O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

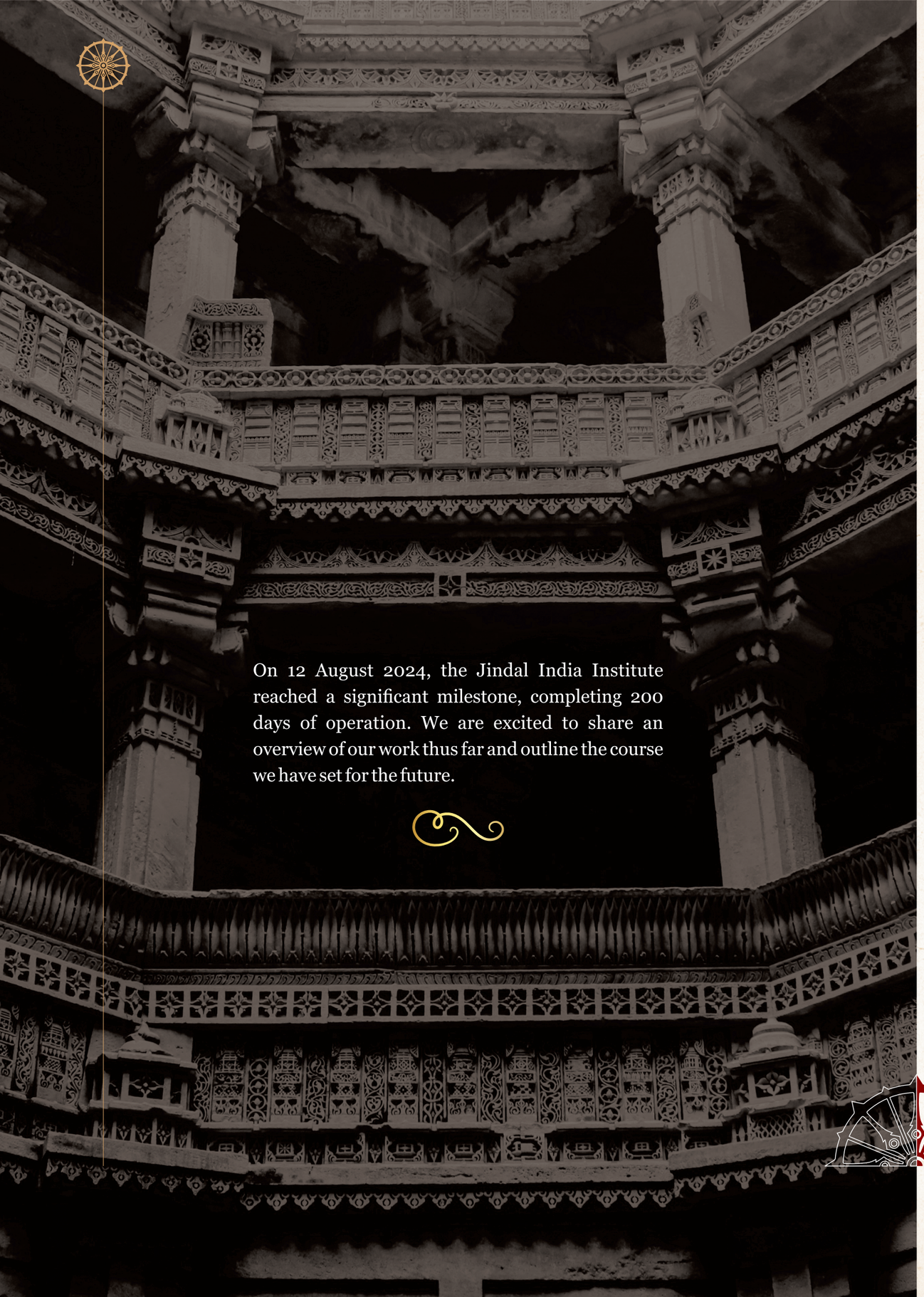
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
15 YEARS
ESTD. IN 2009
Celebrating the Quindecennial of
Institution Building for Nation Building

Jindal India Institute
PROPELLING THE INDIAN CENTURY
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

PROGRESS REPORT

first 200 DAYS of the

JINDAL INDIA INSTITUTE



On 12 August 2024, the Jindal India Institute reached a significant milestone, completing 200 days of operation. We are excited to share an overview of our work thus far and outline the course we have set for the future.

Table of Contents

JGU @ A Glance	3
Introducing the Jindal India Institute	4
Remarks by the Leadership	5
Our Initiatives	7
Training	9
Policy Advocacy	25
Teaching	30
Research	31
Student Engagement	34

JGU
@ A Glance

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary, and research-oriented university founded in 2009. JGU was established as a philanthropic initiative of its Founding Chancellor, Mr. Naveen Jindal in memory of his father, Mr. O.P. Jindal. JGU maintains a 1:9 faculty-student ratio and appoints faculty members from India and abroad with outstanding academic qualifications and experience.

JGU has over 12,500 students, 1200+ full-time faculty members, and 2800+ administrative staff in its fully residential campus. JGU's twelve schools focus on Law, Business & Management, International Affairs, Public Policy, Liberal Arts & Humanities, Journalism, Art & Architecture, Banking & Finance, Environment & Sustainability, Psychology & Counselling, Languages & Literature, and Public Health & Human Development. Over the last decade, JGU has grown into an institution that brings full-time faculty from 50+ countries in the world, students from 70+ countries and has collaborated with over 450+ leading institutions in 75+ countries which makes the learning experience truly international.

JGU has been ranked as India's Number 1 Private University for three years in a row by the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2023. JGU has been recognised among the Top 150 universities globally under 50 years by the QS Young University Rankings. JGU has also been recognised in the Top 500 Universities as per the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022. The Jindal Global Law School has been ranked Number 1 in India for five years in a row and is the only law school in India among the Global Top 100 law schools by the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024. In 2020, JGU was recognised as an 'Institution of Eminence' by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

RANKED NO.1 PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN INDIA
QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023

RANKED NO.1 LAW SCHOOL IN INDIA
QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024 BY SUBJECT

CONFERRED THE STATUS OF AN
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE
BY THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Introducing the
Jindal India Institute

The Jindal India Institute (JII) is an independent and non-partisan strategic think tank initiative of the O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), established on 26 January 2024. JII is dedicated to ideationally and intellectually enabling India's rise in the world by building and disseminating a transnational, intellectually rigorous, evidence-based, multidisciplinary corpus of knowledge. JII aims to intellectually decolonise the study and depiction of India and spread global awareness about India's extraordinary accomplishments and potential in the 21st century. JII's research, teaching, advocacy, and training mission covers a range of issue areas such as democracy, economy, society, culture, spirituality, science and technology, entrepreneurship, rule-of-law, human rights, education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and foreign policy. JII's strategic goal is to narrate the remarkable Indian story to the world. With a resolute commitment to 'Propelling the Indian Century', JII is actively working towards fulfilling national objectives for the centenary of India's independence in 2047 and also to develop an imagination and roadmap for long-term strategising on how India can be a world leader for the entire 21st century. The Institute is led by JGU's Founding Vice Chancellor Professor (Dr.) C. Rajkumar as its President and the Founding Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs, Professor (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia as its Director General. JII's functioning is facilitated by an executive team consisting of a Director; 16 Deputy, Associate, and Assistant Directors; a Programme Coordinator; 2 Assistant Programme Coordinators; and a group of 18 Fellows drawn from the JGU faculty across various schools and institutes within the university.

Remarks by the Leadership



Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar

President, Jindal India Institute
Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

In the first two hundred days, JII has made significant strides in establishing itself as a vital contributor to India's intellectual presence globally. From notable training and advocacy initiatives like the training of foreign diplomats on Indian elections to collaborating with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs as part of its Know India Programme for Young Overseas Indians, we have laid the groundwork for impactful engagement with the international community. Our early research efforts are tackling important issues, such as the synergy between traditional Indian knowledge and modern scientific approaches, as well as India's strategic influence in global affairs. With the upcoming launch of our pioneering online Master's degree in India Studies, JII is set to provide a fresh and authentic perspective on India's rich history and contemporary relevance. The progress we have seen in these early days is promising, and we are eager to continue building on this momentum.



Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Sundar Chaulia

Director General, Jindal India Institute
Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University

In the first two hundred days of its existence, JII has embarked on a transformative journey through a series of impactful initiatives, including specialised training sessions for foreign diplomats and the launch of our thought leadership series, *Capital Talks*. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for projecting India's rise on the global stage. Our commitment to intellectually decolonising the study and depiction of India has been reinforced by the launch of multiple research projects that explore the dialogue between ancient wisdom and modern science, study strategic diplomacy, and address global challenges like biodiversity conservation through an Indian lens. We have also undertaken on-campus engagements to deepen awareness about India's vibrant democracy, cultural heritage, and pioneering innovations. Looking forward, JII is preparing to launch a fully online Master's degree in India Studies, the first of its kind in India. This programme will empower India to tell its own story, breaking away from the traditional Orientalist narratives that have dominated the field. As we attempt to build and disseminate a transnational, intellectually rigorous corpus of knowledge, JII remains dedicated to fulfilling its mission of enabling India's intellectual and cultural leadership in the world. In this endeavour, we seek your support and participation to accomplish the Indian century.

Our Initiatives

TRAINING

- **One-Day Courses for Foreign Diplomats**
- **Initiatives for Indian Diaspora Youth**
- **Public Lectures**
- **Book Discussions**
- **Workshops & Panel Discussions**
- **Thematic Weeks**

POLICY ADVOCACY

- **Capital Talks**
  A Thought Leadership Series
- **Indian Century Conversations**

RESEARCH

- **04 Research Projects**
- **Expert Commentaries**

TEACHING

- **M.A. India Studies**

These initiatives are organised around the following clusters: Business and Economics, Culture and Society, Ecology and Environment, Gender and Justice, Politics and Democracy, Science and Technology, and Strategy and Foreign Policy.

Training

JII aims to deliver comprehensive and impactful training programmes that spread global awareness about India's extraordinary accomplishments and potential in the 21st century and enhance its leadership role globally. We educate foreign diplomats, civil servants, students, and entrepreneurs through immersive courses, exchanges, public lectures, book discussions, panel discussions, etc. Simultaneously, we engage with the Indian diaspora youth, offering programs that strengthen cultural bonds and deepen their connection to India. By facilitating knowledge exchange and mentorship opportunities, we sensitise foreign audiences to the India Story and the Indian Century.

One-Day Courses for Foreign Diplomats

JII conducted specialised training sessions for 50+ foreign diplomats from 29 countries and international organisations on the intricacies of Indian elections. Participating diplomats came from Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, British Council, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Philippines, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, United Kingdom, United States and the Vatican. These sessions, held on 15 February 2024 and 05 April 2024 at the JGU International Academy (Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi), focused on sensitising the international community based in India about the robustness of India's democracy and electoral processes. The training sessions aimed to provide in-depth insights into the evolution of Indian democracy, its constitutional framework, the strength of electoral institutions like the Election Commission of India (ECI), electoral laws, reforms, voting patterns, the rise and decline of political parties, increasing electoral participation and competition, the role of economic and identity factors, India's assistance to fellow nations on electoral matters, and prospects for the 2024 general elections with an emphasis to understand the impact of opinion polls and international factors. Notable speakers included Mr. Dharmendra Sharma (Director General, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management – training and capacity building arm of the ECI), Mr. Pradeep Bhandari (Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Jan Ki Baat), Ms. Vibha Attri (Researcher at Lokniti, Centre for Study of Developing Societies), Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia (Director General, Jindal India Institute), Prof. (Dr.) Swetasree Ghosh Roy (Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy), Dr. Arun Kumar Kaushik (Associate Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities), Dr. Debajit Jha (Associate Professor, Jindal School of Government & Public Policy), Dr. Rashmi Singh (Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities), and Dr. Archana Rath (Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs).



Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar delivering introductory remarks at the inaugural course on 15 February 2024



Dr. Archana Rath discussing electoral institutions and laws in India on 15 February 2024



A moment from the first one day training course for diplomats

Hear Directly from the Participating Diplomats



H.E. MR. OMAR LISANDRO CASTAÑEDA SOLARES
AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA TO INDIA
(ATTENDED THE FIRST COURSE ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024)

“…..the course was skilfully made with [five] separate sessions and with recognized speakers. All the speakers had good control of the subject and could interact and reply to all the participants with accuracy and knowledge. I am grateful for the knowledge shared, which helped me clarify some of the dynamics of the Indian electoral process in its 7 phases. Thank you again!”

MR. MASHUDUBELE SEDULA MAMABOLO
COUNSELLOR, SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSION
(ATTENDED THE SECOND COURSE ON 05 APRIL 2024)



“As a newly arrived South African diplomat in India, the course provided me with much-needed knowledge, not only about elections in India but also about the intricacies of the Indian political system. The host and facilitator of the course was Professor Sreeram Chaulia whose deep knowledge of India's foreign policy made the course even more relevant to the needs and interests of the participants. The course contents amplified the status of O.P. Jindal Global University as a prestigious global University. The course has helped me refine my analytical skills when reporting about developments during the 2024 elections in India. I will highly recommend the course to those who are interested in doing it in the future.”

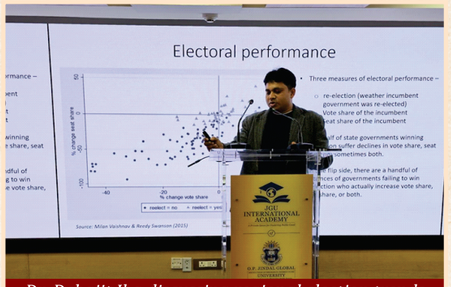


MR. MIKHAIL ZAYTSEV
FIRST SECRETARY (POLITICAL), EMBASSY OF RUSSIA IN INDIA
(ATTENDED THE COURSES ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024 AND 05 APRIL 2024)

“[I] Would like to express my sincere appreciation for the courses on the Indian elections organised by the esteemed Jindal India Institute. It was a rewarding experience with an in-depth analysis of the internal political processes, and the highly reputable speakers provided an overview of various aspects from different perspectives. Looking forward to more similar events.”



Dr. Rashmi Singh talking about the key players in the 2024 Elections on 05 April 2024



Dr. Debajit Jha discussing regional election trends in India during the concluding session of the inaugural course





Participants receiving certificates of appreciation from Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia. Mr. Fanuel Mathiya (Minister Plenipotentiary, High Commission of Tanzania) is pictured on the left, and Ms. Laura Baldwin (South Asia Cyber Lead, British High Commission) is on the right



Mr. Pradeep Bhandari addressing the participants of the second course on 05 April 2024

One-Day Visit of the 75th Know India Programme

विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
सत्यमेव जयते

JII hosted 39 Indian diaspora youth achievers for a one-day learning visit on 12th July 2024 as part of the 75th Know India Programme (KIP), an initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. The participants came from Fiji, Guyana, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, South Africa, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The delegation was accompanied by Shri Sahil Aggarwal, Section Officer, and Dr. Aarshi Dua, Consultant, from the MEA. The engagement featured two expert lectures and a guided tour, embodying the concept of 'knowledge tourism' as promoted by the KIP.

Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia, Director General of JII, delivered an expert lecture on the vision and interests driving India's diaspora diplomacy. He highlighted the strategic and economic aspects of India's diaspora engagement policy and emphasised the role of overseas Indians in shaping the nation's future during the 'Amrit Kaal'. Describing the Indian diaspora as 'carriers of India's greatness' and 'strategic assets' he urged the participants to contribute to India's 'leading power' goal positively.

This was followed by an interactive session delivered jointly by Professors Naresh Singh and Haseeb Mohammed which discussed the idea of India in the eyes of the Indian diaspora. Prof. Singh, Senior Fellow at JII and a long-time employee of the United Nations, is of Guyanese origin. He explained how India has taken the lead in dealing with the 'poly-crisis' of climate change using a ‘wisdom lens’. Prof. Mohammed, an Associate Professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs, hails from Trinidad and Tobago and has served as a diplomat in India. He discussed cultural and religious practices in the Caribbean relevant to the preservation of Indian Identity and 'Indian-ness' globally. The speakers urged the diaspora youth to embark on a transformative journey to rediscover India not merely as a destination, but as a profound encounter that expands horizons and nourishes the soul.

The participant's eagerness to understand and contribute to India's growth story reflected the immense potential of the diaspora as a bridge between the motherland and the wider world. The day concluded with an intriguing session at the Brain Behavior Laboratory of the Jindal Institute of the Behavioral Sciences and a fun visit to the Recreational Arena for Student Activities (RASA).





Participants being felicitated by the Leadership and Fellows of JII



Participants from Mauritius displaying their national flag at the venue



Prof. Haseeb Mohammad discussing cultural and religious practices in the Caribbean relevant to the preservation of ‘Indian-ness’ globally



The participants visited the Brain Behavior Laboratory of the Jindal Institute of the Behavioral Sciences (JIBS)



Participants during the guided JGU campus tour

Public Lectures

JII organises stimulating public lectures to encourage knowledge dissemination on pressing international and domestic themes to sensitise the audience about the India Story and the Indian Century. From vibrant democracy and cultural heritage to pioneering innovations, digital advancements, accessible healthcare solutions, traditional knowledge systems, sustainable living practices, and international relations, these lectures highlight India's contributions and impact on the global stage.

The Most Consequential Relationship of the Century: Indo-American Ties
The Honourable Mr. Eric Garcetti (Ambassador of the United States to India)
08 April 2024

This distinguished public lecture underscored the strategic significance of the U.S.-India relationship. The address traced the long-standing ties between the two nations, emphasising their pre-independence roots. Ambassador Garcetti recognised India's potential as a green energy leader and envisioned a future where the U.S. and India co-develop cutting-edge clean technologies. He emphasised the strong, historical bond between the United States and India and highlighted the crucial role of the younger generation in shaping the future. He further noted the growing strategic, economic, and cultural ties between the two nations and stressed the need for their collaboration on global challenges like climate change and artificial intelligence. The session underscored the importance of the U.S.-India partnership in addressing these issues and advancing a prosperous future.

Lithuania's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific Region: India-Lithuania Relations and Beyond
H.E. Ms. Diana Mickevičienė (Ambassador of Lithuania to India)
22 April 2024

The lecture offered a detailed analysis of India-Lithuania relations, highlighting their strategic and diplomatic interactions in the Indo-Pacific. Ambassador Mickevičienė discussed the historical connections and evolving diplomatic ties between the nations and explored opportunities for deeper Indo-Pacific collaboration. She also shared personal experiences from her time studying Sanskrit and her work in India, detailed in her book "Visos mano Indijos" (All My India). The audience was impressed by her fluency in Hindi, reflecting her deep engagement with Indian culture.

India-Pakistan Relations in Contemporary Times
Ambassador Ajay Bisaria (Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Canada)
26 April 2024

The lecture explored the complexities of the India-Pakistan relationship, including water sharing, historical issues, and nuclear threats. It highlighted the benefits of trade and the importance of civil society engagement. Discussions covered the impact of media, domestic politics, and future governments on diplomacy. Ambassador Bisaria's book, "Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship Between India and Pakistan," was examined, emphasising the need to manage historical mistrust to foster cooperation. The lecture underscored the roles of responsible media, strong leadership, and citizen engagement in bridging divides and promoting lasting peace.

Gender and the Politics of Representation in Indo-Western International Relations
Dr. Debotri Dhar (Founder, Hummingbird Global Writers' Circle and Hummingbird Global Leaders Forum)
06 May 2024

Dr. Dhar carefully analysed the complex interaction between gender and representation in the field of Indo-Western International Relations. At the core of her discussion was the analysis of how feminist and postcolonial writings, which play a key role in questioning dominant Western narratives, are frequently marginalised on the international platform, leading to the exclusion of voices from the Global South. Dr. Dhar highlighted the urgent need to address systemic prejudices and power imbalances in global discussions. She called for moving beyond traditional frameworks focused on Western dominance and suggested rethinking International Relations to foster mutual respect and understanding between the Western world and the Global South. By incorporating diverse perspectives, we can achieve fairer and more inclusive global discussions, promoting fairness, justice, and meaningful cross-cultural communication.



The Honourable Mr. Eric Garcetti posing with JII's leadership and students



Dr. Debotri Dhar addressing the participants



The Honourable Mr. Eric Garcetti addressing the audience



Ambassador Ajay Bisaria with the organising team of the public lecture



Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia felicitating H.E. Ms. Diana Mickevičienė





Students from JGU fondly participating in the discussions that follow the public lectures

Book Discussions

JII hosts book discussions on new releases, timeless classics, and lesser-known literary works that talk about India and its uniqueness. These discussions serve as centers of intellectual exchange that go beyond promoting literature. By engaging scholars, professionals, and students in thoughtful dialogues, we deepen understanding of complex topics about the country and nurture a community of lifelong learners. This not only showcases cutting-edge ideas but also inspires research, supports authors, and reinforces JII's commitment to sensitising the world about the India Story and the Indian Century.

'Applied Spirituality and Sustainable Development Policy' edited by Prof. (Dr.) Naresh Singh and Ms. Divya Bhatnagar

The institute's first book discussion was hosted in collaboration with the Centre for Complexity Economics, Applied Spirituality and Public Policy (CEASP) on 17 April 2024. The book edited by Prof. (Dr). Naresh Singh (Senior Fellow, JII) and Ms. Divya Bhatnagar (Assistant Professor, Shiv Nadar University) talks about secular spirituality and scientific evidence to articulate a new model of sustainable development. It takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing insights from various fields including physics, public policy, spirituality, and law to analyse and find impactful solutions to the root causes of sustainability challenges. The book articulates a new model of sustainable development that is not only based on narrow definitions of GDP and economic growth but also includes and even forefronts social and environmental development and the inner transformation of human beings.

'India's Moment: Changing Power Equations around the World' by Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar

On May 01, 2024, JII in collaboration with the Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies and the Jindal School of International Affairs organised its second book discussion. "India's Moment" by Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar (Senior Fellow, JII) is an insightful exploration of India's evolving role in international diplomacy and how India's domestic considerations are core to understanding, in the author's own words, "why India does what it does". The book examines the shifts in global power dynamics and traces India's strategic manoeuvres to protect and advance its national interests. As India continues to gain prominence, Ambassador Kumar posits that the country is on the path to fulfilling its destiny of becoming a leading power, capable of shaping global norms and rules.

Workshops & Panel Discussions

Debating Democracy: The Greek and Indian Experiences

The inaugural workshop of JII titled “Debating Democracy: The Greek and Indian Experiences” was held on Monday, 26 February 2024. The workshop served as a platform for an in-depth exploration of the historical and civilizational foundations and contemporary manifestations of democracy, drawing parallels and distinctions between the Greek and Indian traditions. It featured a distinguished panel of seven speakers: Ambassador Amrit Lugun (Former Ambassador of India to Greece), Prof. (Dr.) Vasileios Syros (Distinguished Fellow at the United Service Institution of India), Mr. Dinakar Peri (Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu), Ambassador Yannis-Alexis Zepos (Former Ambassador of Greece to India), Ambassador Shamma Jain (Former Ambassador of India to Greece), Dr. Jayashree Vivekanandan (Associate Professor, South Asian University), and Mr. Priyadarshi Dutta (Author & Columnist). The discussions explored the philosophical underpinnings of democratic governance, the evolution of democratic institutions, and the impact of cultural contexts on the practice of democracy. This cross-cultural dialogue highlighted the unique contributions of both Greek and Indian civilizations to the global democratic ethos. Attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of how these two ancient cultures have shaped modern democratic thought and practice.



Ambassador Yannis-Alexis Zepos addressing the audience on the topic of National Sovereignty versus International Order



Ambassador Shamma Jain discussing the theory and praxis of Indian and Greek democratic systems



Left to Right: Mr. Dinakar Peri, Ambassador Amrit Lugun, and Prof. (Dr.) Vasileios Syros

Beyond BRICS: A New Era for the Global South? Perspectives from South Africa and India

On the historic 69th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, where the 10 commitments were presented 6 decades and 9 years ago, JII and the Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS) hosted a panel to discuss the critical need for inclusivity and collaboration among developing countries, particularly in Africa and India, to address pressing developmental, security, and economic challenges. The discussants, Acting High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to India, His Excellency Cedric C. Cowley, and Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia explored the theme 'Beyond BRICS: A New Era for the Global South? Perspectives from South Africa and India.' They emphasised the pivotal role of multilateralism in addressing global challenges. They stressed the importance of "performing the multilateral organisation," making them more responsive and effective in tackling issues such as unemployment, poverty, and postcolonial national trauma. Moreover, the discourse furnished significant perspectives on the developing dynamics of collaboration between India and South Africa and the capacity of BRICS to propel constructive transformation in the Global South. It underlined how crucial communication and effective South-South cooperation between developing countries is to build a more diverse and long-lasting international society.

H.E. Mr. Cedric C. Crowley discussing how BRICS acts as a ray of hope for developing nations



Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia candidly speaking about the reality behind the formation of BRICS in the context of the power shift from G7 countries towards the 'locomotives of the South' during the first decade of the 21st century

Middle East & North Africa
Just Peace Diplomacy: Experiences and Prospects (DAY 1)

JII in collaboration with the Centre for Middle East Studies (CMES) and the Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS), conducted a two-day workshop titled “Middle East and North Africa Just Peace Diplomacy: Experiences and Prospects” on 01 April 2024 and 05 April 2024.

The first day of the workshop focused on the relevance of regional organisations and bilateral and domestic diplomacy initiatives in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Four distinguished speakers: H.E. Dr. Rabie Narsh (Ambassador of Lebanon to India), H.E. Dr. Bassam AlKhatib (Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to India), H.E. Mr. Issa Saleh Alshibani (Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to India), and H.E. Dr. Ali Achoui (Ambassador of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to India) addressed the participants on the crucial role of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in establishing collective security, the role of Syria in ensuring peace in the MENA region, the intricacies of Lebanese foreign policy, and Algeria's longstanding commitment to promoting peace through contemporary diplomatic initiatives. The speakers also shed light on the importance of soft power and positive diplomacy in international relations.



H.E. Dr. Rabie Narsh and H.E. Dr. Ali Achoui with Dr. Hebatallah Adam, Ambassador (Dr.) Abdul Fattah Ammourah and Dr. Silvia Bottega at the JGU Selfie Point



Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia delivering the welcome address



Ambassador H.E. Dr. Rabie Narsh being felicitated by Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar and Ambassador (Dr.) Abdul Fattah Ammourah

Middle East & North Africa
Just Peace Diplomacy: Experiences and Prospects (DAY 2)

The theme for the second day of the workshop was “India’s Interest in the Middle East and North Africa Just Peace: Soft Power Diplomacy,” featuring esteemed speakers such as Ambassador Ravi Thapar (Senior Fellow, JII) and Professor Elizabeth Roche (Associate Professor of Practice, Jindal School of International Affairs). Ambassador Thapar highlighted the disengagement of the Middle Eastern countries from the petrochemicals and hydrocarbons trade and the prospects this shift brings for India. Moreover, the discussions on India’s progress in science, digital interface, and engineering developments manifesting into South-South cooperation actively engaged the audience. Prof. Roche discussed the assimilation of Indian and Middle Eastern cultures and the increase in the use of cultural diplomacy as a soft power strategy by India in recent years. She further analysed the impact of language and the rich adaptation of words from the Arabic language into various Indian languages and vice-versa.



Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Fattah Ammourah delivering the opening remarks on Day 2





Ambassador Ravi Thapar and Professor Elizabeth Roche discussing India’s soft power approach to just peace in the Middle East and North Africa

Thematic Weeks

The Voice of the Global South Week

JII collaborated with the Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS) and the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), to organise "The Voice of the Global South Week" from 06 to 11 March 2024. This event was spearheaded by Dr. Hebatallah Adam (Associate Director, JII & Executive Director, JCGS). Supported by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UN Women, and the Embassy of Egypt, the week-long event featured notable guests like H.E. Dr. Wael Mohamed Awed Hamed (Ambassador of Egypt to India) and Ambassador K.P. Fabian.

The week commenced with the exhibition "(Re)Discovering the Global South," offering a deep dive into the region's diverse histories and cultures. On March 06, a panel discussion examined the role of BRICS in shaping a multipolar world order. The following day, attendees engaged in two significant events: a panel on the future of democracy in Asia and a session dedicated to amplifying women's voices in the Global South. March 08 featured a guest lecture by Ambassador Fabian on building peace in the Global South and a screening of Lumumba (2000), directed by Raoul Peck, which explored the impacts of colonialism and the struggle for independence. A documentary on global trade disparities, shedding light on economic inequalities, was screened. The event concluded on March 11 with a panel discussion on India's South-South cooperation with Africa, Latin America, and Asia, emphasising the potential for enhancing regional partnerships.



Ambassador K.P. Fabian interacting with JGU students



Prof. V. Upadhyay with Dr. Hebatallah Adam and Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya



Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia felicitating H.E. Dr. Wael Mohamed Awed Hamed



Dr. Hebatallah Adam felicitating Ambassador K. P. Fabian

The European Week

The Jindal Centre for European Studies (CES), in collaboration with JII, organised a successful European Week from 06 May to 10 May 10, 2024. The aim was to academically and creatively engage the audience to deepen their understanding of European issues and culture and their linkages to India.

During the inaugural session, Prof. (Dr.) Raffaela Puggioni, the Jean Monnet Chair at JGU introduced her team and delivered a special lecture on 'Rethinking Responsibility Under the New Migration and Asylum Pact.' The floor was then opened for discussion by the team including Dr. Rajeev Kadambi and Dr. Oleksander Svitych.

H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin (Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan) delivered a distinguished public lecture on the second day. He provided valuable insights into the EU's global strategy, its diplomatic and economic roles, and the challenges it faces. He also discussed the relationship the EU shares with India. A workshop titled 'Can the EU be a Strategic Player in the Indo-Pacific? Challenges and Opportunities' was organised on 09 May 2024.

Throughout the week, an informative exhibition was live. The display covered themes on European authors and philosophers, the history of the EU, the progressive integration process, etc. In addition to this, three movies were screened: 'The Pianist', 'Call Me By Your Name' and '8 rue de l'humanité'



Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia at the A inaugural session of the European Week



Representatives of JGU interacting with the delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan



H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin discussing India-EU relations



H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin taking a stroll through a special exhibition on the European Union prepared by JGU students

Policy Advocacy

JII is dedicated to advancing India's global influence through proactive policy advocacy and international engagement. By advocating for progressive policies across diverse spheres, JII aims to propel the Indian Century forward and amplify the India Story on the global stage. Through public events, policy dialogues, and multimedia dissemination, JII seeks to deepen understanding of India's contributions to the global good, highlighting achievements in democracy, spiritual heritage, innovation, healthcare, traditional knowledge, countering extremism, and environmental sustainability. These efforts are aimed at popularising the India model worldwide.

CAPITAL Talks

A THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SERIES

In March 2024, JII launched a premier thought leadership series titled *Capital Talks,* a curated collection of enlightening discussions led by distinguished personalities across diverse fields such as policy, politics, academia, diplomacy, and more. The audience includes influential personalities such as senior diplomats, journalists, strategic thinkers, bureaucrats, academicians, and select students. This series aims to empower and strengthen the minds and spirits of India's citizenry, while also informing and engaging these influential personalities about India's achievements and potential. Through these discussions, JII actively advocates for policies that contribute to India's rise in the world.

These sessions are hosted by JGU's Founding Vice Chancellor and President of JII, Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, at the JGU International Academy, Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi. They are moderated by Ms. Ambreen Khan (Adjunct Professor of Practice and Director of Media Outreach & Special Initiatives, JGU), with panelists Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia (Director General of JII and Professor & Founding Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs) and Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar (Senior Fellow, JII and Dean of Strategic and International Initiatives, JGU).

India & the World: A Perspective from Bharat
Dr. Ram Madhav (President, India Foundation)
07 March 2024

At the inaugural session of the series Dr. Madhav discussed the emergence of a heteropolar world, marked by the decline of international institutions like the UN, the diminishing role of the dollar, human displacement due to climate change, and the rise of global tech companies. He highlighted the reduced influence of Western powers and the growing significance of China and middle powers. He emphasised the emergence of minilateral groups like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, EU, and ASEAN as important power blocs. He also pointed out the increasing influence of big tech corporations and multinational organisations in shaping global affairs. Additionally, Dr. Madhav discussed China's rise and the escalating tensions reminiscent of a new Cold War era, particularly between the United States and China. He highlighted the need for strategic recalibration among nations like India in navigating this rapidly evolving landscape.



Dr. Ram Madhav sitting alongside Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia

India-Europe Partnership in a Multipolar World
H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann (Ambassador of Germany to India and Bhutan)
15 April 2024

The second session of the series discussed the relationship between India and European countries (including the European Union), especially Germany. H.E. Dr. Ackermann began by expressing his belief in India's potential to be a great leader, noting that Europeans support India's efforts to gain a prominent position at high-level forums such as the UN Security Council. He specifically highlighted the numerous converging interests between India and Germany. However, this relationship extends beyond traditional government-to-government partnerships, with non-state actors like JGU playing a crucial role in enhancing

mutual value. H.E. Dr. Ackermann also discussed India's assistance to Germany in the field of agriculture, noting that India is the only country with which Germany has such a unique cooperation. He also spoke about India being a democracy in its own right, emphasising that no two democracies, even in Europe, are similar. He addressed a range of issues, including China, India-German business ties, and the state of Ukraine. In conclusion, he underscored the importance of fostering strong bilateral relationships and the role of academic institutions and non-state actors in



H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann discussing India-Europe partnership in a multipolar world



Mr. Shah Faesal (Senior IAS Officer) asking a question about India-Europe relations during the second session



H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann meeting Prof. Sudarsan Ramaswamy (Professor & Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy)

India on the High Table: Leadership in G20
Mr. Amitabh Kant (G20 Sherpa of India)
03 May 2024

Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India and Former CEO of NITI Aayog, took centre stage for the third session. He began with a captivating discourse on India's remarkable G20 presidency, highlighting its diplomatic prowess, economic aspirations, and emerging leadership role in the international order. His insights provided a comprehensive view of India's strategic priorities and its contributions

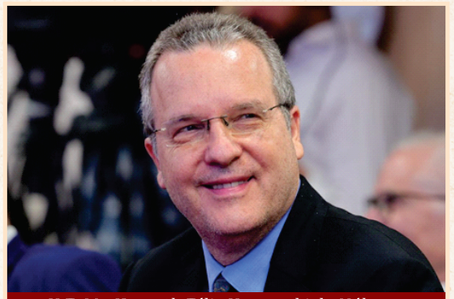
to shaping international discourse and policy. He further discussed the nation's once-in-a-generation economic growth. Highlighting India's position as an "oasis of growth" amid the global economic slowdown, Mr. Kant emphasised the need for sustaining and accelerating growth rates to 9-10% over the next three decades. He noted the end of globalisation as previously known and the rise of new technologies like AI and blockchain, which demand a multilateral approach for ethical governance. Mr. Kant also addressed the geopolitical shifts, such as the Russia-Ukraine crisis, and the declining relevance of the UN. He stressed India's goal of becoming a $30 trillion economy by 2047, driven by structural reforms, digital infrastructure, and significant improvements in financial inclusion and corporate tax policies. He further elaborated on key initiatives driving India's growth, including infrastructure development, digital identity, and financial inclusion. He highlighted the need for India to transition into a manufacturing powerhouse, achieve sustainable urbanisation, and improve learning outcomes, health, and nutritional standards. He asserted India's leadership role in the G20 and its potential to shape the global economic landscape.



Mr. Amitabh Kant being felicitated by Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar alongside Ms. Ambreen Khan, Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia, and Ambassador (Dr.) Mohan Kumar



Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India, speaking about India's remarkable G20 presidency



H.E. Mr. Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega (Ambassador of Brazil to India) attending the third Capital Talk

indian century
CONVERSATIONS

The “Indian Century Conversations” is an upcoming monthly dialogue series aimed at exploring the concept of the “Indian Century,” envisioning India as a leading global power over the next 75 years. This concept underscores India's potential to not only match but surpass other major powers such as China and the USA, significantly contributing to a fairer and more just world order. The 21st century, often dubbed the “Asian Century,” signifies a shift in global economic and political power from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with India and China as central players. However, India’s democratic framework, contrasted with China's political system, along with demographic and economic shifts favouring India, suggest a unique trajectory. The Indian Century represents a period where India’s influence and leadership will reshape global norms and policies.

JII is at the heart of this intellectual and creative endeavour, providing a platform for generating and sharing ideas that shape the Indian Century. By facilitating dialogues across various domains, JII aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of India's evolving role on the global stage. Each episode will be 20 minutes long, featuring a member of Team JII alongside an external expert addressing various critical topics, such as India's knowledge systems, economic growth, cultural evolution, grand strategy, environmental sustainability, gender equality, democratic processes, and technological advancements. The “Indian Century Conversations” will serve as a crucial platform for discussing India's potential and the challenges it faces. By bringing together experts from different fields, JII aims to inspire a deeper understanding of the Indian Century and contribute to the discourse on India’s promising future. The first episode of the series is scheduled for release in September 2024.

Teaching

JII aims to intellectually decolonise the study and depiction of India by promoting India Studies from an indigenous perspective. In today’s world, despite India’s fierce independence and strategic autonomy, there persists a tendency to seek intellectual validation from Western educational paradigms and institutions regarding India’s identity and trajectory. JII seeks to disrupt this intellectual hegemony and provide an authentic and comprehensive understanding of India’s rich heritage and contemporary significance.

M.A. India Studies

The executive team of JII is actively preparing to soon launch a fully online trans-disciplinary postgraduate degree in India Studies on a renowned online learning platform.

India Studies has not been offered as a full-degree program by any Indian university so far. This degree will tell the India story to the world through authentic Indian lenses. Instead of being defined and studied by Western academia, this degree will enable India to self-define. It is aimed at breaking the hegemony of the Orientalist approach to India studies and South Asian studies. With the rise of India in the 21st century, there is a demand all over the world to learn from high-quality Indian institutions about multiple dimensions of India in a comprehensive, unbiased, and holistic manner. The M.A. India Studies programme will bring about a comprehensive understanding of India, encompassing its role as one of the world’s greatest and oldest civilizations and a rising power in the global arena. It will cater to those interested in South Asia, Indo-Pacific, and Global South area studies, providing pathways for advanced research degrees and enhancing understanding of trade and investment opportunities in India.

Research

JII is dedicated to advocating for a more inclusive and holistic approach to global issues, with a focus on reflecting India's unique accomplishments and vast potential for future innovation and leadership. Central to this mission is our commitment to decolonising the study and depiction of India. We aim to challenge entrenched narratives and promote solutions that are deeply rooted in India's rich intellectual traditions, while also incorporating contemporary advancements. Through rigorous, transdisciplinary research, we strive to generate knowledge that not only promotes a nuanced understanding of India but also contributes to the development of innovative approaches that address the complex challenges facing our world today.

Expert Commentaries

JII regularly solicits and publishes opinion commentaries on its website by its fellows. These commentaries cover a variety of themes, bringing to light lesser-known dimensions of India's democracy, economy, society, culture, science and technology, entrepreneurship, inclusiveness, rule of law, human rights, healthcare provision, environmental conservation, and proactive foreign policy.

Find all expert commentaries by scanning the QR Code provided here

Research Projects

01 - State Visits as Strategic Diplomacy and Economic Outreach: Tracing the Transformation of Indian Foreign Policy

Supervisor: *Dr. Soham Das (Associate Director, JII)*
Project Co-ordinator: *Kanak Mohiley (Assistant Programme Co-ordinator, JII)*

Diplomacy is a vital tool for advancing state interests and fostering crucial economic ties. While scholars argue the utility of diplomatic outreach and public diplomacy, they agree that it benefits domestic audiences. Moreover, interpersonal contact allows leaders to cultivate close ties and trust, which complements institutional foreign policy manoeuvrings. Taking this into account, the project aims to investigate the geographical pattern of the state visits by the Indian Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, and Minister of Commerce to examine how the visits are associated with bilateral trade flows between India and partner countries. Simultaneously, the impact on the trade flows is being studied closely. As an extended study, the project will analyse India's foreign policy trajectories since 2004 through a set of parameters to analyse the evolving nature of Indian diplomacy empirically, systematically, and objectively. Accordingly, India's identity, civilizational politics, and diaspora engagement policies will also be examined.

02 - Successful Forest Conservation Strategies: An Indian Solution to the Global Problem of Deforestation

Supervisor: *Prof. (Dr.) Abhiroop Chowdhury (Senior Fellow, JII)*
Project Co-ordinator: *Vanshika Sirohi (Assistant Programme Co-ordinator, JII)*

Biodiversity conservation is a critical priority today. Nature-based solutions (NBS) are applied globally as an option to restore degraded lands. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) directly target nature conservation solutions. India, with its age-old cultural commitment to nature conservation dating back to 3000 BC, has not received due recognition for its efforts. With the conservation of nature and its reverence deeply ingrained in local cultures and belief systems, India's progress in recent years has been exponential and noteworthy. Indian religious and cultural sentiments further bolster conservation ideals. This project aims to portray and logically collate India's journey in forest conservation, focusing on success stories that can provide replicable solutions to the Global North, for global biodiversity conservation efforts, guided by the principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.

03 - Interface of Science and Indian Wisdom Thinking

Co-Supervisors: *Prof. (Dr.) Naresh Singh (Senior Fellow, JII)*
Dr. Sudip Patra (Fellow, JII), Dr. Shariq Hussain (Fellow, JII)
Raghav Dua (Programme Co-ordinator, JII)

At this pivotal moment of the rise of India and other Asian civilizations in the new global order, the exploration of Eastern, particularly Indian, wisdom alongside modern science has become increasingly vital. Indic wisdom, a vast and dynamic body of knowledge developed over millennia, encompasses a wide range of philosophies, from Advaita to Jainism to Buddhism. The interface between such wisdom thinking and modern science has been well accepted and has gained significant momentum over the past few decades.

Notable examples of this interface include the exchanges between quantum science and Buddhist philosophy, the integration of modern neuroscience with ancient meditative practices, and the potential contributions of age-old knowledge systems like Ayurveda to addressing global health challenges. Furthermore, Indian wisdom offers valuable insights into complex social science issues and can significantly enhance our understanding of domains like

international relations.

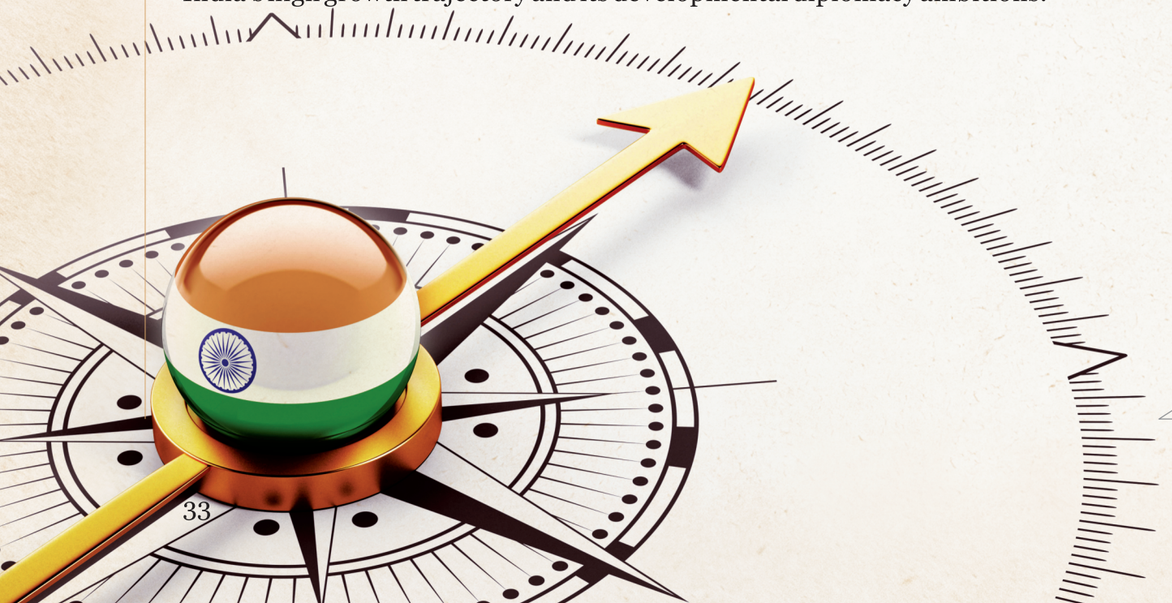
At JII, we are dedicated to pursuing research in these directions and engaging with world-renowned thinkers at the wisdom-science interface. This project intends to conduct an interdisciplinary inquiry into this dialogue, aiming to generate ground-breaking insights and solutions to contemporary challenges. By exploring the synergies between these two domains, JII seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of subjects ranging from healthcare and environmental conservation to spirituality and technology.

04 - Vishwabandhu: India as a Provider of Global Public Goods

Supervisor: *Prof. (Dr.) Hindol Sengupta (Director, Jindal India Institute)*
Project Co-ordinator: *Kanak Mohiley (Assistant Programme Co-ordinator, JII)*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) describes Global Public Goods as "... those whose benefits affect all citizens of the world. They encompass many aspects of our lives: from our natural environment, our histories and cultures, and technological progress down to everyday devices such as the metric system." In the last decade, India has not only reframed its position as a net donor of aid but has introduced the *vishwabandhu* (friend of the world) nomenclature to describe its efforts to provide global public goods. One of India's major efforts in providing global assistance was rolled out during the Covid-19 pandemic where it sent vaccines to 101 countries in what has been described variously as vaccine diplomacy and vaccine *maitri* (friendship). This positioning is derived from India's broader external relations' affirmation of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* which is derived from the country's ancient wisdom.

This project seeks to collate and analyse India's emerging role as a provider of global public goods across various fields and sectors, including (but not limited to) healthcare and medical resources, infrastructure (including digital public infrastructure), food and clothing, educational resources, security, and related resources. It seeks to expand our understanding of the interlinkages between India's high growth trajectory and its developmental diplomacy ambitions.



Student Engagement

In our university environment, we adopt a student-centric and student-friendly approach. Our students are deeply involved with the institute's mandate and mission, actively participating in dialogues and discussions that enrich their educational journey and contribute to enhancing India's image globally. A key element of our student engagement strategy is the 'JII Internship Programme,' which offers two distinct tracks:

Programme Internship

We have carefully selected 15 students from various schools to work as Programme Interns. These talented individuals contribute directly to the institute's core objectives by:

- Managing social media platforms
- Assisting with logistical planning for events
- Crafting both long-form and short-form articles for our newsletters
- Participating in research and training initiatives

To ensure accountability and recognise their efforts, we have implemented an innovative point system. Each Programme Intern must accumulate 40 points over six months to earn their certificate, motivating consistent and quality contributions.

Research Internship

These students work on diverse research projects under the guidance of experienced supervisors, gaining valuable hands-on experience in their fields of study.

Our commitment to student engagement extends beyond these formal programmes. We regularly host events that attract students from across various schools, fostering a vibrant community of learners. This approach ensures that the impact of our student engagement initiatives creates a dynamic and inclusive educational environment. Recently, our students interviewed students of JGU asking them what they thought made India great. From culture to innovation, students talk about the essence of this incredible nation. The vibrant and fun video is available on our official YouTube channel.

By integrating students into the core functions of our institute, we not only enhance their learning experience but also benefit from their fresh perspectives and energy. This symbiotic relationship strengthens our academic community and prepares students for future professional challenges.

Hear from our Interns



RENUKA SREEKUMAR

….I quickly learnt that my experiences in JII will provide priceless lessons. Through the Institute, I have had the privilege to work on organizing multiple events and am currently working on a research project that I am intensely passionate and curious about…..As someone who grew up outside of India, I have often felt a disconnect to my country and fellow citizens. However, through JII and its numerous initiatives, I have managed to acquire a greater understanding and sense of pride in identifying as a citizen of a rising, evolving and developing India.

MANAN SINGH



I have had an amazing time working at JII as I have had the opportunity to work on very intriguing topics. Prof. Soham's mentorship has been integral for my personal growth as well and has helped me to learn a lot, primarily about research and writing. My time at JII has also allowed me to be part of various guest lectures by academicians, former Ambassadors, and various eminent personalities, which have been extremely insightful.



TARANA DUTTA

Firstly, I would like to congratulate JII on completing 200 days of successfully embodying the values it stands for. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank JII for allowing me to express myself and my ideas on a bigger platform. A notable example is the YouTube video I hosted during the early days of JII, which was viewed by representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs.



RIDDHI DEOKAR

My short stint with JII...has been nothing short of fulfilling and enriching. Their research initiative compelled me to step out of my comfort zone as I delved into the world of data and excel. Even though this venture seemed daunting in the initial stages, the support system created by the institute ... helped me focus on the upside, that is the growth I saw in myself as a researcher and a team player. JII and its research initiative aided me to grow as a researcher, a student and to relate my passions to my research, for this I am grateful…

ARUNANSHU SARKAR



During my internship, I had the opportunity to connect with embassies for events, create extensive databases and write reports. These tasks significantly improved my organizational, networking and communication skills and provided insights into the behind-the-scenes of diplomacy and international relations. The support from the JII team helped foster a productive environment, which helped me successfully complete my tasks.



JOYAL MOGRA

Interning at JII has been an amazing experience. I've seen how the Institute works hard to share India's real achievements with the world. Under the leadership of Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar and Professor (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia, JII is changing the way people see India, showing its true progress and potential. It's inspiring to be part of a team that's so dedicated to telling India's story and helping it shine on the global stage.

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The cover & back pages depict the excellent Maru-Gujara architectural style and water conservation techniques at the Rani Ki Vav in Patan, Gujarat. Constructed in the 11th century AD, this inverted temple-like structure descends seven levels into the earth. The intricate carvings on the stepwell serve as a repository of Indian mythology, religion, and social customs, providing valuable insights into the cultural fabric of the era. The structure is a testament to India's prowess in design, engineering, and artistic expression, demonstrating that the country was at the forefront of innovation even centuries ago. It also highlights India's long-standing tradition of water conservation and management, a crucial aspect given the country's diverse climate. This emphasises India's historical understanding of sustainable practices, which is relevant in today's context of global water scarcity and climate change.

Rani Ki Vav is the only stepwell on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.



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