



LSE ASIA FORUM

Indian prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh

# LSE AND India

This academic year has seen some major new developments for the School in relation to India, with more planned.

## The IG Patel Chair



**Sir Nicholas Stern (left) re-joined LSE on 1 June as the first holder of the IG Patel Chair at the School, heading a new India Observatory within LSE's Asia Research Centre.**

Formerly head of the UK Government Economic Service and author of the

2006 *Stern Report* on climate change, Sir Nicholas held the Sir John Hicks Professor of Economics Chair at LSE from 1988 to 1994. He was appointed chief economist and special counsellor to the president at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (1994-99), before becoming chief economist and senior vice-president of the World Bank (2000-03). He was also director of policy and research for the Commission for Africa which reported in March 2005.

The announcement of Sir Nicholas's new LSE role was made at the School's third Asia Forum in New Delhi in December. The Forum, opened by Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh (pictured above), honoured Dr IG Patel (pictured right), the distinguished former governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the School's ninth director from 1984 to 1990. He died in July 2005.

The IG Patel Chair in Economics and Government will lead the LSE India Observatory and honour the contribution IG Patel made to public life, UK-India relations and the School. The Chair is supported by the Reserve Bank of India and the State Bank of India.

Sir Nicholas said: 'IG Patel first gave me the opportunity to work at LSE, and it is a great honour to hold the Chair in his name. His friendship and guidance were cherished by all who knew him. Research on Asia and on economic development has been at the heart of my academic life. I am pleased to be able to continue this work and to develop and deepen the relationship between LSE and India.'

Dr YV Reddy, governor of the Reserve Bank of India, said: 'As a token of our gratitude and true to the emotional commitment of Dr Patel to the cause of higher education and scholarship in a globalised environment, we are associating with LSE in instituting a Chair in his memory.'

The School also thanks Simon W Glover (MSc Economics 1980) for his gift of £100,000 in support of the India Observatory.

LSE hosted the Asia Forum in association with a number of long term institutional LSE partners including the Reserve Bank of India, Tata Sons Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank, and the Confederation of Indian Industry.



## Reunited

Many reflections were shared by alumni of Indian origin at their reunion in April.

Sunil P Shah, then a student from Mombasa, Kenya, now chief executive of Coaxis Ltd and actively involved with the charity Sense International, said: 'Little did we realise that we were going to be a part of an important and influential global network which would help us grow, succeed and adapt to the western world.'

Professor Inderjeet Parmar, head of politics at Manchester University, was reminded of his radical days at LSE as an active campaigner. Now he is making a significant impact on global research on Anglo-American relations. Ritesh Shah (BSc Econ 1986) has worked in various parts of the world with the Rabobank Group. Vijay Thakrar is head of Ernst & Young UK/India services and was most impressed by the event. He has many fond memories of his time at LSE and was genuinely touched by the progress it has made.

Social entrepreneur and chief executive of Diverse Ethics Ltd, Dr Atul K Shah (BSc Accounting and Finance 1983, MSc Accounting and Finance 1988, PhD 1992) helped coordinate the event. He said: 'I have just written a new book on diversity which draws on my 25 years of work and life experience. Many of these skills of communication and respect were nurtured during my undergraduate and postgraduate years.'



Urban Age is a worldwide investigation into the future of cities. Initiated by the Cities Programme at LSE and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, Urban Age is structured around international, multidisciplinary events and research supporting the creation of a new urban agenda for global cities.

In November 2007 the focus will be on Mumbai. Key speakers, including the prime minister Manmohan Singh, will be involved in a major discussion about the future of Mumbai and particularly the regeneration of a dockland area.

In the run up to the Mumbai event, Urban Age public lectures took place at the School this summer term:

- Hari Sankaran, managing director of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd, on financing sustainable urban development – 4 June
- Professor Saskia Sassen, Ralph Lewis Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago and visiting centennial professor at LSE, on global warming and the political economy of cities – 11 June

Urban Age is also involved in an exhibition at London's Tate Modern this summer on Global Cities, see [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

The Alfred Herrhausen Society is the international forum of Deutsche Bank. This year Deutsche Bank presented the first Urban Age Award in New York. See [www.urbanage.net](http://www.urbanage.net)

## Chevening Gurukul programme

LSE has been awarded the contract to run the Chevening Gurukul programme for the next three years by the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In September the School will welcome the tenth batch of scholars, who will participate in an intensive 12 week programme on leadership and excel-

lence. The programme was initially established to mark the 50th year of Indian independence.

Following on from the first Gurukul public lecture by Sir Nicholas Stern in autumn 2006, this year's programme will include a follow-up lecture on 'World Distribution of Income' by Sir Tony Atkinson.

The new Gurukul Leadership Foundation, which now has an established legal identity in India, is seeking to bring together alumni from the programme through a range of professional networking events.

## A scholar's perspective

by Debasish Mishra, Chevening scholar 2006

Why globalisation? What are its implications on developing and developed nations? How to understand, explore and realise its impact on leadership?

Twelve Indian budding leaders arrived in the early winter of 2006 at LSE in search of some answers to these questions. Hailed as one of the best leadership development programmes, the Chevening Gurukul Programme on Globalisation and Leadership is an extremely rigorous 12 week schedule, where organisers do their best to expose the global world to these budding leaders.

Scholars of the programme come from the civil service, IT, banking, the media and the aviation industry, and represent India's multi-cultural and multi-lingual heritage. Each scholar is a working executive with between six and ten years' experience in their own profession with an enthusiasm to scale the heights of globalisation! Excellence and a burning desire to sustain leadership is the basis of a tough selection process by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Council. During the interview, you are thoroughly scanned on personality traits and leadership skills.

The programme is broadly designed around seminars, study visits and project preparation, packed with adequate room for self development and learning. LSE is undoubtedly an appropriate

platform for the series of seminars by internal and external staff. I distinctly remember the seminars of many eminent professors.

Study visits were very important and useful parts of the programme. The visits to the World Trade Organisation, the European Commission, and the Scottish Executive, for example, provided an opportunity for the scholars to interact with the policy makers. The visit to Scotland was a special learning area on the devolution of democracy. A Berlin visit will always be remembered for 'Deutsche Bahn', the most developed and organised surface transportation department in the world.

Within London we also went to British Petroleum, Amnesty International and the BBC.

Project preparation offers an opportunity to investigate and analyse a specific topic/hypothesis related to the scholar's work area. It involves researching and presenting on findings. This is a unique opportunity for networking with UK peers.

Now back in India, I cherish the memorable days at London and often get nostalgic. It was a small episode of learning and self-development that was the best that I've had in my lifetime.

For more on the Chevening Gurukul programme, see [www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gurukulScholars](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gurukulScholars)



Indian alumni reunion in April

To read more about the Asia Forum in India, see [www.lse.ac.uk/india](http://www.lse.ac.uk/india)