“The most pressing issues we are grappling with today – increasing political polarization, accelerating climate change, deepening inequality – are inherently global in nature. Understanding their impact, and formulating intelligent responses, is impossible without sustained engagement in and with the world. This is precisely why the Columbia Global Centers were created ten years ago – to be deeply responsive to and integrated with issues of local, regional, and global significance. By allowing us to learn from and with the world, the Centers advance knowledge and its exchange, helping us to study significant questions and address the most urgent global challenges.”

SAFWAN M. MASRI
Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University

CONTENTS

05 MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
06 ADVISORY BOARD
07 FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
08 WHAT WE DO
09-11 PUBLIC PROGRAMS
12-13 STUDENT PROGRAMS
14 - 15 RESEARCH PROJECTS
16 KEY STATISTICS
17-30 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
18 -21 Innovation and Entrepreneurship
MENTORING SOCIAL IMPACT STARTUPS
22 - 24 Health and Medicine
RESEARCHING CRITICAL HEALTH ISSUES
25 - 27 Environmental Sustainability
CONSERVING URBAN BIODIVERSITY
28-30 Education and Culture
STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION
31 COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | MUMBAI TEAM
As India and the world grapple with the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, as well as major shifts in pluralism and democracy, questions around what research and education mean, and what shape next generation knowledge must take, become even more critical. At the Columbia Global Center | Mumbai, we remain committed to the vision of building academic bridges for a better future.

During September 2018-August 2019, the period that is covered in this report, environmental sustainability emerged as one key focus across the Center’s programmatic areas. We initiated a long-term project on urban biodiversity in New Delhi and supported cutting-edge faculty initiatives on water and clean air. Multiple research programs addressed the links between health and environment, our innovation and entrepreneurship program mentored startups working on environmental solutions for urban workplaces, and we laid the ground for a new seminar series on climate change to build capacity among science faculty in Mumbai’s colleges.

The year also saw our programs becoming more targeted and impactful, even as we continued to build public awareness and disseminate research by Columbia University and regional experts through lectures, panels, seminars, and other events. Institutional partnerships set into place with Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and the School of Engineering enabled us to commence work on multi-year projects that hold the promise of delivering real world solutions on the ground.

In addition to increased collaboration with faculty to develop research projects in India, the number of students participating in our programs grew to more than 200. Partnerships with academic institutions in the region also intensified as did our outreach and engagement with private sector entities, government agencies, and civil society organizations.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering belief expressed in us by our Advisory Board and donors. We are also thankful to the Faculty Advisory Committee for their enthusiastic engagement with the Center.

Our team has expanded considerably in number and diversity. As visitors frequently join us, our conversations over lunch are lively and creative. The green canopy and sea views from our office reinforce hope and beauty amidst the urban jungle.

It has been a highly productive year, all in all! I hope you enjoy reading about it in this report!

Ravina Aggarwal
Director, Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai
ADVISORY BOARD

SANJEEV BIKHCHANDANI
Managing Director and CEO of Naukri Internet Services

RAJASHREE BIRLA
Chairperson of Aditya Birla Foundation and Director of Aditya Birla Group of Companies

PIROJSHA GODREJ
Executive Chairman of Godrej Properties Limited

RUBAL JAIN
Managing Director of Safexpress Private Limited

UDAY KOTAK
Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

MANOJ MENDA
Corporate Chairman of RMZ Corporation

MANJUL PAHWA
Director of Ralson India Limited

VIKRAM PANDIT
Chairman and CEO of Orogen Capital, and a former Trustee of the University

SHARAD SANGHI
Founder, CEO and Managing Director of Netmagic Solutions Private Limited

VAISHALI NIGAM SINHA
Chief CSR, Sustainability and Communications Officer of ReNew Power

RATAN TATA
Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons

SUDHANSHU VATS
Group CEO of Viacom 18 Media Private Limited

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GITA V JOHAR, Chair
Professor of Business, Columbia Business School

KADAMBARI BAXI
Professor of Professional Practice in Architecture, Barnard College

AKEEL BILGRAMI
Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy

PARTHA CHATTERJEE
Professor, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

MADHABI CHATTERJI
Professor of Measurement, Evaluation and Education, Teachers College

RUTH S DEFRIES
University Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

VISHAKHA N DESAI
Senior Advisor for Global Affairs; Adjunct Professor, School International & Public Affairs

LYNN P FREEDMAN
Professor of Population and Family Health, Columbia University Medical Center

UPMANU LALL
Alan and Carol Silberstein Professor of Engineering; Director of the Columbia Water Center

REINHOLD MARTIN
Professor, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

DEBASHREE MUKHERJII
Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

ANUPAMA RAO
Associate Professor of History, Barnard College

ADAM SOBEL
Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

GAURI VISHWANATHAN
Class of 1933 Professor of English and Comparative Literature; Director of the South Asia Institute
WHAT WE DO

THEMATIC AREAS

- Environmental Sustainability
- Education and Culture
- Health and Medicine
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship

ACTIVITIES

- **Public Engagement**: Dissemination of academic knowledge to relevant audiences through public lectures, panels, creative programs, policy workshops, training programs, and publications
- **Research Projects**: Development and management of impactful & interdisciplinary research projects in partnership with faculty at Columbia University and regional experts and institutions
- **Student Programs**: Opportunities for course-work, design studios, study tours, internships, and information sessions for strengthening Columbia University's global learning mission

STAKEHOLDERS

- Columbia Community
- Academic Institutions and Experts
- Civil Society
- Government Agencies
- Private Sector

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Center designed, organized and participated in 25 panel discussions, symposiums, public lectures, and workshops that provided critical inputs to research questions and enabled expert knowledge to reach targeted stakeholders as well as broader publics. The following list of events includes programs that were held at the Center from September 2018 to August 2019, and also specifies external venues, co-organizers, and institutions who invited us to present our work.
Columbia Experience Overseas
The Center hosted an orientation session for Columbia undergraduate students as part of the Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO) program that is organized in collaboration with the Center for Career Education at Columbia. This longstanding summer program offers students high quality internships in private sector and non-profit organizations in areas such as education, health and banking in Mumbai. Students gain work experience through immersing themselves in new environs and connecting with Columbia alumni.

Practicum for Nursing Students
Twelve students visited India as part of the School of Nursing’s Office of Global Initiatives program, which placed them in an intensive six-week practicum program on patients with infectious diseases at the Bel-Air Hospital in Panchgani and St. Philomena’s Hospital in Bengaluru. The Center organized an orientation session with expert speakers on the challenges of healthcare in India and the work being done to address equitable access to care. Students learned about a holistic, drug-resistant tuberculosis project run by Médecins Sans Frontières in a presentation that emphasized patient-centric models of care with nursing at their core.

Business Students’ Study Visit
The Center hosted students from the Chazen Institute’s Global Study Tour to India for a presentation by Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Association where they learned about the organization’s unique history, daily operations, and plans for expansion. The study tour offers students a firsthand experience of business cultures of various countries and a chance to meet with leading executives and officials while visiting businesses, factories, and cultural sites.

Urban Works Seminar
The Center developed and implemented an intensive seminar from January 7-16, 2019, as part of its Urban Works project, for three teams of 13 Columbia students working on solutions for environmentally sustainable urban workplaces in India. The seminar featured workshops by the Director of Entrepreneurship and four faculty mentors from Columbia University’s Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Students also benefited from interacting with five startup teams from India, and from master classes by environmental experts and sustainable industry leaders. Field visits enabled them to engage firsthand and understand the dynamics of sustainability protocols at play in the business world. The seminar concluded with a round of student presentations with feedback on how to further customize their design solutions for India.

Welcome and Send-off Receptions
The Center organized and hosted welcome and send-off receptions for newly admitted undergraduate and graduate Columbia students in partnership with the Columbia Alumni Association of India. The welcome reception gave accepted undergraduate students the opportunity to meet with peers and alumni and learn more about the Columbia experience and life in New York. More than 80 attendees at this year’s send-off reception interacted with alumni, and networked with other students.

Information Sessions
Given the deep interest among Indian students for applying to Columbia, the Center organized information sessions in partnership with the School of General Studies and the Department of Statistics. The sessions gave interested students, parents, professors, counselors and working professionals the opportunity to learn more about academic programs, extra-curricular activities, student life, and professional opportunities, along with information about Columbia’s distinguished faculty and global alumni network.

“I am not the same person, or the same nurse, I was before I went to India.”
- Maher Benham, Nursing student

The Mumbai Center promotes learning and information activities for Columbia students through a set of academic programs, internships, study tours, and information sessions. By facilitating expert and peer engagement to gain practical insights into diverse locales and ecosystems, the Center creates opportunities for strengthening Columbia University’s global learning mission. Student programs in 2018-2019 included:
The Center develops, manages, and supports innovative research initiatives with faculty at Columbia University. The Center supported eight faculty projects in 2018-19. Listed in the order below, four projects were supported by the President’s Global Innovation Fund, three by the Yusuf Hamied Fellowship Program, and one by the Aditya Birla Group.

**Political Economy of Water and Environmental Sustainability in India**
Inadequate water supply ranks among the most pressing challenges facing poor citizens in developing countries. Uptake of formalized, municipally provided water services is often meager, with citizens instead opting to rely on private, informal, or illegal water-service provisioning that burdens local ecosystems. The Center supports Nikhar Gaikwad, Assistant Professor of Political Science, to study the determinants of citizen preferences and constraints regarding access to water and public services through a series of surveys and field studies in India.

**Hypoxic Events, Harmful Algal Bloom Outbreaks, and Fish Mortality**
Of the many oceanic ecosystems experiencing anthropogenic and climate-driven changes worldwide, the Arabian Sea stands out as one of the most extreme. Led by Professor Joaquim Goes, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, and Helga do Rosario Gomes, this project examines how early detection and forecasting solutions can be derived for mitigating the harmful effects of hypoxic events, harmful algal bloom, and fish mortality on the West Coast of India.

**The Health Effects of Biomass Exposure**
Under the PGIF grant awarded to Jeanine D’Armiento, Associate Professor of Medicine, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Center facilitates lectures, workshops and collaborative research. The aim is to bring together scholars, students, public officials and scientists from multiple fields to inquire into the direct effects of biomass on the lung. The project is expected to expand into cardiovascular diseases and pediatric illnesses.

**The Role of Environmental Exposures and Breast Cancer in Women**
This project, led by Mary Beth Terry, Professor, and Jasmine McDonald, Assistant Professor, both in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, is an epidemiological study on the intersection of air pollution, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon exposure, and breast cancer within India.

**Generativity in Deprived Urban Contexts**
Societies around the world are growing older rapidly. There is evidence that older adults engage with and seek to support younger generations, and that such engagement will enhance the capabilities of the young and well-being of the old. The Center supported a research project by Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, Associate Professor, Sociomedical Sciences and History, Mailman School of Public Health, that interrogates the notion of ‘generativity’ in low-income areas in Mumbai.

**TRIPS, Patents and Drug Prices in India**
Bhaven Sampat, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Mailman School of Public Health, empirically assesses the impact of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreements (TRIPS) on drug prices, generic competition and utilization of drugs, which can have implications for Indian and global pharmaceutical patent policy.

**Yuva Nestham Youth Empowerment Program for Sustainable Development**
The Center facilitates a multiyear research-based initiative undertaken by Yanis Ben Amor, Executive Director of the Center for Sustainable Development. This community-based research project strives to demonstrate that a suite of social, financial, and educational empowerment interventions improves psychosocial well-being, school attendance and job skills of 10-16 year-old girls and boys in rural Telangana, South India.
KEY STATISTICS

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Administrative Heads</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Barnard College
- Columbia Business School
- Columbia College
- Columbia Law School
- Data Science Institute
- Earth Institute
- Fu Foundation of Engineering and Applied Science
- Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Graduate School of General Studies
- Mailman School of Public Health
- School of International and Public Affairs
- School of Nursing
- School of Professional Studies
- South Asia Institute
- Teachers College
- Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types Of Organizations</th>
<th>Organizations Represented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Institutions</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Participants</td>
<td>1134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscribers</td>
<td>5100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can software save the environment? Five undergraduate students from Columbia University who participated in the Urban Works Innovation Challenge (UWIC), believe it can! They are combining artificial intelligence with human ingenuity to explore a solution for waste management in India.

Ishaan Chandratreya, Raghav Mecheri, Ajit Akole, James Bollas, and Ketan Jog from Columbia’s class of 2022, most of them engineering students, attended an information session and workshop about UWIC on campus during the fall semester of 2018. Focused on supporting solutions for environmental problems in India’s urban workplaces, UWIC is a collaborative effort between the Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, in partnership with The CoWrks Foundry and the RMZ Foundation.

The problem they chose to address was that of waste segregation. The city of Mumbai alone generates approximately 7,000 metric tons of waste every day and this comes in multiple forms: biodegradables, recyclables, debris, and silt. Effective processing of each type of waste faces one critical hurdle – segregation. Currently, much of the waste accumulated in Indian cities is segregated elsewhere, known as secondary segregation, and large quantities of mixed waste continues to flood landfill sites in suburban areas. But what if segregating at source, in homes, factories, and offices, were easier, accurate, and more efficient?

The five students realized the potential of automating the process of trash segregation and thus, BinIt was born. The group applied to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the challenge and qualified as one of the three student team finalists. They traveled to Mumbai in January 2019 to attend a two-week seminar organized by the Center and to jump-start their market research.

They discovered the magnitude of the problem after experiencing a 1,000 metric-ton integrated solid waste processing facility in Mumbai and this caused a seminal shift in their outlook: the realization that this is a social and environmental problem too, not one of just of robotics or A.I. alone.

Another outcome, following field visits, was their improved understanding of waste segregation processes employed by major corporations in India. According to Ketan Jog, "Just being there in person, soaking it all in, and understanding how waste segregation truly works on a ground level really helped us comprehend the scale of what we were trying to achieve, and definitely helped drive us forward."

BinIt emerged as the standout winners of the student track of the UrbanWorks Challenge. They were subsequently invited by Urban Works to travel to Bengaluru in late May where they participated in a demo day. As the team honed their pitch, their hands-on research also resulted in them pivoting from a business-to-consumer to a business-to-business model. BinIt had started out as an intelligent trash-can that used computer vision and robotics to automatically sort waste into different categories, with a world-leading trash-classification accuracy rate of over 90%. Their initial business model involved manufacturing and retailing consumer facing bins. BinIt today aims to work towards manufacturing and selling both user-facing bins, as well as large scale conveyor belt waste automation systems directly to large corporations across Asia. This helps balance the human and machine aspects of their innovation, making it more suitable to the Indian market where a large informal sector handles and sorts waste on a daily basis.

Thanks to the Urban Works opportunity and the progress made by the team on their venture over the course of the academic year, BinIt was also announced as the winner of the Undergraduate Track of the Columbia Venture Competition in 2019, Columbia University’s premier startup pitch competition. The team is now working towards launching a proof-of-concept with a few corporate partners across India and the United States, and all five of its members are excited to see what the future holds.
Supporting Sustainable Solutions
For the inaugural Urban Works Innovation Challenge of 2018-2019, passionate young professionals and entrepreneurs as well as students were invited to improve environmental sustainability in Indian workplaces by integrating sustainable resource-use and waste/pollution reduction, green technologies and infrastructure, and energy-efficiency in their solution designs. After a competitive process, solutions proposed by three student teams from Columbia University were selected, together with five startups from India who received Rs. 1.2 crores in financial support and mentorship.

Enlisting Expert Faculty and Advisors
The project addressed the mentorship gap for startups and social impact technology developers by recruiting key members of the Columbia Engineering faculty as advisors, including Professors Patricia Culligan, Ioannis Kymissis, Vijay Modi, and Faye McNeil, and Director of Entrepreneurship, Ivy Schultz, with generous support from the Dean of Engineering, Mary Boyce. The program also saw the inclusion of Advisors from Columbia’s network, including Sharad Sanghi, Managing Director and CEO of Netmagic Solutions, Pirojsha Godrej, Executive Chairman of Godrej Properties, Shom Hinduja, President-Alternative Energy and Sustainability at the Hinduja Group, and, writer Aparna Piramal Raje.

Curriculum Development and Training
The Center held an intensive seminar for the student teams and startups. It provided intellectual inputs to understand the Indian context and helped develop and execute a rigorous curriculum in consultation with the Engineering faculty, including field visits, customer discovery meetings, and expert speakers. The five startup teams from India continued to participate in a six-month curriculum with the CoWrks Foundry, with support from the Center.

Public Outreach
The project increased public awareness for environmental sustainability in Indian workplaces by organizing expert panels and disseminating related outputs through print and social media platforms. It brought international visibility to the future of work in India and encouraged experts and student teams to focus their design-thinking on the country. The Center hosted a panel on incubators in India’s innovation ecosystem to identify what has worked and what needs to be done to make technology incubators more effective in tackling the challenges of urban India. It also convened a workshop to understand the impact of digital technology on the participation of women in India’s workforce to address the barriers associated with women’s participation in the digital space and showcase positive initiatives to foster gender balance. In May 2019, the Center partnered with the CoWrks Foundry to organize a demonstration day in Bengaluru, where six of the winning startups pitched their solutions for environmentally sustainable workplaces in front of an audience of social investors, academics, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening the startup ecosystem in India.

Inphlox Water Systems, for their ‘Indra’ solution that focuses on the treatment of waste water and the purification of industrial and chemical effluents by using advanced automation and analytics. The treated waste water is then recycled and reused, making it affordable and measurable. Indra works in residential, commercial and industrial settings to address the environmental problems of water scarcity and high energy consumption.

Bintl, for designing a recycling station that uses elements of machine learning as well as mechanical sorting to sort out waste by using sensors. This innovation enables accurate waste segregation and reduces human handling. Corporate workspaces can install these bins for effective waste management.

Synaptra Technologies, for a hybrid edge computing device that provides predictive intelligence for improving the performance of workplace assets. It reduces energy costs and waste and improves air quality through efficient control and management of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and lighting in buildings.

Innovate Experience, for their bio-waste processing technology called ‘Suchita’ that offers a decentralized waste management solution that converts wet waste into organic manure in just a few hours. The solution addresses the problem of waste that is produced on a daily basis, thus reducing the need for disposal and transport of waste.

URBAN WORKS 2018-2019 Awardees

Student teams
Mosy, for their Modular Moss Tower, a sensor based mobile air cleaning device that uses a combination of the Internet of Things and natural plant filtration. This device can be installed in workspaces to help absorb harmful gases and regulate humidity for improving internal air quality and managing workplace health hazards.

Modular Workspaces, for a modular system that can re-purpose terraces on commercial buildings and fit them with solar panels, greenery, and water harvesting features. This ready to assemble pop-up workspace solution can be installed in dense urban areas, where employees work in small, enclosed office spaces.

Startups
ValetEZ Services, for their smart parking platform that is currently operating in more than 130 locations and helping these workplaces manage their parking lots in ways that are more efficient and effectively utilize available parking infrastructure. It addresses the problems of over-building and vehicular emissions as well as saves fuel. The adoption of this technology enables employees and visitors to make payments and find parking in a reliable and efficient way.

Hexpressions Megatech, for a new construction material and process involving composite -paper honeycomb panels. By applying this to wall spaces, furniture systems, and other workspace infrastructure, the company aims to promote green buildings that are not only sustainable but also durable, affordable, fast, flexible, and modular. The use of honeycomb panels can help reduce the world’s carbon footprint by reducing the dependency on damaging construction materials.

"Urban Works gave us the opportunity to interact with academics, practitioners, and subject matter experts in areas like urban tech, workspaces, and innovation, which helped us shape our tech and business strategy.”
- Prashant Chandrasekaran, ValetEZ
Ambient air pollution in India is a severe health hazard, contributing to nearly one million premature deaths annually. The country also bears a large burden of the world’s malnutrition and obesity problems, exacerbated by the effects of climate change on food security.

These health challenges formed a seminal part of the research and dissemination activities undertaken by the Mumbai Center with Columbia University faculty in 2018-2019. The field of Environment and Health is a major thematic focus of the Dr. Yusuf Hamied Fellowships Program, in addition to Access to Treatment and Population and Family Health. The program is a collaborative initiative between the Center and the Mailman School of Public Health, awarded annually for three Columbia research projects focusing on India and to three faculty members in Indian educational institutions for short-term residencies at the Mailman School. The principal goal of the program is to develop a robust public health research network, stimulate new collaborations, especially in areas that have critical gaps in health research, and produce scientific publications in public health that will shape future research and policy priorities.

According to Gary Miller, Vice Dean for Research Strategy and Innovation at Columbia Mailman, “I am certain that this initiative will evolve into a series of outstanding research projects that will be mutually beneficial to India and the U.S.” Professor Miller delivered the 2019 Yusuf Hamied Distinguished Lecture at the Center on the topic of environmental determinants of global health. He demonstrated how the study of the human genome and genetics has now been expanded by the study of the ‘exposome’, a new and complex set of diagnostic measures for environmental influences.

The inaugural Columbia Mailman Hamied Distinguished Lecture on campus was given by K. Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India, in which he posited that public health is the bridge to understand and solve some of the biggest challenges in India and the world.
Nutritional Guidelines for Pediatric Cancer

An estimated 50,000 new cases of pediatric cancer are detected in India every year. Of these, almost 85% are diagnosed with malnutrition with a survival rate of only 20%. Given the large load of pediatric cancer cases within the country coupled with high levels of malnutrition, standardization of nutrition protocols is a prerequisite to successful treatment and survival outcomes.

A standardized supportive toolkit for practitioners and the first ever Indian guidelines for nutritional management of children and adolescents with cancer are being developed by Professor Elena Ladas at the Columbia University Medical Center, in collaboration with the International Society of Pediatric Oncology, the International Initiative for Pediatrics and Nutrition, and the Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai.

Professor Ladas is one of the recipients of the Yusuf Hamied Fellowship Program of 2018-2019. The Center hosted two workshops as part of her project in September 2018 and April 2019, with stakeholders from the fields of pediatric oncology, nutrition, civil society, and academia.

A steering committee was formed to review existing literature on South Asia. Data of over 6000 children under the age group of 6 to 17 years was collated. Accordingly, the Committee drafted a plan of action for clinician outreach, anthropometric assessment for children above 5 years of age, dietary requirements, and patient/parent education. One of its recommendations was to target various states across India to undertake trainings, with particular emphasis on online training. It also identified education materials for parents and caregivers as an action point and has started developing pilot materials for field testing before larger dissemination. A follow-up workshop with the expert group is scheduled for April 2020, where the guidelines will be officially launched, together with the inaugural training course for nurses, nutritionists and oncologists.

According to Professor Ladas, “The pilot model of nutritional care being implemented in India will act as a regional center of nutritional excellence with plans of expansion throughout the global pediatric and cancer community.”

Environmental Sustainability
CONSERVING URBAN BIODIVERSITY

India’s rich natural heritage is facing immense challenges as the country rapidly urbanizes. Studies demonstrate that cities with nature reserves regenerate ecosystems, motivate citizens towards sustainable behavior, and have a positive impact on pollution and health hazards.

Responding to the urgency of spreading awareness about green spaces and conserving urban biodiversity, Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai launched an exciting initiative. In 2019, the Center entered into a project partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in India to develop educational and outreach programs aimed at enabling Sunder Nursery, located in the heart of the country’s capital city, to grow into a world-class urban park.

Sunder Nursery is considered to be ‘New Delhi’s Central Park’ and is significant for its Mughal monuments and floral and faunal diversity. AKTC has led the conservation of the larger project area that contains the park as well as the iconic Humayun’s tomb monument. The organization’s pioneering multi-pronged approach involves working with several government agencies and undertaking urban projects that equally emphasize the objectives of heritage conservation, environmental impact, and socio-cultural betterment of local communities.
The Center’s partnership with AKTC will generate online and offline educational and resource materials, curated outreach programs, documentation initiatives, and internships for students. To announce this partnership, the Center organized a public event entitled “City of Haze, Gardens of Beauty: Reimagining Nature in Urban India” at Columbia University in New York in September 2019 for an interdisciplinary audience of faculty, students, and alumni.

Ruth DeFries, Chair of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee and Professor of Ecology and Sustainable Development, participated in the event and emphasized that with careful planning and political will, we can live in harmony with nature and balance the demands of development and conservation.

Professor DeFries, who has worked extensively on land transformation in India, had earlier presented her work at the Center through an interactive discussion and screening of a documentary film on wildlife protection entitled “From Killer Roads to Humane Highways” together with Krithi Karanth from the Centre of Wildlife Studies in Bengaluru.

The Center also organized symposiums in Mumbai and New Delhi to provide a learning forum for showcasing best practices for addressing policy gaps and promoting ‘nature-centric’ public engagement in urban areas. These consultations elicited concrete ideas for focusing efforts and saw enthusiastic participation from experts from leading organizations in India such as the World Wildlife Fund, Bombay Natural History Society, Godrej Mangroves, and IIT Bombay.

The Center’s larger initiative on conserving biodiversity exemplifies its commitment to developing programs and partnerships that deepen the experiential, educational and inspirational impact of green reserves for local visitors and citizens worldwide.

| 26 |

Ratish Nanda, CEO of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in India, at Columbia University on September 10, 2019

KEY FEATURES

- 30 acres of a biodiversity zone
- 80 and more species of birds
- 280 species of native trees
- A special zone for butterflies
- Peacock enclosure
- Diverse aquatic bodies
- 15 cultural monuments from the Mughal period

“We are very excited about the partnership with Columbia Global Centers to both help achieve project objectives and create new knowledge with field teams and academics working together.”

- Ratish Nanda, CEO of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in India
With the largest youth population in the world, India’s higher education institutions registered an increase of 800,000 students between 2018-2019, according to a Government of India report. Amidst this exponential growth, a proliferating network of institutions are expanding their academic mandates and scope of work to better equip students to embrace the challenges of a globalizing world. In the state of Maharashtra, for instance, a number of colleges are gaining autonomy under the University of Mumbai, leading to a new focus on research and curriculum design.

To build capacity, share knowledge and resources, and serve as a learning platform for research and teaching, the Center launched an initiative on Strengthening Higher Education. This initiative builds on the public outreach lectures, panels, and symposiums that were already being conducted by the Center, benefiting faculty and students from several educational institutions in the country.

Partnering with the South Asia Institute at Columbia University and the Mumbai College Teachers’ Academy, the Center inaugurated a ‘Historical Methods Seminar Series.’ a six-part series that showcases cutting-edge research methodologies and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of history. The series was launched on August 8, 2019, with a session led by the Center’s Director, Dr. Ravina Aggarwal, that provided insights on ethnography as a method of historical knowledge production. Faculty from nine colleges participated.

In addition to capacity-building seminar programs, the Center also serves as a space for developing and deliberating new field areas and interdisciplinary approaches. To this effect, we supported a project by Rishi Goyal, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, who received a President’s Global Innovation Fund to contribute to the emerging field of Medical Humanities in India by building a network that could share expertise and lay the groundwork for future collaboration. The project addresses the need for integrating a humanities perspective into medical pedagogy to institutionalize sensitized, self-reflective and patient-centric caregiving systems and practices.
The Center’s Higher Education initiative also develops programs on areas of systemic concern that affect the sector. One such issue that is relevant to campuses globally is the matter of safeguarding values of gender inclusion and safety in college and university campuses. Female students constitute almost half of the total students enrolled in higher education institutions in India. Yet gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence persists rampantly.

In order to explore current frameworks for building gender-just universities and colleges in India, the Center organized a lecture and panel discussion on May 2, 2019. The program showcased the University Grants Commission-instituted Women’s Development Cells and other organizational and curricular interventions that work on gender safety and promote gender sensitization in higher education. The panel featured Dr. Nandita Shah from the Akshara Centre, Dr. Leena Pujari from K.C. College, and Dr. Gita Chadha, Chairperson of Mumbai University’s Women’s Development Cell that sets the agenda for more than 750 affiliate colleges in the region.

As questions around the #MeToo movement in India have raised awareness, the panel saw lively engagement from a diverse audience that sought clarity and debated issues of justice. This program was informed by initiatives at Columbia’s Office of University Life that is mandated with creating resources for student wellness and inclusion.

Given Columbia’s experience and achievements in the field, and commitment to learning from global practices, impactful programs on Higher Education will continue to be a key concentration of the Center’s work in the future.

"Columbia's Mumbai Center and the South Asia Institute together promote and facilitate collaborative engagement of the University’s faculty, students, and alumni in addressing global challenges."

- Professor Gauri Viswanathan, Director, Columbia University

South Asia Institute
Columbia University

*Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai Team

Director
Ravina Aggarwal

Administration Manager
Emelia Dubhashi

Senior Program Officer
Aditya Petwal

Senior Program Officer
Sanchit Waray

Program Officer
Tulika Tripathi

Finance Officer
Manoj Sutihar

Program Coordinator
Brenda Luisa Marbaniang

Communications Coordinator
Ambika Chandra

Executive Assistant
Shama Kamat

*Team members for 2018-19 included Priyanka Agrawal, Bhami Vora, and Tanika Godbole.
“The network of Columbia Global Centers that now span the world are promoting teaching, research, public outreach, and local and regional engagement in Jordan, Turkey, Tunisia, Kenya, Brazil, Chile, China, India and France. Through their extraordinary contributions to our University community, the Centers are fulfilling their promise, individually and collectively, and making Columbia a global university for the 21st century.”

LEE C. BOLLINGER
President | Columbia University