

India



The Asia Foundation's engagement with India began in the 1950s, providing books to local libraries and scholarships for Indian students, and supporting research and conferences on India's fledgling democracy. In the 1980s and '90s, the Foundation offered study programs in the United States for several hundred Indian specialists, from senior government officials to environmental leaders. The Foundation opened a resident liaison office in New Delhi in 2009, and is supporting projects in international relations; governance, law, and civil society; economic reform; the environment; and women's participation. Other Foundation programs provide regional training and technical support that draw on Indian institutions and expertise.



The Asia Foundation's programs in India address issues vital to the country's economic and political evolution and its growing role in the international community.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2001, The Asia Foundation and the Indian Ministry of External Affairs inaugurated an annual Foundation-funded fellowship in the United States. The Regional Security Studies Fellowship helps MEA officers develop a better understanding of U.S. foreign policy and its implications for regional and global security in South Asia. Since 2007, the Foundation has also administered a program enabling young career diplomats to attend a two-week summer session at a respected school of international affairs in the U.S. followed by a national study tour to observe best practices in a range of governance contexts. In addition to these successful exchange programs, the Foundation supports initiatives to promote greater understanding of India's growing regional and international role, for example:

- With the Pacific Council on International Policy, the Foundation co-sponsored a task force and publication on India and the United States: *A New Relationship for a New Century*.
- Indian scholars and policymakers helped prepare the Foundation's *America's Role in Asia*

reports in 2004 and 2008, which analyzed the challenges facing the U.S. in Asia, from both Asian and American perspectives, and recommended policy initiatives to the U.S. administration and Congress.

GOVERNANCE, LAW, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

The Asia Foundation has worked with central and state government agencies to promote increased access to information through the development of eGovernance programs. A study conducted by the Center for eGovernance at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, included in-depth analyses of six case studies of eGovernance, and was widely disseminated to local government officials.

In 2008, the Foundation initiated a pilot project to support the development of district-level plans to help rural and urban government agencies serve local communities more effectively. In the district of Madhubani in Bihar, the Foundation helped create a state-of-the-art data template of infrastructure and social indicators to inform debate and action by the District Planning Committee. In the district of Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, it supported an environmental report analyzing linkages between environmental quality, livelihoods, and other socio-economic factors, and helping to identify crucial points of intervention, such as solid waste management. In 2010, the Foundation will host a national roundtable on best practices, policy implications, and lessons learned from its district



INDIA

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The Foundation has distributed nearly 700,000 books and journals to Indian schools, libraries, and other organizations.

Our U.S.-based affiliate, Give2Asia, a non-profit organization established by The Asia Foundation to facilitate charitable giving in Asia, has made more than \$30 million in grants in India since 2001.

planning project, with partners including Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) Development Alternatives, and Debate and the Best Practices Foundation, in partnership with the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

In 2009, the Foundation brought election officials from Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka to observe India's general election, the largest in the world. In meetings with national and state election commissions, they exchanged information on election laws and procedures, and discussed the role of NGOs, such as civic education, voter awareness, and election reporting, in monitoring different aspects of the election process. An outcome of this international visit was an agreement to establish an ongoing dialogue on shared electoral issues.

ECONOMIC REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT

As India's economy races forward, there is tremendous potential for growth in service-, energy-, and knowledge-based industries. The Asia Foundation aims to expand regional dialogue on economic and trade issues to benefit India, India-U.S. relations, and South Asia as a whole. Grant assistance from the Foundation allowed the Pakistan-India CEO's Business Forum to publish sector briefs on bilateral trade opportunities in engineering, information technology, tourism, education, and other sectors. The Foundation co-sponsored a USAID conference on the South Asia Free Trade Agreement in New Delhi, which included participation by the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation, public and private sector representatives, donor groups, and U.S. government agencies. Currently, the Foundation is supporting a series of public-private dialogues on economic governance at the district and state levels in Tamil Nadu, in partnership with the Centre for Development Finance of the Institute for Financial Management and Research.

ENVIRONMENT

Over the past 15 years, The Asia Foundation has supported Indian environmental groups with grants, technical assistance, and regional networking to promote NGO-business partnerships and increase public participation in environmental decision-making and management. Project grants under the 10-year U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership, a regional USAID program, included:

- Jal Bhagirathi Foundation mobilized and trained communities in the Marwar region of the Thar Desert in Rajasthan in the construction, maintenance, governance, and sustainable financing of rainwater catchment and harvesting systems.

- Sankat Mochan Foundation and EcoFriends organized Clean Ganges Campaigns to increase awareness, monitor pollution, and promote environmental governance reform in New Delhi, Varanasi, and Kanpur.
- Development Alternatives provided research and training in clean production techniques to thousands of small electro-plating manufacturers in New Delhi to simultaneously reduce toxic waste and increase business income.
- Centre for Resource Education provided environmental governance and clean production information to local government and manufacturing industries, including timber processing, steel-making, pharmaceuticals, and agro-processing in Andhra Pradesh.
- Jeevan Rekha Parishad conducted environmental, health, and safety training for stone crushers in Orissa.

In 2005-2008, together with PADCO International, the Foundation continued its regional focus in the clean water and sanitation sector through Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia), a USAID regional project with an Indian component.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Since the Beijing Conference on Women in 1995, The Asia Foundation has partnered with a variety of Indian organizations to help implement the Platform for Action agenda for women's empowerment developed at the conference. The Foundation draws on the expertise and experience of Indian women's organizations to develop regional strategies and share lessons learned with other countries in Asia. Foundation support helped the Centre for Social Research, a Delhi-based women's NGO, to organize a workshop on violence against women in South Asia. The Foundation also partnered with the Joint Women's Programme organization to educate underprivileged women on their legal rights, and supported PRERANA, a Mumbai-based NGO, to create and distribute a *Handbook on Victim Protection for Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation* to fight the problem of sex trafficking in the country.

PHILANTHROPY

Our U.S.-based affiliate, Give2Asia, a non-profit organization established by The Asia Foundation to facilitate charitable giving to Asia, has made more than \$30 million in grants to over 90 organizations and causes in India since 2001.

The Asia Foundation is a private, non-profit, non-governmental organization. Through its programs, the Foundation builds leadership, improves policies, and strengthens institutions to foster greater openness and shared prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. It is funded by contributions from corporations, foundations, individuals, and governmental organizations in the U.S., Europe, Canada, Australia, and Asia, and an annual appropriation from the U.S. Congress.



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