

WINTER **WORKSHOP**

THE INDIAN ECONOMY: Insights and Pedagogy from A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey

3–7 December 2026
O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

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About the Winter Workshop

For a country that is home to a sixth of humanity, India's economic story deserves better than the fragments in which it is usually taught and understood. This winter workshop, jointly convened by the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University and the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington, DC, sets out to close that gap.

The programme takes as its point of departure *A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey*, the Financial Times Book of the Year for 2025, co-authored by Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian. Over five days at the Jindal campus, the two authors will deliver ten lectures tracing India's development path from the founding of the republic to the present, covering state-building, growth, nation-building, and the pathologies that continue to shape policy choices today. Each morning's lectures are followed by an afternoon workshop, led by the authors and by a set of policy researchers and practitioners, in which participants engage directly with data, empirical methods, and, where relevant, AI tools.

The workshop is not conceived as a passive lecture series. Its ambition is threefold: to deepen participants' understanding of the Indian economy as a connected whole rather than a set of isolated topics, to strengthen how that economy is taught in university classrooms, and to seed new research by exposing participants to primary data sources and the analytical tools now available to work with them.

Over five days, participants will accumulate 30 hours of direct interaction with the resource persons, earning the equivalent of two academic credits for those enrolled in degree programmes. Enrolment is capped at 100, selected through a competitive process from among undergraduate and graduate students and university faculty across India.

Learning Objectives

- Develop a systematic understanding of the trajectory of the Indian economy since independence, from the initial conditions of the 1950s to the challenges of the present.
- Engage directly with the empirical and conceptual apparatus set out in *A Sixth of Humanity*, including its treatment of state-building, growth, and nation-building as interlinked rather than separate processes.
- Acquire working fluency in the principal Indian statistical sources, including what they measure well and where they mislead.
- Learn how AI tools can be used responsibly in economic research and incorporated into university teaching.
- Initiate original research on a specific issue in the Indian economy, carried forward from the application essay into further work after the workshop.

Key Highlights

- Ten lectures delivered directly by Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian, authors of *A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey*.
- A joint initiative of the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, a pioneer public policy school in India, and the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a leading independent nonprofit, nonpartisan research organisation dedicated to strengthening prosperity and human welfare in the global economy.
- 30 hours of live interaction across five days, earning the equivalent of two academic credits.
- A cohort of 100 participants, 70 students and 30 faculty members, selected through a competitive, essay-based process.
- On-campus accommodation on a sharing basis for outstation participants, with limited travel support.
- Pick-up and drop from the nearest metro station for participants from NCR.
- Certificates awarded to all participants who complete the programme.

Pedagogic Structure

The workshop follows a simple structure, repeated each day across five days. Two lectures, each two hours long, are delivered every morning by Kapur and Subramanian, moving sequentially through the arguments of *A Sixth of Humanity*: state-building, growth, nation-building, and the pathologies that now confront Indian policy. A two-hour workshop follows in the afternoon, led on different days by the authors and by other resource persons, including policy researchers and practitioners, covering topics ranging from the data resources available for analysing the Indian economy to the use of AI in research and pedagogy.

Over the five days, this amounts to 30 hours of live interaction with the resource persons. The intent is that the lectures and workshops reinforce one another: the mornings build the argument, the afternoons show how it is built.

Eligibility

The winter workshop is open to:

- Undergraduate students in their third or fourth year of study in Economics or Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Master's students in Economics or Public Policy
- First or second-year PhD scholars working on topics related to the Indian economy
- Faculty teaching Indian Economics or Development Economics

Application Process

Admission to the workshop is competitive and capped at 100 participants, with 70 places reserved for students and 30 for faculty members. Applicants are required to submit an essay of 800 to 1,000 words on a specific issue in the Indian economy, with references in APA style and any use of AI tools explicitly acknowledged, along with a nomination letter from their college/university.

Applications close on 25 October 2026, and selected participants will be informed by 5 November 2026. Limited travel support is available, and outstation participants will be provided with shared on-campus accommodation. All participants who complete the programme will receive a certificate.

Faculty and Resource Persons



Devesh Kapur

Starr Foundation Professor of
South Asia Studies,
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore



Arvind Subramanian

Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for
International Economics (PIIE),
Washington, DC



Abhishek Anand

Managing Director,
Insignia Policy Research and
Visiting Fellow, Madras Institute of
Development Studies, India



Rukmini Banerji

Senior Advisor,
Pratham Education Foundation



Shoumitro Chatterjee

Assistant Professor,
International Economics,
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore



Vagesh Rai Goud

Lead Researcher,
A Sixth of Humanity:
Independent India's
Development Odyssey



Mrinalini Jha

Professor, Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy and Director,
Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies
O.P. Jindal Global University, India



Navneeraj Sharma

Economist



Naveen Joseph Thomas

Professor and Executive Dean,
Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy,
O.P. Jindal Global University, India



Wilima Wadhwa

Director, ASER Centre,
Pratham Education Foundation

DAY 1 – THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2026

- **Lecture 1:** India in Development
- **Lecture 2:** State-building
- **Workshop 1:** GDP Measurement: Issues and Insights

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2026

- **Lecture 3:** Growth, the Fiscal State and Globalisation I
- **Lecture 4:** Growth, the Fiscal State and Globalisation II
- **Workshop 2:**
 - Part 1: Data for Development: Lessons from India's Economic Odyssey
 - Part 2: Policy Making at the Centre and the States

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2026

- **Lecture 5:** Growth, the Fiscal State and Globalisation III
- **Lecture 6:** Nation-building and India's Indias I
- **Workshop 3:** AI in Research and Pedagogy I

DAY 4 – SUNDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2026

- **Lecture 7:** Nation-building and India's Indias II
- **Lecture 8:** State Capitalism in Business and Banking
- **Workshop 4:** AI in Research and Pedagogy II

DAY 5 – MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2026

- **Lecture 9:** Looking Back
- **Lecture 10:** Pathologies and Looking Ahead
- **Workshop 5:**
 - Part 1: Beyond Enrolment: Measuring Learning in India
 - Part 2: Open session with workshop resource persons

Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP)

JSGP is one of twelve schools at O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonipat, Haryana, an institution designated an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. Established in 2012, JSGP has pioneered public policy and economics education in India, offering undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programmes across public policy, economics, and governance. The school engages with the contemporary policy environment through interdisciplinary studies, teaching, and research, and works to develop a comparative perspective on local and global policy issues.

Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE)

PIIE is an independent, nonpartisan research organisation dedicated to strengthening prosperity and human welfare in the global economy through expert analysis and practical policy solutions, based in Washington, DC. Founded in 1981 and led since 2013 by President Adam S. Posen, the Institute anticipates emerging issues and provides rigorous, evidence-based policy recommendations through a team of more than 50 internationally recognised economists and policy scholars, including Arvind Subramanian, a Senior Fellow at the Institute.