

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF INDIA
CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF EVENTS 2016-2018

Reception for Vice-Chancellor of University of Cambridge – 12 September 2016

The OCSI organised an event at the India International Centre, New Delhi to welcome the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, *Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz* on his visit to New Delhi.

OCSI Mixers – 15 October 2016

Cocktail mixers were organised at Ricks, Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi where Oxbridge alumni were also joined by the alumni of other top universities of UK and USA.

Heritage Walk at Qutub Complex – 6 November 2016

A heritage walk led by historian, *Dr. Swapna Liddle* to explore the iconic Qutub Minar together with the numerous buildings in the complex around it to look in detail at the structures and motifs within, reveal the roots of our composite culture and explore Delhi's architectural history.

Oxbridge Lecture – 11 November 2016

The Oxbridge Lecture in collaboration with the British Council was held at the British Council, New Delhi. *Dr. Maya Tudor*, Associate Professor of Government and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, spoke on her book - *Promise of Power*.

Christmas Cocktails - 16 December 2016

OCSI organised a Christmas cocktails event at the Delhi Gymkhana Club - as the eventful 2016 closes, it's a very good time to gather together and spend an evening celebrating fellowship with snacks, mulled wine and Christmas cake to warm our spirits.

Reception for Vice-Chancellor of University of Cambridge – 22 February 2017

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, *Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz* visited India for the final time and as part of the trip, a campaign celebration event was organised at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi to showcase University of Cambridge's transformative work and research.

OCSI Annual Dinner - 24 March 2017

An annual feature on OCSI's calendar – this year's Annual Dinner was held at the Delhi Gymkhana Club. This year, we were joined by *Prof Martin Speight*, Senior Fellow and Acting Vice-Principal, St Anne's College, University of Oxford, who spoke to OCSI member attendees over dinner.

OCSI Cricket Cup - 26 March 2017

The **OCSI CRICKET CUP** was launched this year and the inaugural match for the cup was held at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Our team played the team from the British High Commission. The OCSI team won the match.

Guided Tour of Sanskriti Kendra – 2 April 2017

A guided tour was organised at the Sanskriti Kendra in Anandgram, New Delhi. Sanskriti was set up in 1978 with the mission to help preserve and promote India's artistic and cultural resources and traditions and has three established museums - Museum of Indian Terracotta, Museum of Everyday Art and Museum of Indian Textiles. These were explored through a tour guided by the curators of the museum. *Dr. Jyotindra Jain*, an eminent and renowned Indian art historian and museologist joined us for an interaction.

The Spirit of Modern Indian Art – 13 April 2017

OCSI in collaboration with DAG Modern organised an exhibition and exclusive guided tour of over 75 works of eminent modern Indian artists at the Leela Palace Hotel, New Delhi. Well-known art scholar, poet and Chairperson of Raza Foundation, *Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi*, addressed the group about the 'Spirit of Modern Indian Art'.

Panel Discussion: Indian Languages in a Digital World – 26 April 2017

OCSI in collaboration with the Oxford University Press (supported by Oxford Global Languages) organised a panel discussion at the India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi where some of the challenges for Indian

languages in today's digitally interconnected world were discussed. The speakers for the evening were *Mr. Karunesh Arora, Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, Dr Swaran Lata, Ms. Judy Pearsall* and *Dr. Poonam Nigam Sahay*.

OCSI Visit to Belgium: 8-10 June 2017

OCSI organised a three-day trip to Belgium – OCSI worked closely with the Oxbridge societies of Brussels to prepare for this visit. Networking drinks were hosted by the Cambridge Society of Belgium where members met the alumni of both Oxford and Cambridge as well other alumni from Paris and London who travelled to Brussels to meet us. Other highlights of the visit included sightseeing trips to Grand'Place, Horta Museum and Magritte Museum in Brussels and guided trips to Waterloo, Ghent and Bruges. A wonderful send-off lunch was organised by the Belgian Ambassador to India in the first week of June prior to the group's departure.

OCSI Scholarship – July 2017

The annual OCSI Scholarship attracted a large number of applications from students across various disciplines. The OCSI Committee reviewed all applications and candidates were shortlisted for interviews to select the awardee for the OCSI Scholarship 2017.

OCSI Mixers – 29 July 2017

Cocktail mixers were organised at Ricks, Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi where we were also joined by the alumni of other top universities of UK and USA for a wonderful evening of networking and fellowship.

OCSI and Cambridge Trust Get-Together – 9 August 2017

A get-together was organised to celebrate the achievements of scholarship winners to Cambridge Trust in 2017 at the Delhi Gymkhana Club. We were joined by the Director of the Cambridge Trust, *Ms. Helen Pennant*, and Trustee of the Cambridge Trust, *Dr. Nidhi Singal*, Reader in Education at the University of Cambridge who presented this year's award winners with their scholarships.

Fresher's Send-off Reception – 6 September 2017

A Send-off Reception at the India International Centre, New Delhi for students who were about to begin their studies at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in 2017. This was an opportunity to meet the prospective students as well as share with them experiences of OCSI members' stay at the universities.

OCSI Annual General Meeting – 29 September 2017

The annual general meeting of OCSI was held at the India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi.

OCSI Dialogues: The Culture of Start-ups in India - 27 October 2017

An evening of stories and conversations about the exciting entrepreneurial journey of OCSI's young members on their motivation and challenges, ecosystem and culture of start-ups in India, and the contribution of Oxbridge education in fulfilling their ambitions at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The speakers for the evening were *Akshay Verma, Shauravi Malik, Meghana Narayan, Megha Aggarwal, and Avnish Mehra.*

The Enigma of Madhvi Parekh's Art - 11 November 2017

An evening of exploring the work of the well-known artist Madhvi Parekh, through an event curated specially for the OCSI at the DAG Modern, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi. There was an exclusive interaction with Madhvi Parekh (in conversation with Mr. Kishore Singh of DAG Modern) along with a guided tour of the on-going retrospective exhibition of her works at the DAG Modern.

Heritage Walk in Shahjahanabad - 26 November 2017

A heritage walk to explore Shahjahanabad in Old Delhi led by historian, *Dr. Swapna Liddle* where we discovered the unique urban pattern, architecture, landmarks and important historical events associated with the ancient Mughal city. Walking through the various 'Galis', 'Katras' and 'Kuchas', we saw the Jain Lal Mandir, Guradwara Sisganj, Sunehri Masjid and the Indraprastha School from the outside and the inside of Haveli Khazanachi, old St Stephen's College Haveli, Digambar Jain Meru Mandir and the Jama Masjid. The heritage walk ended at Haveli Dharampura, an old haveli which has been beautifully restored where a lunch especially curated for OCSI members featuring delicacies from Purani Dilli was served.

Christmas Cocktails - 14 December 2017

A get together at the end of the year at the Delhi Gymkhana Club to spend an evening in Christmas cheer and fellowship, with mulled wine and Christmas cake to help warm our spirits.

OCSI Dialogues: An Evening with Authors - 20 January 2018

An evening of stories and conversations with some of OCSI's member authors who discussed their journeys, and the trials and tribulations in writing their respective books at the India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi. The speakers for the evening were *Chandrabhas Choudhury, Gun Nidhi Dalmia, Ketaki Karnik and Nur Laiq.*

OCSI Dialogues: Bringing Transformation in the Indian Legal System – 9 February 2018

Conversations with some of OCSI's dynamic lawyers who discussed their motivations, which made them choose their respective fields within the legal profession, the challenges they faced in pursuing their chosen paths and their efforts to bring transformation in the Indian legal system at the India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi. The speakers for the evening were *Dr. Anup Surendranath, Ms. Karuna Nundy, Prof (Dr.) Shamnad Basheer and Vishavjeet Chaudhary.*

OCSI Dialogues: Career Experiences at International & Multilateral Organisations - 27 February 2018

An evening of anecdotes, stories and conversations with some young OCSI members who have built successful careers working in India and abroad with international and multilateral organisations at the India International Centre, New Delhi. They discussed the challenges, trails and tribulations they have faced during their journey. The speakers for the evening were *Ms. Mandakini Kaul, Ms. Nabila Jamshed, Ms. Nayana Bose and Ms. Shweta Bahri.*

OCSI Annual Dinner - 16 March 2018

An annual feature on OCSI's calendar – this year's Annual Dinner was an exclusive sit-down dinner with paired wine at The Lodhi, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

OCSI Cricket Cup - 25 March 2018

The second annual **OCSI CRICKET CUP** match was held at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. This year the OCSI team led by Bhavya Bishnoi played against the Australian High Commission. The Australian High Commission won the match.

OCSI Dialogues: India Perspectives - 4 April 2018

A gathering of scholars, policy makers, members of the government, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and representatives of think tanks and offering them a platform for high level debates to reflect on a series of key issues that shape India and its impact on the world. This one-day holistic conference at the India International Centre, New Delhi was organised to encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas amongst various disciplines. Four broad themes were discussed – (i) Law and Governance – Speakers: *Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal, Mr. Rathin Roy, Prof. Dipankar Gupta and Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed*; (ii) Energy, Ecology and Built Environment – Speakers: *Mr. Suman Berry, Mr. Vikram S Mehta, Dr. Arunabha Ghosh and Mr. Ashok B Lall*; (iii) Education, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Employment – Speakers: *Mr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, Prof. K. Vijayaraghavan, Mr. Rajiv B Lall and Mr. Manish Kumar*; and (iv) Crisis of Identity: Civilisation, Culture & Hindutva – Speakers: *Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal, Prof. Arvind Sharma, Mr. Swapan Das Gupta and Mr. Pavan Varma*.

OCSI Dialogues: Conversations on India's Wildlife and Ecology - 20 April 2018

An evening of stories, anecdotes and conversations with some OCSI members involved in the study and conservation of wildlife and ecology in India at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The speakers for the evening were *Mr. Ashok Mahindra, Ms. Latika Nath, Mr. Pranay Lal and Dr. Vinod B. Mathur*.

An Evening with Vivan Sundaram – 19 May 2018

An exclusive interaction with eminent artist, Vivan Sundaram along with a guided tour of the on-going retrospective exhibition of his work, '***Step inside and you are no longer a stranger***' at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

OCSI Scholarship – July 2018

The annual OCSI Scholarship attracted a large number of applications from students across various disciplines. The OCSI Committee reviewed all applications and candidates were shortlisted for interviews to select the awardee for the OCSI Scholarship 2018.

Fresher's Send-off Reception – 31 August 2018

A Send-off Reception was hosted at the residence of the British High Commissioner for students who were about to begin their studies at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in 2017. The High Commissioner gave a speech about his time at the University of Oxford and shared details of the history of the university with the students. This was an opportunity to meet the prospective students as well as share with them experiences of OCSI members' stay at the universities.