Partner with us
If you are interested in partnering with us, please get in touch with the College’s International Relations Office at international.relations@imperial.ac.uk.

FIND OUT MORE
TWITTER: @imperialcollege
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YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/user/imperialcollegevideo

Visit our Global Imperial webpage to learn more about our partnerships in India and elsewhere in the World: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/introducing-imperial/global-imperial/
Imperial is a global top ten university with a world-class reputation in science, engineering, business and medicine.

Located in the heart of London, Imperial is a multidisciplinary space for education, research, translation and commercialisation, harnessing science and innovation to tackle global challenges.

Founded in 1907, the College builds upon a distinguished past, having pioneered penicillin, holography and fibre optics, to shape the future. Imperial researchers work across disciplines to improve health and wellbeing, understand the natural world, solve major engineering problems, lead the data science revolution and improve health and well-being. The blend of academic excellence and its real-world application feeds into Imperial’s exceptional learning environment, where students participate in research to push the limit of their degrees.

Global Imperial

Imperial is one of the world’s most international universities. The College’s excellence arises from its talented students and staff who come from all over the world, and support from a global network of alumni, friends and collaborators. Over half our publications are the result of collaborations spanning 192 countries and we are establishing partnerships to tackle global challenges in areas such as healthcare, engineering, technology and sustainability. We are a global academic community where people from different cultures contribute diverse perspectives, new ideas and fresh approaches to solving complex problems.
The College is proud of its strong and longstanding connections with India.

Imperial academics enjoy rich and diverse research collaborations with partners in India across a range of disciplines. In the last five years our academics co-authored just over 1,200 research publications with partners at more than 300 Indian institutions. Research partners include the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Christian Medical College, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

The College is committed to strengthening our connections with India and building upon our valuable engagement with partners across research, education and innovation.

"India is an incredibly exciting place for research and innovation collaboration. At the National level, the UK and India make excellent knowledge partners, with the impressive response of the UK-India Scientific community to Covid-19 serving to highlight this further. There is a great deal of opportunity to build upon this success and I hope that Imperial can be at the forefront of supporting and forging UK-India partnerships in the coming decade".

PROFESSOR MAGGIE DALLMAN, Vice-President (International) and Associate Provost (Academic Partnerships)

The College’s existing two-way flow of ideas and innovation with partners in India meant colleagues in both countries were able to respond quickly and come together to tackle the Covid-19 crisis.

Imperial’s School of Public Health and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India’s top institution for biomedical research, have been collaborating to support India’s COVID response. The collaboration has involved performance modelling analysis to address key questions faced by public health authorities. The Imperial-ICMR team also developed a user-friendly, web-based modelling tool that was subsequently deployed at state level, to help states model the health impact of different scenarios for a third wave of COVID-19. While much of this work has so far focused on COVID-19, the College and ICMR plan to build on these collaborations, in partnership with the Jameel Institute, to broaden the scope of work to other major infectious disease challenges.

FIND OUT MORE www.imperial.ac.uk/stories/imperial-and-india/

At a glance

32% of co-publications were in the area of clinical, pre-clinical and health, 26% in physical sciences and 23% in engineering and technology.

500 Indian students enrolled at the College

3,000 Imperial has more than 3,000 Indian alumni, many of whom have risen to the top of their professions, including Hike founder, Kavin Mittal, computational fluid dynamics pioneer Suhas Patanker, and the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

43% of Indian students are based in the Faculty of Engineering, 19% in the Imperial College Business School, 19% in the Faculty of Medicine and 18% in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

1,230 Imperial academics have co-authored 1,230 research publications with more than 300 Indian partner institutions in the last five years.
Imperial is currently home to just over 500 students from India, who are often at the heart of enterprise and innovation at the College. The number of Indian students studying with us has steadily risen over the last five years and we look forward to welcoming even more talented students from India in the future.

“Imperial’s research community is unparalleled and has provided me with so many opportunities. Being in London has its perks too – it’s a bustling multicultural city that allows me to meet so many people from such different places.”

RAASHI SHAH, MBBS, School of Medicine

“I love every bit of studying here, where am appreciated, heard, understood and supported.”

JOSEPH XAVIER, Commonwealth Scholar Joseph, a Commonwealth split-site scholar, is spending a year at Imperial to conduct lung research at the National Heart and Lung Institute (NHLI). “Imperial is one of the best institutes in the world for lung research and the NHLI is world-renowned. It was mine, and many other people’s, dream to come here. It’s a great experience to look into solving a problem with other international researchers in great scientific facilities.”

JOSEPH XAVIER, Commonwealth Scholar

“My course, the MSc Genes Drugs Stem Cells, is designed in such a way to nurture and empower early career researchers. Imperial will be a life-changing experience for me. The knowledge assimilated, skills learned, experiences and friends I have made will be cherished for a very long time.”

SUNEEL THARIMENA, GREAT-Imperial College London Scholar, National Heart and Lung Institute

“I love every bit of studying here, where am appreciated, heard, understood and supported.”

DR PRERANA GOGOI, MSc Surgical Innovation, Department of Surgery and Cancer

PROFILE
Narinder Singh Kapany
The Father of Fibre Optics

Narinder Singh Kapany (1926 to December 2020) was born in Moga, Punjab. He graduated from Agra University before joining the College in 1952 where he was the first to transmit images through fiber optics in 1954 and laid the foundation for high speed internet technology. He was later a teacher of physics at Stanford University, California. In 1962, he cofounded the Sikh Foundation International in California, with the mission to preserve and promote Sikh heritage. Kapany was named one of the seven “Unsung Heroes” of the 20th century by Fortune magazine and was a role model for many in the Imperial community.
Research collaboration highlights

1. MANDI
**Wastewater treatment**
In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Imperial researchers in the Department of Earth Science and Engineering are combining novel experimental techniques and numerical modelling as tools for improving wastewater treatment systems and equipment.

2. NEW DELHI
**COVID-19 risk factors**
Researchers from Imperial’s School of Public Health, the Delhi Diabetes Research Foundation and the CSIR-Institute of Geomicrobiology and Integrative Biology are using data from established research participant cohorts in the UK and India to determine primary risk factors for the disease, with the aim to inform health policy and practice for control of the disease globally.

3. GUWAHATI
**Brighter LEDs**
Imperial chemists and physicists have collaborated with researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati to make LEDs brighter and more energy-efficient.

4. 8/10. INDORE AND AHMEDABAD
**Climate finance**
Imperial’s Centre for Environmental Policy and Ahmedabad University are currently home to the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

5. 9. AHMEDABAD
**Climate change mitigation**
Imperial’s Centre for Environmental Policy and Ahmedabad University are currently home to the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

6. 10. NEW DELHI
**Non-communicable diseases**
The School of Public Health’s Policy Evaluation Unit works closely with partners at the Public Health Foundation of India to evaluate strategies for preventing and treating non-communicable diseases.

7. 11. BHUBANESWAR
**Designing safer machines**
Imperial academics are working with partners at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, and Ahmedabad University to develop safer machines for India.

8. 12. INDORE
**Household finance**
A committee led by an Imperial’s Professor Tarun Ramadorai has provided policy recommendations to India’s central bank, outlining challenges facing Indian households when managing their finances.

9. 13. MUMBAI
**Nuclear engineering**
Since 2015, the College’s Nuclear Engineering Group has led and supported a network of joint nuclear science and engineering research activities under the Indo-UK Civil Nuclear Programme. Working with a key collaborator, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, researchers have developed models and indices associated with various aspects of nuclear thermal hydraulics.

10. 14. BANGALORE
**Climate change**
Imperial’s South Asia and Global Institute for Climate Change and the Environment enjoys close and longstanding ties with its sister institute, the Dhanvee Centre, based at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Both institutes are influenced on climate change policy.

11. 15. VELLORE
**Vaccine development**
Imperial is leading an international network of researchers who are developing human infection challenge studies to accelerate the development of vaccines against pathogens of high global impact. In India, Imperial is working with partners at the Christian Medical College and the Translational Health Science Technology Institute to develop ethical frameworks.

12. 16. KERALA
**Malaria interventions**
Working alongside scientists from the country’s Vector Control Research Centre, an Imperial team are constructing a model of malaria transmission that encompasses the diverse ecological settings seen across India, in the hope that this will enable intervention deployment to be carried out in a manner sensitive to local and regional malaria contexts.

13. 17. BANGALORE
**Antimicrobial resistance**
Imperial’s Department of Infections Disease is working with the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences on antimicrobial resistance in surgical pathways.
**CASE STUDY: THE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE PANDEMIC**

Imperial’s Department of Infectious Disease has been working with the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences to tackle antimicrobial resistance before, during and after surgery.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health concern, with growing numbers of infections becoming resistant to available antibiotics. It develops when the microorganisms that cause infections, such as bacteria, are exposed to antibiotics used to treat infections. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics is a contributing factor. Infection prevention and correct antibiotic use in surgical patients can have a major positive impact, but it is an area that has traditionally been under researched. Qualitative research led by Imperial’s Dr Esmita Charani highlighted gaps in how infection management teams communicate about infections in the hospital settings. They found that using these methods drastically changed how ward rounds were conducted, improving communication about infection management in teams.

**MUTUAL LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

Another success of the collaboration was the platform it provided for the development of early career researchers at all participating institutions, who came to the project from a range of backgrounds and were trained and mentored by the ASPIRES co-investigators. Building on the work, the investigators developed a Massive Open Online Course on applying Social Science Research in AMR. The course has had over 3,500 learners from over 70 countries and is a free online resource for applying the methodologies adopted in the research.

**“We need to do a lot more to tackle drug-resistant infections right now and we cannot wait for new solutions. There needs to be a focus on improving how we use existing agents and we need to understand how to better prevent and treat infections.”**

**PROFESSOR ALISON HOLMES, Department of Infectious Diseases, Imperial College London**

**“Gradually over time the program was able to create impact, especially on appropriateness of antimicrobial prescription, improving compliance to stewardship recommendations”** says **DR VRINDA NAMPOOTHIRI, Research Pharmacist at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences**

**CASE STUDY: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND MANUFACTURING WASTE**

Emissions from the manufacturing of antibiotics can pollute the environment and contribute to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). India is one of the world’s main producers of antibiotics and several studies have shown excessively high concentrations of antibiotics and AMR in the environment near manufacturing sites. Unfortunately, there are no international standards to regulate manufacturing discharges in the environment and such pollution can result in environmental bacteria becoming resistant, ultimately transferring AMR to human bacteria, with potential harmful health consequences for everyone, regardless of where the pollution occurred.

Focusing on Chennai and Puducherry, two regions in India that have a significant number of pharmaceutical companies producing a range of products including amoxicillin, cephalosporins, macrolides, tetracyclines, and fluoroquinolones, the UK-India AMRWATCH project team is investigating the link between antibiotics manufacturing and contamination levels in the surrounding environment compared to samples collected upstream and downstream of manufacturing sites.

They sample for antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance in waters, sediments, animals, and humans. The methods for these are being developed by the Indian partners with the support of colleagues at Imperial for the bacterial, genmic and metagenomic analysis of AMR. AMR data will be integrated with locations of sampling and levels of antibiotic contamination to determine the degree of association between these factors, providing a library of AMR risk in this region of India.

The Principal Investigator of the project, Professor Nick Voulvoulis (Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London) described potential impacts of the research: “Our work will provide a platform to advise on the risk posed by emissions from antimicrobial manufacturing and identify the need for risk-reducing investments by industry to deal with the proliferation of AMR. Global implications of this work relate to the sustainable sourcing of antibiotics; there may be a need to consider that the low cost of antibiotics should be balanced by a need to maintain environmental performance and sustainability of their manufacturing methods. Our work will encourage and support the Indian government in its determination to monitor and regulate antibiotic discharges from manufacturing, whilst supporting global efforts for tackling AMR.”

**“The project will develop novel analytical methods for the quantification of active pharmaceutical ingredients related to antibiotic manufacturing and novel approaches to quantify and characterise the penetration of AMR into the environment and animal and human microbiota. Findings will be used for the development of mass balance methods and risk assessment tools that predict concentrations and risk based on production loads of antimicrobials.”**

**PROFESSOR JOSEPH SELVIN, Department of Microbiology, Pondicherry University**

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**FIND OUT MORE**

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CASE STUDY: SUSTAINING WATER RESOURCES FOR FOOD, ENERGY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Academics in Imperial’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering have worked with partners in India to investigate water challenges in the Gandak Basin of northern India.

Water Challenges in the Gandak Basin

The Gandak River is central to the lives of millions of people who live and work within its basin. The river and its floodplains play a pivotal role in supporting farming and fishing communities while providing a habitat to endangered species. Yet, the habitat and the lives of the people that rely on the river are threatened by competing water demands. Irrigation canals regularly run dry, which puts strain on farming communities, and continued urbanisation, including the emergence of new cities, only adds to the water management challenges. Factor in the unpredictable nature of seasonal weather events and it becomes clear that balancing the supply and demand of water in the Gandak Basin is a complex challenge.

The approach

The CHANSE research project set out to better understand the factors that influence the management of water in the Gandak Basin. The collaboration was led by Principle Investigators Dr Ana Mijic (Reader in Water Systems Engineering at Imperial College London) and Dr Subimal Ghosh (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay). The programme partners were the Indian Institute of Science Banglore, the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATRES), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, T.M Bhagulpur University, Bihar, the British Geological Survey and the University of Exeter.

The relationship between humans and their natural environment was a particular focus for the team. Their research looked at the interactions between climate change, hydrology, ecology, land use and socio-economic factors, bringing together all these elements together to create detailed and complex models to develop an understanding of the system. Since it is impossible to manage water by looking at individual elements in isolation, this meant creating the tools to reflect the relationship between the different elements. The team developed their understanding through in-depth interviews with water users, water and ecological monitoring, developing modelling tools, applying climate change scenarios and socio-economic change scenarios.

In 2016, chemical engineer and Imperial alumnus Dr Clementine Chambon, co-founded the start-up company, Oorja, with social entrepreneur Amit Saraogi. Oorja Development Solutions Ltd is a farming-as-a-service company providing irrigation, milling and cooling services to smallholder farmers in northern India. Oorja finances, installs, operates, and maintains community-scale solar agri-infrastructure. It has pioneered an inclusive pay-per-use business model to eliminate the upfront technology acquisition cost for farmers to access solar technology. FIND OUT MORE www.oorjasolutions.org

Building climate resilient communities

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Empowering communities in India and Europe

Academics in the Department for Electrical and Electronic Engineering are working with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Indian Institute of Science Banglore and a range of European partners to develop an eco-energy Management System (eco-EMS) and knowledge transfer activity as part of an ambitious EU-India consortium that aims to empower European and Indian communities through renewable energy. The lead for the study at Imperial College is Professor Bikash Pal, Professor of Power Systems and co-Investigator for the project at Imperial.

The RE-EMPOWERED project will develop a complete set of solutions for local multi-energy systems in Europe and India. The collaboration will also facilitate the development of an eco-community tool, which will facilitate citizen engagement, enhancing the active participation with the new technology. Users will be able to monitor their energy data (production, consumption), make electronic payments and enjoy several services that will enable them to shape their own energy profile. “This important collaboration is economically enabling geographically isolated communities through energy”, says Prof Bikash Pal.

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Indian students are at the heart of enterprise and innovation at Imperial. Meet Divya Gupta, the co-founder and CEO of momzjoy.com, India’s leading maternity and nursing fashion wear brand.

Divya completed an MSc in Management at the Imperial College Business School in 2013, and was Highly Commended for the Alumni Entrepreneur Award 2021. Divya had always wanted to start her own business but just wasn’t sure what it would be. “After leaving Imperial and getting married, it was then the idea of maternity clothes struck me.” Founded by Divya and her childhood friend Kriti Baveja, Momzjoy has found its own niche in the market for maternity and nursing fashion wear in India. Self-funded and sustainable, Momzjoy is profitable and selling over 1200 unique products within four years of its launch. The business has been awarded The Best Maternity Wear Brand in India 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016 by leading parenting portal Kidsstoppress, as well as the National Entrepreneurship Award 2018 by the Govt. of India (MSDE). The founders have also been awarded Businessworld’s India’s Hottest Young Entrepreneurs 2017 and Divya has been awarded Top 50 most influential e-commerce professionals by Asia Retail Congress in 2018.

Imperial College Business School gave Divya the platform to believe in the power of technology, and she still uses the management acumen developed during the course today. As a wife and mother, “Being at Imperial and living in London opened my eyes to different things, and exploring disruptive innovation was really insightful. I think subconsciously this is when ecommerce started to become an option for me.”

Divya enjoys the flexibility being an entrepreneur gives her. For Divya, giving back to the community is important too. She donates fabric scraps for making reusable bags and pouches for sustainable fashion. As a policy, the team also allocated 7% of its profit for charitable activities. So far, they’ve supported flood reliefs, surrogate homes and food distribution.