through our new innovative collaboration with the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), the first such PGT pathway established with an Indian partner institution.

Throughout the pandemic, we have continued to take a flexible working approach to our engagements, delivering activities ranging from participation in physical events, such as the Indo-UK Health Conference led by the Birmingham-based Indian Consulate, through to virtual celebrations like our annual Diwali event, which once again was a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy autumn, a true celebration of different aspects of Indian culture.

Stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of our approach to engaging with India. Here in the UK, we signed an Memoranda of Understanding with the Confederation of Indian Industries, through which we explore a range of different ways to engage with the private sector, and we work with the West Midlands India Partnership (WMIP) to ensure our work with India is consistent with our civic duties as a key institution based in the city. In India, we continue to work with stakeholders including the British High Commission, and British Council, particularly as we prepare to host the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, which we hope will showcase our institution, and also our engagement with India. I look forward to reflecting on this in next year's annual report.

So in conclusion, I continue to be optimistic about the future of our engagement in India. We anticipate the operating environment to become easier during 2022, as both countries learn to live with COVID-19, and India continues to be a priority country for the University of Birmingham.

YEAR IN REVIEW

15 

new partnerships

6 

Memoranda of
Understanding (MoU)
Agreements signed

270% 

increase of Indian students
studying at UoB

15 

Virtual and in-person
events'

OVER
4.2k 

views of our online
cultural events
with 13.8K impressions

1,847 

Twitter followers
with over 158K impressions

International print media
coverage reach:

911 million
potential views

UoB India work mentioned
in international media:

3,715 articles

Advertising Value
Equivalent (AVE):

£84.26 million

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NEW PARTNERSHIPS

'STRONGER TOGETHER' WITH THE WEST MIDLANDS INDIA PARTNERSHIP (WMIP)

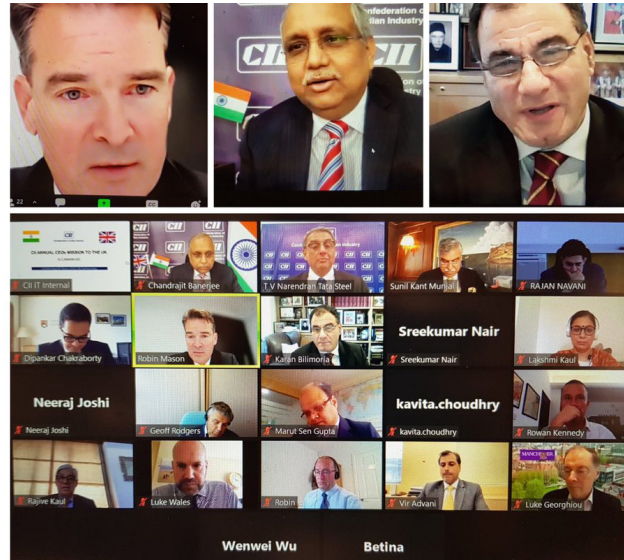
Within the UK, there are particularly strong connections between India and the West Midlands : over 200,000 ethnic Indians living in the West Midlands; and between 2018/19 and 2019/20, Indian student enrolments in the region more than doubled to over 5,000. The West Midlands India Partnership (WMIP) was formed in June 2020 to support long-term relationships. We joined WMIP as a member, and contributed to WMIP's new 5-year 'stronger together' strategy framework for working with India.



Featured in image: WMIP Executive Board: Standing L-R: Ghanshyam Nabar, West Midlands India Partnership Director; Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham; Stephen Page, Midlands International Markets Leader, PwC UK; Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, West Midlands Combined Authority; Dan Storer, Chief Investment Officer, West Midlands Growth Company; Ninder Johal, Founder, Nachural; Sanjay Pandey, Executive Director & COO, State Bank of India. Seated from L-R: Trevor Ivory, Partner, DLA Piper; Professor Julian Beer, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Birmingham City University; Lakshmi Kaul, Director UK, Confederation of Indian Industry; Dr Jason Wouhra, Chair, West Midlands India Partnership; Dr Shashank Vikram, Consulate of India Birmingham; Anil Puri, Chairman, Purico Group Ltd.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CONFEDERATION OF INDIA INDUSTRIES (CII)

Indian industry continues to have a robust engagement with the UK, helping it flourish through its investment and high skilled manpower. The Enhanced Trade Partnership Agreement and Roadmap 2030 announced in 2021 a comprehensive India-UK Economic Partnership, which has outlined the shared vision for strategic economic partnership between the UK and India with a focus on mobility, future skills, research and development, collaboration, innovation, educational exchange, and partnerships. We are delighted to have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Confederation of India Industries (CII) to further explore collaborations in three key areas of water, sustainability, and sports. A high-level virtual roundtable was held on 16 September 2021 to mark the MoU signing and start the conversations with CII Sports, CII Energy, CII Water Institute, and CII Leadership.



Featured in the image: Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), UoB; Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General CII; Lord Karan Bilimoria, Chancellor of UoB; Mr T V Narendran, President, CII; Mr Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, CII and Chairman, Hero Enterprise; Mr Rajan Navani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Jetline Industries; Mr Dipankar Chakraborty, UBII Country Director; Ms Lakshmi Kaul, Head of CII UK; Professor Geoff Rodgers, Vice Provost – Research, Brunel University; Mr Rowan Kennedy, Deputy Director, British Council India; Mr Rajive Kaul, Past President, CII and Chairman, Nicco Engineering Services Limited; Mr Luke Wales, Director International Strategic Engagement, UoB; Professor Luke Georgiou, Deputy President, University of Manchester

NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN LAW AND RAILWAY SUPPORTED BY BRITISH COUNCIL GOING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS GRANTS

We have won two awards from the British Council's Going Global Partnerships Grant that aims to enhance opportunities for students in India and the UK to experience an international learning experience. Birmingham Law School is working with O.P. Jindal Global University to develop a Joint Law Masters (LLM) Module; and Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE) is partnering with the Ministry of Railways' National Rail & Transportation Institute (NRTI) to develop the Disaster Resilient Surface Transportation Infrastructure: a systems approach to managing the impact of climate change.



FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

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 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



CURRENT FELLOW

Dr Snehali Majumder from Narayana Health (NH), Bangalore is an Indian Microbiologist with training in Clinical Research. Snehali arrived at Birmingham in October 2021, and is our current fellow hosted by the Institute of Translational Medicine and the Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy. Snehali works with Dr Marietta Iacucci and NIHR BRC Research Fellow Dr Uday Shivaji on a joint project to understand the heterogeneity of intestinal inflammation in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis between different regions of the intestine among the Indian population.

'Women in Science is the current focus across the globe,' Dr Snehali commented on how the India Institute fellowship provides her the opportunity to undertake joint research in a top 100 global university. 'I am being introduced to cutting-edge technologies in translational research, that in real-time help me and our team in India to further understand and implement better health care practices in our medical centre.'

Snehali also talked about her positive experience at Birmingham. 'My time in Birmingham has been wonderful. I find this city and university both vibrant and an amalgamation of various cultures. The university is in a true sense a "global village" where I felt safety, tolerance, and acceptance of all as the main theme. Friendly people and very supportive staff have always made me feel very welcome. No wonder I never felt homesick even with all the quarantine and isolation due to the global pandemic!'



Featured in image, from left to right: Dr Uday Shivaji, Consultant Gastroenterologist, UHB, Mr Luke Wales, Director International Strategic Engagement, Birmingham Global, Dr Snehali Majumder, India Institute fellow

COLLABORATION IN EDUCATION

1+1 POSTGRADUATE DEGREE COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE (NRTI)

The University and the National Rail and Transport Institute of India (NRTI) launched a dual MSc programme in Railway Engineering, and the first cohort of NRTI's MSc Railway Systems Engineering and Integration postgraduate students arrived in September 2021, and are currently studying their MSc in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration or Railway Safety and Control Systems at Birmingham.



Image: Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the middle, Dr Krishnan Venkateswaran from the School of Engineering on the far right, and NRTI students

2+2/1+2 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COLLABORATION

The University has been working with a number of India elite private universities such as Manipal, Amity, Chitkara, etc on 2+2/2+1 articulation programmes, allowing Indian students from these partner institutions to enter in the second year of the an undergraduate degree programme at Birmingham in the subject areas of Engineering, Computer Science and Business Studies. Upon successful completion of the remaining two years, they will graduate with a Birmingham degree.

STUDENT MOBILITY

The University welcomes Indian students to choose Birmingham as their Study Abroad destination. Miss Shivani Chopra is a computer science student from Chitkara University and she came to Birmingham for her year abroad studies in 2021. Shivani wrote about her Study Abroad experience at Birmingham, 'I find myself at a loss of words when asked to share my experience here, for I can never do justice to the amount of growth I've had throughout the journey. I see myself as a more confident, evolved individual now. This adventure has helped me in terms of my academic, personal, and social life and will forever remain one of my most cherished memories for the rest of my life. I encourage students all around the world to seize the extraordinary opportunity to take their year abroad at UoB.'



Image: Miss Shivani Chopra, computer science student from Chitkara University

VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Birmingham Law School collaborated with O.P. Jindal Global University to run a successful joint virtual international summer school from 21-25 June 2021. O.P. Jindal Global University is a top private university in India, whose law school is the highest ranking for law in India. The 'Pathway to Practice' summer school was run for Birmingham Law School students who are interested in gaining insights into Indian legal systems or seeking to work for global law firms and international institutions. The programme was jointly delivered by tutors and Indian legal professionals from the internationally renowned Jindal Global Law School, and was well received by students.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

FACTORS AFFECTING DELAY IN DIAGNOSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN INDIA

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disease that can result in erosive joint disease, poor quality of life and disability. Early diagnosis and treatment leads to improved outcomes. Although the disease is common in India, there are limited data on 'delay to diagnosis' in the country. Dr Kanta Kumar from Rheumatology Research Group, Institute of Inflammation and Ageing collaborated with Indian partners from Lucknow, Jaipur, Kochi and Ahmedabad to conduct a longitudinal observational study, investigating the delay to diagnosis over the past two years. 323 patients were seen in the study. The study found that delay in diagnosis has improved significantly over the years, with improvement in patient and health care related variables. However, delays remain in patients seeing a rheumatologist, meaning patients still are not receiving treatment within the three-month therapeutic window of opportunity as European rheumatology practices. The study points out future work which can be done, focussing on the reasons for delays at each stage in the patient pathway, which will help improve rheumatology services and patient outcomes in India.



KEY CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

WOMEN AND RELIGION

Dr Andrew Davies from The Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion in the School of Philosophy, Theology & Religion is collaborating with experts in Aligarh Muslim University on a project around women and religion in India. The project aims to attend to women's stories in the sacred texts, in India's history and in contemporary society; amplify women's voices in social, political, cultural, creative and religious contexts; address women's challenges investigating the issues around religion and how faith communities can help; and finally advance women's opportunities by encouraging aspiration, promoting education and supporting policy development.

The first two outputs from this project have already been presented (May and October 2021) with more outputs to come in 2022. This can be envisaged as a 4–5 year rolling programme featuring a series of smaller projects examining the impact of religion on women's lives across India.

The Cadbury Centre also has an important collaborative relationship with Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra, where the two centres are working together on issues around ethical and value-based leadership, with their first joint conference on this topic taking place later in 2022.



ALTERNATIVES TO DIESEL GENERATORS

Professor Jonathan Radcliffe from School of Chemical Engineering and Professor Francis Pope from School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences have been collaborating with academics from IIT Delhi and other industrial and governance stakeholders to investigate the alternatives to diesel generators for backup power generation in India. A significant proportion of urban air quality can be apportioned to the use of these generators. A multi-criteria decision analysis approach was designed to evaluate various alternative techniques to help decision makers make evidence based decisions. The work was funded by the Joint UK-India Clean Energy Centre (JUICE) EPSRC program. The work involved a multi-sectoral workshop and has a paper forthcoming.



ADVANCING BETTER AIR QUALITY

Professor Francis Pope (School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences) worked with Clean Air Asia to develop and deliver a teaching module for 'Advancing better air quality through low emissions urban development'. The module provided information and created awareness among Indian city officials, authorities and agencies about the impacts of urban development on air pollution. In particular, the need for urban planning to integrate clean air action into urban development strategies. Clean Air Asia was established in 2001 by the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and USAID. Today, they are an international non-governmental organization that leads the regional mission for better air quality and healthier, more liveable cities in Asia.



COLLECTIVE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Our experts have been involved in supporting the development of collective agricultural production systems in the Eastern Gangetic plains of Bihar and West Bengal. The initial project (2014-2020), Improving Dry Season Irrigation for Marginal and Tenant Farmers (DSI4MTF) focussed on mobilising small groups of farmers to pool land, labour and capital and form Farmer Collectives. Dr Fraser Sugden from the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences led the formation of these collectives. Through the collectives, farmers benefited from much more efficient use of irrigation and of labour, and achieved economies of scale in machine use, input application and irrigation. The collectives also supported better organisation for claiming state subsidies and increased farmer's bargaining power with landlords and in agricultural markets.

After successful completion of this project, a follow-up project led by Dr Fraser Sugden and funded by 3ie (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation) was initiated. This project built upon the same collective farming groups in Bihar and West Bengal, yet diversified into agro-processing. In Bihar, we are supporting collectives in Madhubani district in establishing a makhana-processing enterprise under the local leadership of NGO Sakhi. Makhana, the seeds of the prickly water lily (*Euryale ferox*), are produced in village ponds. This highly nutritious food has high demand in large cities, but due to lack of value addition and marketing, this industry is on the verge of extinction in Madhubani. In West Bengal, under the local leadership of the Centre for the Development of Human Initiatives (CDHI), the collectives are producing organic inputs for agriculture including vermin compost, trichoderma, neem oil, and azola. It is being sold via fertilizer shops, distributors, and retailers to promote eco-friendly cultivation.

The project will monitor these two sets of interventions through an iterative engagement with the collective members and qualitative enquiry. It is hoped that this will showcase a new path for rural small-scale industrialization in South Asia grounded in collective rather than individual enterprise.



GLOBAL SURGERY

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. Based at the University of Birmingham, GSU 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.

Within India, the national coordinating site (Hub) is based at Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab and the spoke network spans nearly 100 hospitals from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu, and from Gujarat to Assam. The network is led by Professor Dhruv Ghosh from CMC Ludhiana. We are currently setting up Sub-Hubs (regional coordinating sites) at Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal (East), All India Institute for Medical Science, Jodhpur, Rajasthan (West) and Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu (South). Our Indian network comprises of a mix of urban and rural hospitals, teaching and district hospitals - some in the most remote parts of the world. Our work therefore impacts the most disadvantaged and vulnerable population of the world.

GSU India Hub is the Unit's largest hub and is involved in a range of cohort studies, qualitative research and clinical trials in the areas of: reducing complications from surgical site infection; improving outcomes from cancer surgery; improving perioperative care; providing a roadmap for resilient surgical systems during and post pandemics; evaluating access to healthcare for surgical patients; and many others.

The India Hub has taken a lead on a variety of training platforms: a Data Centre has been established in the Hub at CMC, Ludhiana and staff are undergoing training in a variety of Data Science aspects. The management training programme is also led by staff at the Indian Hub. Together with GSU, Public Health Foundation, India will be co-developing various modules (e.g. leadership courses for Senior Directors Programme) that will be open access.



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance of microbes (AMR) makes treatment of infections increasingly difficult. Funded jointly by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in the UK and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in India, a team of experts at three UK and three Indian institutions are researching the risks to human health posed by antimicrobial resistance in the environment in India. The study sites are the Musi river network near Hyderabad and the Adyar river network in Chennai. There are two key risks. One, the risk of evolution of new resistance genes or new combinations of resistance genes, or making resistance genes transferable to other bacteria. Two, the risk of transmission of existing resistance genes or resistant bacteria to humans who are exposed to wastewater carrying water bodies in many ways from irrigation to flooding, a risk predicted to increase with climate change.

The team in India includes experts from IIT Hyderabad, IIT Madras and IIT Gandhinagar while the team in the UK comprises of experts from the University of Birmingham, Newcastle University and the James Hutton Institute. Together, the cross-disciplinary team covers microbiology, bioinformatics, environmental engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, mathematical modelling of bacterial population dynamics, and quantitative risk analysis.



PROMOTING STEM ACCESSIBILITY IN INDIA

Dr Volker Sorge from the School of Computer Sciences is researching and developing techniques for the automatic generation of fully accessible scientific content. The aim is to make difficult concepts like formulas, diagrams, or data visualisations accessible to people with special needs, such as blindness and visual impairments (BVI) or other print impairments like dyslexia or dyscalculia. Collaboration with IIT Delhi's AssisTech group, through UKEIRI grant and a Google Inclusion Research award, have helped in localising a math reading system into Hindi. Dr Sorge is also partnering with the Raised Lines Foundation in India to grow and curate a network of technically skilled experts for the generation of accessible STEM content. This will help to raise the level of inclusion of BVI students in STEM education, which is currently very poorly supported across the subcontinent.

SUSTAINABLE COLD CHAIN

Clean and energy efficient cooling has the rare potential to advance three internationally agreed goals simultaneously: the Paris Climate Agreement; the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and the Montreal Protocol's Kigali Amendment. Cooling is about fresh food, safe medicines, and protection from heat, for populations in a warming world. Cooling will address poverty (by enhancing the income, economic wealth, and financial security of farmers, growers and fishers), reduce food loss, improve health, raise energy efficiency, manage our natural resources, support sustainable cities and communities, and combat climate change concurrently.

The University is leading a consortium of experts to develop a plan for a UK-India collaboration for the first of a kind 'Centre of Excellence' (CoE) in in Haryana and Telangana to support the roll-out of sustainable cold-chain at scale in India. The ambition is to establish the Centre as the hub for future global network of CoEs providing thought leadership, practical training and demonstration along the fork to farm continuum necessary to drive meaningful local and global change in sustainably addressing the critical issues of postharvest food loss.



SOLVING WATER CHALLENGES

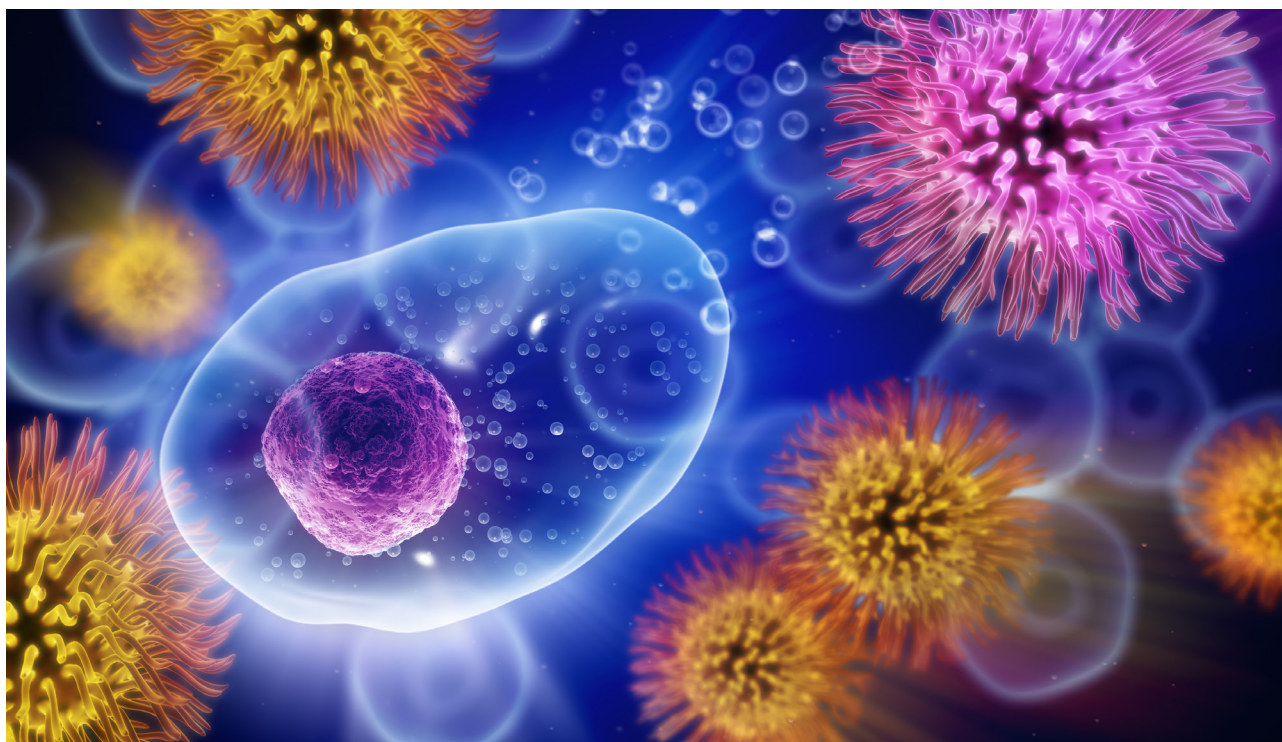
Dr Dsilva Winfred Rufuss, Royal Society Newton International Fellow, is being hosted for two years by the School of Engineering, where he is working with Professor Philip Davies to develop low-cost, low-energy water treatment technologies for use in Indian industries. He has developed a bench-scale forward osmosis desalination set up to treat the industrial wastewater as a part of the on-going INDIA-H2O project supported by the EU Horizon 2020 programme and by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Dr Rufuss has visited and established collaborations with several companies in the tannery industry (RANITECH, Vellore, India), cement industry (Dalmia Cements, Trichy, India) and textile industry (Arthanari Loom Center Private Limited, Salem, India) to collect the necessary data to be able to reproduce the wastewater in the lab at the University of Birmingham. After meeting the University's researchers, the General Managers of the above-mentioned industries expressed a strong interest in commercializing the emerging technology for effective management of troublesome effluents in their respective industries. Dr Rufuss, also delivered a guest lecture where he discussed the results and outlook of the forward osmosis experiments with scientists, researchers and businesses in India, through a research and development seminar, organised virtually by Vellore Institute of Technology.



AUTOPHAGY

The University leads on the studies of Autophagy — a 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 diverse diseases. Dr Sovan Sarkar from the Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences is collaborating with experts from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in New Delhi and with Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bangalore. Recently in a research publication in *Autophagy* journal in 2021 (with Dr Kumar at ICGEB New Delhi), the autophagy-inducer trehalose was shown to enhance the killing of pathogens associated with tuberculosis and HIV; thus offering a potential therapeutic strategy for these infectious diseases.

Dr Sarkar was invited to speak at the Global Bio India 2021 conference, the flagship conference organised by Consulate General of India in Birmingham. Dr Sarkar spoke on harnessing human stem cell based platforms for therapeutic exploitation of autophagy in human diseases. Other speakers at the conference included Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India, Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO and various other senior policymakers and scientists. The conference deliberated on the opportunities and key challenges in the areas of bio-manufacturing, capacity-building, regulation and policies creating global supply chains for achieving a growth-oriented road-map for the biotechnology sector in India.



NOVEL RESEARCH IDENTIFIES FRESH 'MIXERS' IN RIVER POLLUTION 'COCKTAIL'

Researchers from the University of Birmingham worked with an international research team to develop a new research approach for analysing pollutants in water, thanks to the findings of their pilot scheme investigating hydrogeochemical dynamics along the entire length of India's River Ganges (Ganga).



HANDBOOK OF SPORTS SCIENCE IN INDIA

Dr Martin Toms from the School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences worked with expert colleagues and researches from SAI and Indian Universities to produce the *Handbook of Sports Science in India*.

EVENTS

POST-COVID ROUNDTABLE 18 February 2021

In many ways, COVID-19 has opened up a Pandora's box of new challenges for national and international governance. Professor KK Cheng, (Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medical and Dental Sciences UoB), took part in the engaging panel discussion on 'Post Pandemic Challenges - The new normal', moderated by the head of CII UK and hosted by the Consul General of India.

POST EPIDEMIC CHALLENGES - THE NEW NORMAL AND...

AUDITORIUM

STAGE

VIDEO WALL

NETWORKING



Image: Professor KK Cheng, Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, School of Medical and Dental Sciences, UoB, in the middle of the photo



GLOBAL BIO INDIA CONFERENCE ON TRANSFORMING LIVES 3 March 2021

Dr Sovan Sarkar, Birmingham Fellow, Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, University of Birmingham gave a talk at the Global Bio India conference on harnessing human stem cell based platforms for therapeutic exploitation of autophagy in human diseases.

INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME DELHI January - March 2021

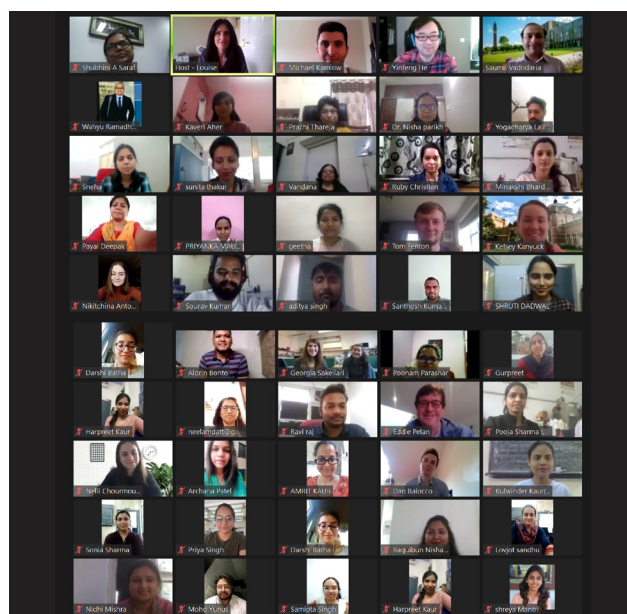
The Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion in the School of Philosophy, Theology & Religion worked with the British High Commission in New Delhi to identify, support and train a cadre of emerging faith leaders of diverse backgrounds from across India to equip them to bring effective leadership to their organisations and communities in addressing globally-significant challenges from a faith-sensitive perspective and help them create viable strategies for intervention. We are delighted that Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon and Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, met some of the participants from the Interfaith Leadership Programme for diverse Indian faith leaders, and discussed shared challenges of climate change and gender equality.



Image: From Left to Right: Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India; A Participant of the workshop; Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, United Nations and the Commonwealth; Dipankar Chakraborty, Country Director, University of Birmingham

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORMULATIONS IN FOOD AND HEALTHCARE (ICFFH)

Researchers all over the world and PhD students in particular have had much fewer opportunities to showcase their work outside the circle of their immediate colleagues during the last year. The Microstructure Engineering Research Group at the School of Chemical Engineering, University of Birmingham organised a virtual international conference themed on formulations where students presented their work and started interesting conversations. ICFFH 2021 brought together researchers working on formulations aimed at foods, healthcare and related applications, and to provide them with a platform where they can share their research and expand their professional network during these challenging times.



TMWT

The Conversation

Modern Muslim Women in Academia and Literature

Join us on Clubhouse at 6:30pm GMT/1:30pm CST/ 7:30pm WAT



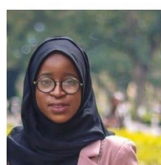
Wardah Abbas

Lawyer, Writer and Founding Editor of The Muslim Women Times



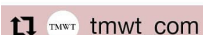
Dr Maryyum Mehmood

Centre Facilitator at the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, University of Birmingham.



Salimat Bakare

Creative Writer and Assistant Architect at Crystal White Architects



MODERN MUSLIM WOMEN IN ACADEMIA AND LITERATURE

19 March 2021

Dr Maryyum Mehmood from the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religions UoB, joined a conversation with other panellists and talked about women of faith in leadership and academia, probing into challenges that Muslim women academic leaders face both in their leadership position and in their communities; raising issues of inclusivity, diversity and the way forward.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLACIERS VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

3 June 2021

Climate change is a defining issue of our time is impacting all sectors and geographies. Professor David Hannah, Professor of Hydrology and UNESCO Chair in Water Science, was invited to speak at the panel discussion organised by British Deputy Commission Chandigarh on the topic of 'Climate Change & Glaciers'. The discussion focused around understanding the level of decline in Himalayan glaciers and its impact downstream; perspective from UK, climate leadership and COP26; and the role of states and civil society in tackling the issue of climate change. Caroline Rowett, British Deputy High Commissioner Chandigarh, delivered opening remarks. David shared his views on the impact of climate change on glacial retreat in the HKH region and its impact on the region's water resources. YouTube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl29mYoCkJo



on Climate Change and Glaciers

June 03, 2021 | 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm IST



Opening remarks by
Caroline Rowett
British Deputy High Commissioner, Chandigarh



Professor David Hannah
University of Birmingham (UK), UK

Kanak Sahasrab, IFS
Central Advisory Committee
Forest Service (CAG/IFS)

Dr Meriam Jackson
International Centre for Integrated
Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Ulka Kulkarni
World Resources Institute India

Dr Anil Prakash
Indian School of Business

'TELL ME YOUR STORY (TMYS)' INDIAN DIASPORA WRITING PROJECT

22 June 2021

MYS is an Indian digital journal. In June 2021, the theme was on MIGRATION, RESETTLEMENT & DISPLACEMENT. We worked with TMYS to engage scholars with the non-fiction stories of the contemporary era and compile stories of migration and resettlement by the Indian diaspora in the UK, the US, Canada and Australia. Professor Jagbir Jhutti-Johal, Reader in Sikh Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, UoB, sat in the judging panel for the writing competition on behalf of the University. More can be found [here](#).(will need the URL)



Migration,
Resettlement
and
Displacement
Stories of
and Essays on
the Indian Diaspora
from
UK, USA, Canada
and Australia
In collaboration with the
University of
Birmingham



Image: Professor David Adams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the School of Medical and Dental Sciences

INDO-UK HEALTH CONFERENCE

21 September 2021

Academics from the School of Medical and Dental Sciences attended the Indo-UK Healthcare Conference organised by the Consulate General of India to discuss the importance of universities and academia sharing innovation and expertise, collaborating nationally and internationally during the pandemic.

VISIT FROM BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER

22 September 2021

Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, visited the University and had a good discussion with the India Institute team to explore collaborative opportunities in railways and sports. Dr Fleming also joined the University's Annual Meeting at the Bramall Music Building and met with Lord Bilimoria, Chancellor of the University, Ailsa Chambers, Director Birmingham Global and other key stakeholders.



Image (L-R): Simon Emmett, CEO IDP connect, Ailsa Chambers, Director Birmingham Global, Lord Bilimoria, Chancellor of UoB, Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner, Dr Edward Harcourt, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Jason Gregory, Director of International BTEC and Apprenticeships for Pearson

FICCI CONFERENCE: "AUGMENTING RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM IN UNIVERSITIES"

28 September 2021

Professor Robin Mason was invited to speak at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) virtual conference on 'Navigating Boundaries in Higher Education: Relooking at Industry-Academia Engagement'. The conference brought together senior academic and industry leaders and policymakers, to deliberate upon the rapidly changing economic scenario and its impact on higher education. The session deliberated on how the government, academia, and industry can work together to develop a robust research ecosystem that facilitates and addresses the issues of IPR, funding and systemic technological translation. Robin shared insights on the UK ecosystem and provided impetus to re-strategize industry-academia collaborations.

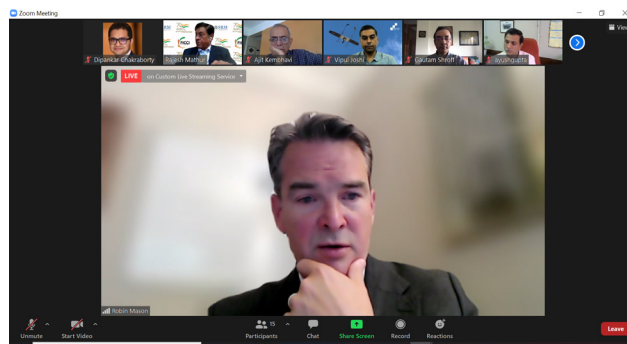


Image: Professor Robin Mason at FICCI conference

VISIT FROM CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA

14 October 2021

The official visit of Dr Shashak Vikram, Consul General of India and Head of Chancery Hitesh Saxena to our campus in the summer. We look forward to continuing our long-established relationship with the Consulate General of India.



Image (L-R): Professor Robin Mason Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), Dr Shashak Vikram, Consul General of India, Head of Chancery Hitesh Saxena, and Mr Luke Wales, Director International Strategic Engagement, Birmingham Global

SPIRIT OF DIWALI ONLINE CONCERT

4 November 2021

Working with our long-standing partner Sampad Arts and Heritage, we presented an exclusive virtual concert to celebrate Diwali 2021. We'd like the light of Diwali to illuminate the way forward for a peaceful, caring and loving society, and wished everyone harmony, contentment and joy. The Spirit of Diwali online concert was streamed on Facebook and enjoyed by many thousands of viewers across the world.



WORKSHOP ON ENERGY STORAGE AND SYSTEMS FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

2 December, 2021

Dr Shivangi Sharma from the Birmingham Centre for Energy Storage (BCES) organised a one-day virtual workshop titled 'Super Energy Infrastructure for Net Zero Carbon Emissions' with Indian academics and industrial partners to explore ideas, showcase research and identify synergies for collaborating on future UK-India research funding calls. The workshop was developed under the leadership of Professor Yulong Ding and was funded by the British Council. The research focussed on the themes of thermal energy storage and renewable energy systems. Representatives from prestigious Indian Institutions such as IIT Kharagpur and IIT Jodhpur presented their research along with TERI School of Advanced Studies. It is envisaged that the partnerships developed through the workshop will bring opportunities for ground-breaking energy research, beneficial for both countries in the long run.



CONNECT WITH US!

India Institute,
Birmingham Global,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT

 @UOB_India
 uobindia@contacts.bham.ac.uk
 www.birmingham.ac.uk/indiainstitute

India Office,
The Taj Mahal Hotel,
Number One Man Singh Road,
New Delhi 110001 India



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk



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