

Enquiry

A REPOSITORY OF
ASHOKA'S RESEARCH

VOLUME 3

OVERVIEW
A Round-up of
Research Activities

SPOTLIGHT
Ashoka Centre
for Translation

RESEARCH ALLIANCES
Building Global
Scholarship

HISTORY PRESERVED
Ashoka's Archives of
Contemporary India

Enquiry

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VOLUME 3

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Ashoka University enters its second decade, and our intellectual landscape continues to expand academically and culturally. We are instilled with renewed energy, resolve, and purpose. This year's *Enquiry* captures this momentum, spotlighting some of the key initiatives and stories that define our Ashoka community today.

From the growth of our PhD programme to the dynamic work emerging from the Centre for Translation and the Archives of Contemporary India, Ashoka is rapidly building the institutional architecture necessary to support long-term scholarship. The newly inaugurated Zeiss Lab stands as a model of unique collaboration between academic research and cutting-edge technology.

We are witnessing encouraging signs across the University with important accolades being awarded to both our faculty and students, new centres, and research initiatives being launched, and a growing number of research publications and grants received across disciplines. This is matched by the development of critical infrastructure and the strengthening of our postgraduate and undergraduate programmes.

Ashoka's ambition is not only to be a leading research university in India but to contribute actively towards global conversations through ideas, partnerships, and value through which we shape the students and community. As we move forward, we remain committed to a research ecosystem that is intellectually rigorous, socially responsive, and globally engaged.

I invite you to explore this edition of *Enquiry* as a window into the questions that animate our campus and the scholars who are driving them forward.



Somak Raychaudhury

We remain committed to a research ecosystem that is intellectually rigorous, socially responsive, and globally engaged.

The year in review

2024 – 2025



Trivedi School of Biosciences inaugurated

In February 2025, the Trivedi School of Biosciences was inaugurated. Supported by Ashok Trivedi, Ashoka founder, the School houses the University's dynamic Department of Biology, along with a few thematic centres as well as the Koita Centre for Digital Health – Ashoka University. The School combines innovative research and teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, led by expert faculty from around the world.

With world-class resources like the ZEISS Core Imaging Facility, the School is deeply committed to bridging Science and society by integrating the Natural and Social Sciences.



Ashoka launches School of Advanced Computing (ASAC)

The Ashoka School of Advanced Computing (ASAC), a pioneering initiative to transform Computer Science research and education in India, was launched in March 2025. ASAC seeks to redefine computational thinking by leading interdisciplinary research in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning, while also integrating these themes into both the Natural and Social Sciences.

The School aims to address critical societal challenges, including healthcare, climate change, sustainability, and public policy using computational methods. It will offer innovative programmes combining Computer Science with Entrepreneurship, Biology, and AI and Data Science.

Ashoka announces the Havells School of Management and Leadership

The establishment of the Havells School of Management and Leadership was announced in February 2025. The School will offer India's first undergraduate programme in Applied Liberal Arts and Management and integrated postgraduate programmes in partnership with global institutions.

The School aims to combine interdisciplinary learning with specialisations in management, business, and entrepreneurship, preparing young leaders to tackle the world's pressing challenges and contribute to India's development agenda.

Preserving India's living heritage: Project InHERIT

Ashoka, in collaboration with The Helen Hamlyn Trust, launched the InHERIT project to preserve and promote India's cultural and natural heritage. The project features various indigenous communities of India, alongside experts such as historian Rana Safvi, naturalist Yuvan Aves, and chef Sadaf Hussain.

In the first year, the InHERIT team conducted primary research across the country. They travelled across the Nilgiris, the Sundarbans, Kaziranga, Mangaluru, Paradip, Ramgarh, and Jaisalmer, documenting indigenous traditions, practices, flora, and fauna. The project has released a series of episodes highlighting the genesis of cities, the etymology of dishes, and centuries-old culinary traditions.



Three Ashoka scholars awarded the Felix Scholarship in 2025

Three Ashokans have been awarded the prestigious Felix Scholarship to pursue their graduate studies this year. Harsh Kumar Jha (UG 2025) will pursue an MSc in Comparative Social Policy at the University of Oxford. Harsh is joined by two alumni, Fouzia Fayaz (UG 2024) and Snigdha Arora (ASP 2021), who will study International Development, and Health and Tropical Medicine, respectively. With these new recipients, Ashoka has now produced a total of nine Felix Scholars.

Undergraduate student becomes one of the youngest invitees at the SDG Lab and Global Shapers Summit

Ishan Pratap Singh (UG 2024) was the youngest presenter and panellist at the SDG Lab in Davos, Switzerland, a UN initiative that fosters innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. He was invited as an AI Champion for Good for his work at Cooperation17, a non-profit he founded.

Ishan's organisation focuses on transforming decision-making using AI. He also served as one of the youngest city heads at the 2024 Global Shapers Annual Summit in Geneva, organised by the World Economic Forum.

Debayan Gupta wins INR 1 crore grant for Quantum Tech Research

Debayan Gupta, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, and Dirac Labs have jointly secured a INR 1 crore grant from the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) to advance research in quantum technologies.

In August 2023, Debayan's research group partnered with Dirac Labs to apply gravity and magnetic data for navigation and mineral exploration. Dirac Labs – co-founded by Ashoka alumna Aishwarya Das (UG 2021) – is at the forefront of developing quantum sensors for high-precision, GPS-independent navigation. This collaboration led to the prestigious IUSSTF grant in 2024.

In 2025, Ashoka ranked first amongst new-age private universities under the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF).



Fourth-year student secures observation time on US-based telescope array

Esha Sajjanhar (ASP 2025) who graduated with an advanced major in Physics and a minor in Astronomy, secured observation time on the Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) – a network of ten observing stations across the United States.

She is working with Professor Dipankar Bhattacharya to study the low-mass X-ray binary GX339-4. Her research focuses on characterising its X-ray variability using data from the Indian satellite AstroSat. Esha's proposal to the VLBA was successful, receiving the full 18 hours of observing time she requested.

Ashoka's PhD Scholars make their mark on India's research landscape

Ashoka's PhD scholars continue to shine on national and international platforms, bringing home accolades across disciplines.

In Biology, Chandrakant M and Biswajit Shit received poster awards at the fifth Indian Society of Evolutionary Biologists (ISEB) Meeting at Lucknow University. From the same department, Dinesh Jadhav and Dhoopchhaya Sarkar, also earned top honours at the International Conference on Circadian Rhythms in Health and Diseases at IIT Hyderabad.

From the Department of History, Amit Ranjan was awarded the prestigious International Student and Early Career Research (ECR) Support Award by the Society of Archaeological Science – a remarkable recognition of his work at the intersection of Archaeology and History.

Centre for Translation launches India's first open-access database of translations

The Ashoka Centre for Translation, in collaboration with the New India Foundation, launched *Bhashavaad*, India's first non-profit, open-access, and crowd-sourced database of Indian translations.

Opening with 30,000+ entries, 6,500+ authors, and 7,000+ translators, *Bhashavaad* serves as a centralised and searchable repository. The database includes works translated from and into a wide variety of Indian languages, including Tamil, Bengali, Sanskrit, Telugu, Manipuri, Punjabi, Gujarati, Dogri, and Tulu amongst many others. The platform makes it easier to discover translated works, addressing a key gap in the national translation ecosystem.



Undergraduate student publishes two books on wildlife in Sonipat

Ishan Shanavas (ASP 25) authored *Fauna In and Around Ashoka University*, a field guide documenting the wildlife around the campus. The book captures fascinating information on species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals found around campus – documenting close to 130 species of birds and more than 20 species of mammals and reptiles.

Ishan, also an avid artist and photographer, launched his second book, *The Light of Wilder Things*, at the Ashoka Literature Festival 2025. The book, which captures his journey in the wilderness and explores India's rich biodiversity, was sold out completely at the festival.



Amit Chaudhuri's books reissued by New York Review of Books

In 2024, the New York Review Books (NYRB), as part of their NYRB Classics series, reissued *A Strange and Sublime Address*, *Afternoon Raag*, and *Freedom Song* – the first three novels by Amit Chaudhuri, Professor and Head of Department, Creative Writing. Later this year, his fourth and fifth novels – *A New World* and *The Immortals* – will also join the imprint. NYRB will additionally publish *Incompleteness*, a new selection of Amit's essays.

Known for its distinctive editorial vision, the NYRB Classics series showcases works of lasting literary merit. The inclusion of his books marks a significant recognition of Amit's contribution to global contemporary literature.



Ashoka leads dialogue on global research with European delegation

In September 2024, Ashoka University hosted the EU Research and Innovation (R&I) Info Day in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to India and EURAXESS India.

The event showcased opportunities for Indian researchers to collaborate with the EU and its member states, providing participants the chance to engage with representatives from several EU R&I countries. It highlighted funding opportunities and collaborative projects under Horizon Europe, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and Erasmus+, along with bilateral research and innovation programmes and fellowships offered by the member states.



Faculty Achievements

Mekhala Krishnamurthy (*Sociology and Anthropology*) was recognised as one of Local Government Information Unit's (LGIU) Top 25 Thinkers – for her research, policy, and professional engagements across a range of subjects and field sites, including informal women's courts, popular justice, public health and nutrition, agriculture, regional and local economies, amongst others.

Deepak Asthana (*Chemistry*) was named a Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee for 2025. This recognition is granted to early-career researchers making remarkable strides in Organic Chemistry, selected by the journal's editorial team.

Manvi Sharma (*Environmental Studies*) received the Prime Minister's Early Career Research Grant from the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) for her research on Himalayan carnivores.

Ashwini Deshpande (*Economics*) was awarded the International Economics Association Fellow Award last year. This fellowship recognises 10 economists from across the globe, for their contributions to advancing new ideas and producing high-quality policy research.

Sandeep Ameta (*Biology*) received the Early Career Research Grant from ANRF. Additionally, he was awarded the Indo-French CEFIPRA grant, which enables cutting-edge collaborative research between the two countries. He received these grants for his work which aims at developing 'life-like' synthetic chemical systems and studying the evolution of functional RNAs to understand the emergence of life.

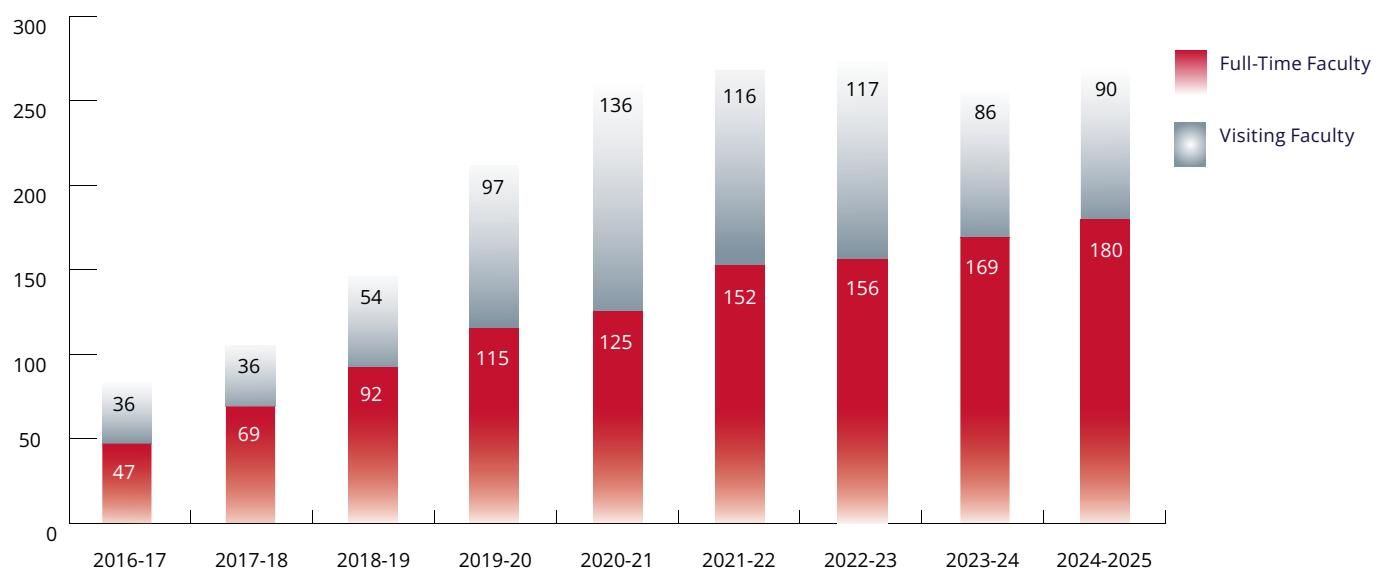
Divya Karnad (*Environmental Studies*) was honoured with the Bay of Bengal Programme – BIMReN grant for her research on fisheries in India and Bangladesh. BIMReN is a platform for facilitating collaboration among researchers in the Bay of Bengal region, for sustainable development of the blue economy.

Anustubh Agnihotri (*Political Science*) was selected as a Fellow at the Governance and Local Development Institute for the year 2025-26. Associated with the University of Gothenburg and Cornell University, the Institute works with societies around the world, using data and developing methods to investigate problems that societies face today.

The year in numbers

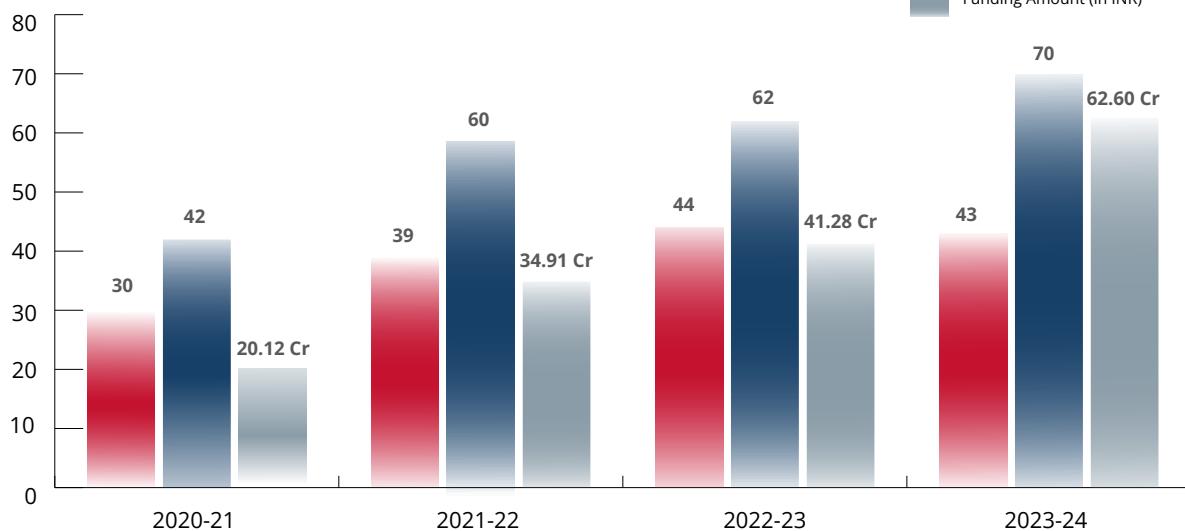
FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Faculty strength has nearly quadrupled since 2016

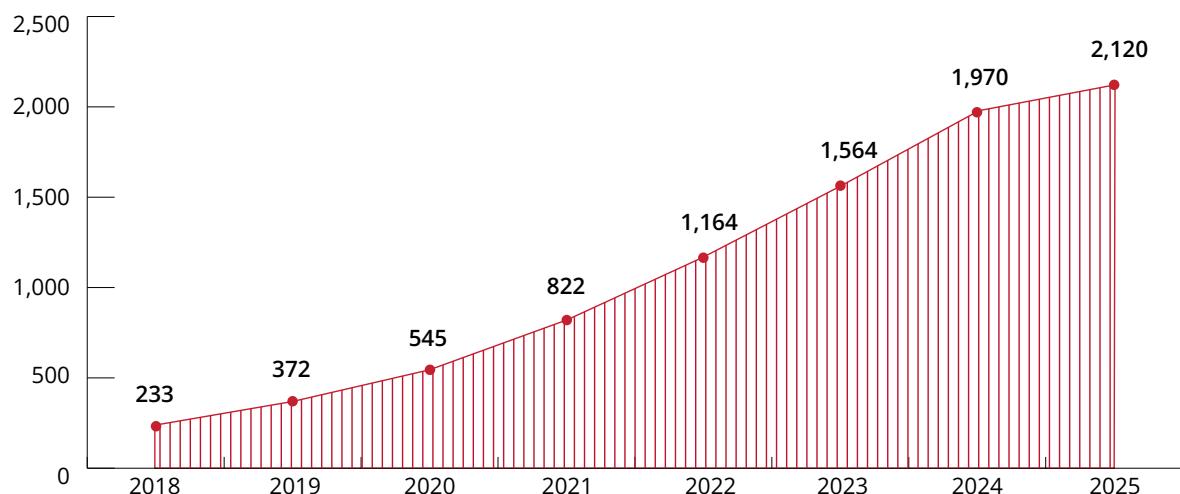


FUNDED RESEARCH

Number of Funding Agencies
Number of Sponsored Projects
Funding Amount (in INR)

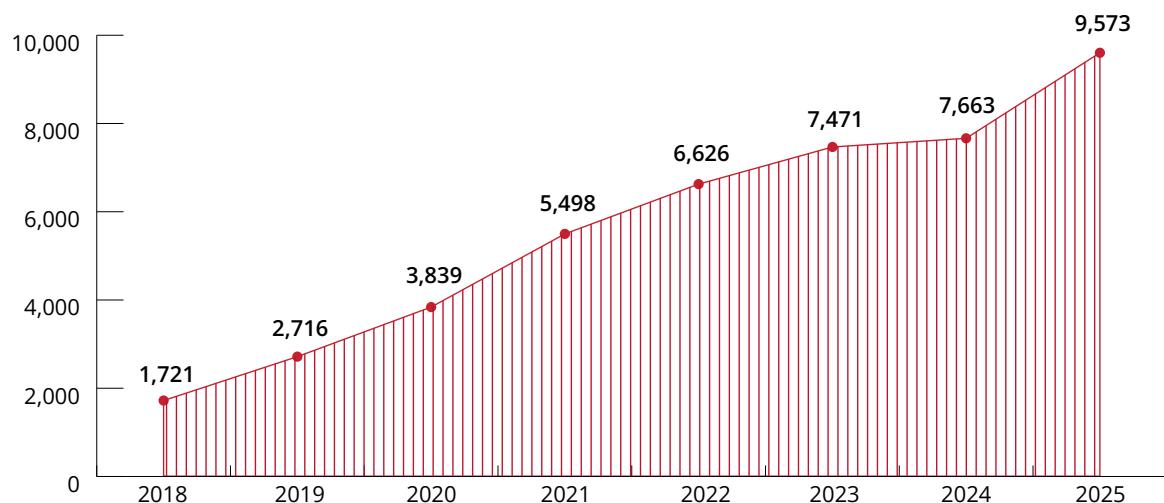


PUBLICATIONS



*Source: Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, PUBMED, IEEE, ABDC etc.

CITATIONS



Source: Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, PUBMED, IEEE, ABDC etc.

In the academic year 2024-25, Biology led with 17 per cent of total publications, followed by Economics and Chemistry

31 per cent of the total publications have international collaborations

41.6 per cent of the total publications have corresponding authorship

FACULTY

A round-up of faculty research, books, and breakthroughs

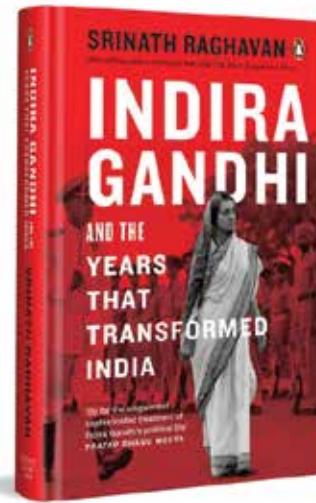
Faculty Features

The Indira Years: Leadership, Legacy, and the Making of a Postcolonial Nation

Srinath Raghavan

Professor of International Relations and History

Indira Gandhi's rise to the office of Prime Minister in 1966 was unexpected. However, she soon emerged as one of the most powerful political leaders of her time, transforming the world's largest democracy and leaving behind a controversial legacy. How did one of the most powerful women of the twentieth century come to lead the world's largest democracy – and transform it in the process?



Srinath Raghavan explores this question in his new book, *Indira Gandhi and the Years That Transformed India*. He tells the story of Indira Gandhi's political career and the momentous changes that India experienced under her leadership. Srinath argues that the "long 1970s" – a period spanning from the mid-1960s (when Indira Gandhi rose to power) to the mid-1980s (her assassination and its aftermath) – was the hinge on which the contemporary history of India turned.

According to Srinath, to understand the churn in contemporary Indian politics, we need to go back to this transformational period. Drawing on a massive trove of fresh archival material, the book charts the fundamental transformation of Indian politics, democracy, and economy in these years. The book sheds new light on Indira Gandhi's politics and government, as well as on her adversaries and critics, highlighting how she transformed the new postcolonial nation into the India of today.

When Pathogens Collide: What Co-Infections Teach Us About Immunity and Survival

Imroze Khan

Assistant Dean of Research and Associate Professor of Biology

What happens when the immune system faces more than one invader at a time? While coinfection – a condition wherein two viruses invade the host simultaneously or in a short period

– affects over one-sixth of the global population, biomedical research has traditionally focused on the relationship between a single host and a single pathogen. Imroze Khan is working towards shifting this paradigm.

In his recent study, *Pathogen Growth and Virulence Dynamics Drive the Host Evolution Against Coinfections*, he explores how pathogens with varying growth rates and virulence interact with host immunity. Conducted with his team – including PhD scholars Srijan Seal and Kripanjali Ghosh, and postdoctoral researcher Dipendra Nath Basu – the study uses red flour beetles as a model to show that fast-growing, highly virulent pathogens can suppress immune adaptation and cause rapid mortality, leaving hosts more vulnerable to repeated outbreaks.

This research provides valuable insight into how real-world coinfections, in both humans and animals, could affect immune responses. In animals, these infections may obstruct the establishment of lasting immunity, rendering populations more susceptible to recurring outbreaks. The study, thus, underscores the need for more nuanced vaccine strategies and to consider both infection speed and virulence when managing disease risks in shared ecosystems of humans, wildlife, and livestock.

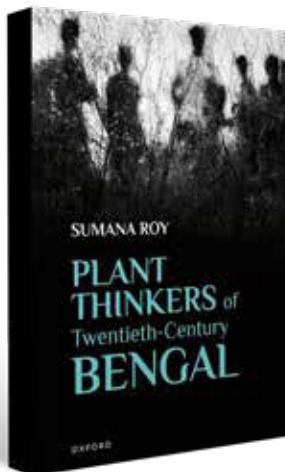


Plant Thinkers of Twentieth-Century Bengal: Poetics, Politics, and a Foliage of Thought

Sumana Roy

Associate Professor of Creative Writing

In *Plant Thinkers of Twentieth-Century Bengal*, Sumana Roy explores an alternative intellectual history – one shaped not by revolutions or manifestos, but by the quiet, persistent influence of plant life. What if we read twentieth-century Bengal through the lens of its flora? How did trees, roots, weeds, forests, and gardens shape the region's stories, songs, and philosophies?



Sumana brings together a rich cast of writers, scientists, poets, and filmmakers – including Jagadish Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Jibanananda Das, Shakti Chattopadhyay, and Satyajit Ray – whom she studies as 'plant thinkers'. They are all figures whose creative and intellectual work drew deeply from vegetal life and imagination. From Bose's pioneering plant physiology experiments to the botanical metaphors in Bengali poetry and cinema, the book charts a poetics and politics that derived meaning, ethics, and resistance from the world of plants.

This work builds on Sumana Roy's longstanding engagement with the field she helped seed – the Indian Plant Humanities. Alongside her earlier books as well as numerous essays, *Plant Thinkers* represents a major new contribution to rethinking how we understand thought, feeling, and ecology in the context of South Asian intellectual life.

Rethinking Energy: Piezoelectric Biomaterials for “Healthy” Electricity Generation

Santu Bera

Faculty Fellow, Ramanujan Fellow of Chemistry

One of the most pressing challenges of our time is the exploration and development of renewable and green energy sources. Among the emerging solutions, piezoelectricity – the ability of a material to generate electricity when subjected to mechanical force – has come as a promising alternative.

Mechanical energy is abundantly available in the environment, from wind and water flow, to mechanical vibrations and human motion. The problem, however, is that most of the piezoelectric materials that we know of today are toxic lead-based materials.

To address this issue, Santu Bera with his team, including PhD scholars Sukantha Dey and Rohit Kumar, is conducting cutting-edge research to develop eco-friendly alternatives. They have successfully developed ultrashort peptides that are short fragments of biological polymer protein and thus are inherently biocompatible. When mechanical force was applied, these peptides generated excellent electric current and voltage output.

Since these materials are eco-friendly, completely biological and non-toxic, they have tremendous potential in a wide range of biotechnological applications. With the ability to power devices without external batteries, piezoelectric energy harvesting opens up exciting possibilities for self-powered systems, ranging from structural health monitoring and environmental measurement to biomedical devices for biosensing.



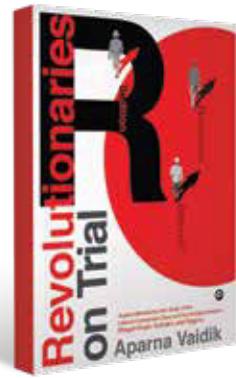
Legacies on Trial: Rethinking Sedition, Martyrdom, and Betrayal

Aparna Vaidik

Professor of History

Is it possible to write a history of nationalism that includes acts like spying, informing, and denunciation – without casting moral judgment?

Aparna Vaidik, grapples with such questions in her new book, *Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal and Martyrdom*. She revisits the infamous Lahore Conspiracy Case and its principal martyrs – Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA).



While previous accounts viewed the trial as a miscarriage of justice, Aparna offers a new perspective. Drawing from rare Indian, Pakistani, and British archives, she analyses the elaborate roles of four sets of actors – the colonial state, the revolutionaries, the renegades who turned witness, and the Indian press and public as spectators.

The book, while examining the history of the trial, also asks new questions. It captures the expansive canvas of the trial, staged across multiple sites – the courtroom, offices of the investigation officers, legislative assembly, government offices, jails, courtrooms, streets, printing presses, newspaper establishments, coffee houses, meeting rooms, and universities across North India.

In reframing the case, the book asks the reader to view sedition, martyrdom, and betrayal not as fixed categories, but as performances shaped by power, perception, and most importantly, political strategy.

From Reaction to Prediction: OncoMark and AI-Driven Cancer Detection

Debayan Gupta

Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Debayan Gupta began with a simple question: if we know what makes cancer dangerous, why not track those things directly?

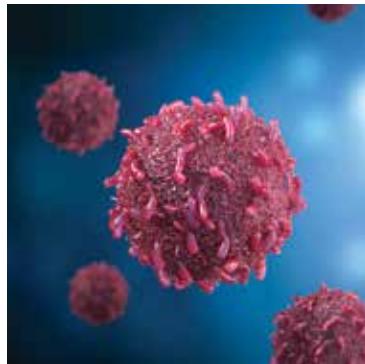
Cancer behaves in certain recognisable ways – like growing uncontrollably, spreading to other parts of the body, or evading the immune system. Scientists call these behaviours the ‘hallmarks of cancer’. Yet, surprisingly, most current tests don’t actually measure them, at least not in a clear, quantifiable way.

Recognising this gap, Debayan and his team developed OncoMark, a new AI-powered tool that can read a tumour’s genetic activity and predict how strongly each of these hallmarks is at play. In doing so, OncoMark offers a more detailed look at what’s really happening inside a tumour, via ten different hallmarks. Shreyansh Priyadarshi (UG 2024), a student leading the project, commented, “For the first time, we are not just reacting to cancer. We are anticipating it.”

This innovation is particularly helpful for doctors and researchers in making more informed decisions – for example, whether a disease is likely to spread to other parts or become resistant to chemotherapy. Debayan hopes that OncoMark brings us one step closer to truly personalised cancer care – and a deeper understanding of the disease itself.



From lab discoveries to literary innovation, Ashoka scholars push the frontiers of knowledge.



Nurturing Inquiry, Advancing Knowledge

Ashoka's PhD programme was launched in 2017 with a clear vision: to create an environment where rigorous research, intellectual freedom, and close mentorship come together to shape scholars who can both deepen and broaden their disciplines. Today, the programme spans 11 fields – from Biology and History to Environmental Studies and Computer Science – with over 200 scholars currently pursuing their research at Ashoka.

At the heart of the programme is a culture of inquiry that encourages interdisciplinary exploration while grounding students in strong disciplinary foundations. Scholars are supported not just by cutting-edge resources and funding, but also by faculty members who value mentorship as a two-way intellectual partnership. Many scholars also engage in teaching, collaborative research, and partnerships with policymakers or industry – ensuring their work remains relevant beyond academia.

Ashoka's doctoral programme has grown in line with the University's broader research ecosystem, and reflects its mission to foster original, critical, and socially conscious scholarship. In an evolving national and global landscape, where research must keep pace with complexity, Ashoka offers scholars the space and support to ask urgent questions – and the tools to pursue them with depth and clarity.

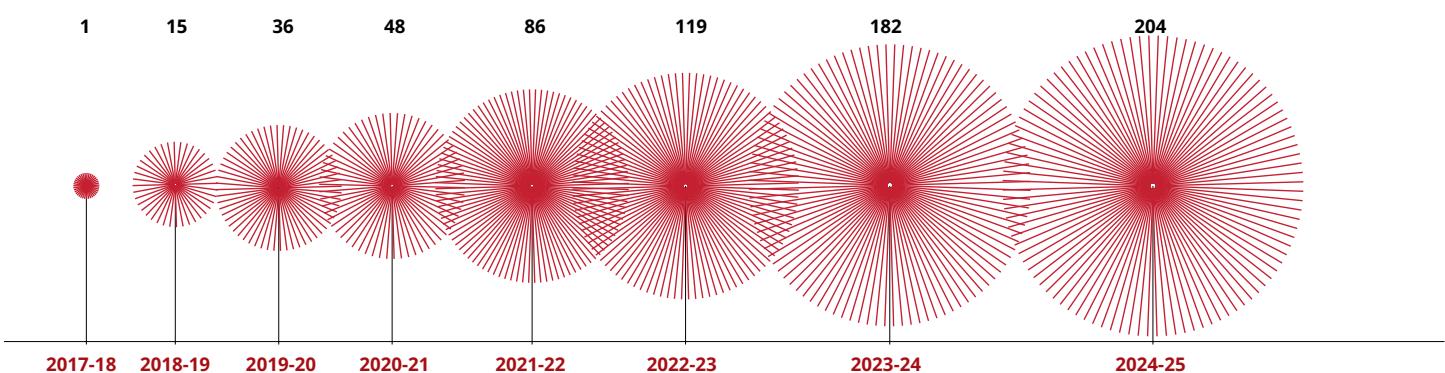
This year, nine scholars successfully defended their doctoral theses. Their work offers a compelling snapshot of the talent, tenacity, and imagination that animate Ashoka's research community.



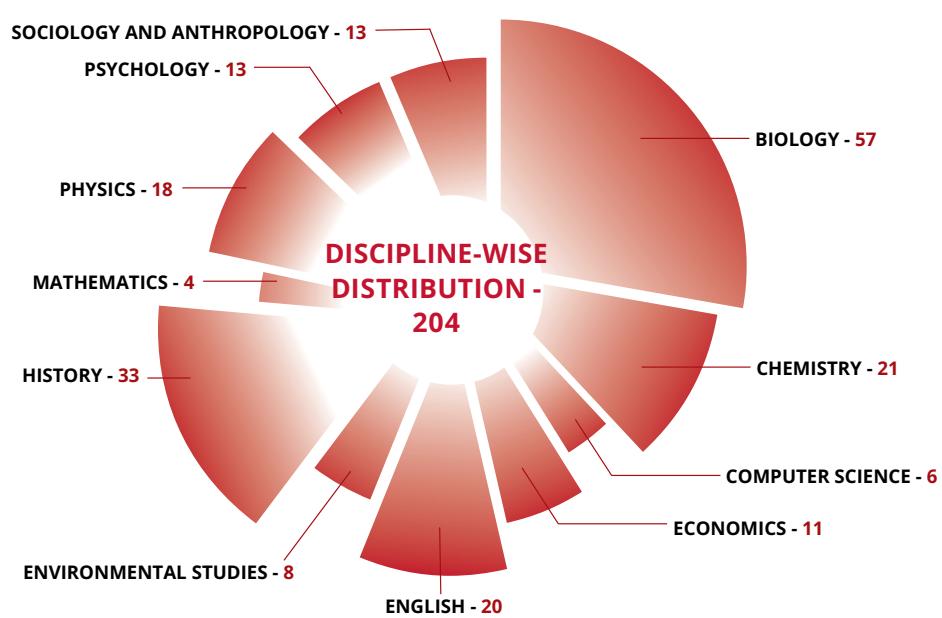
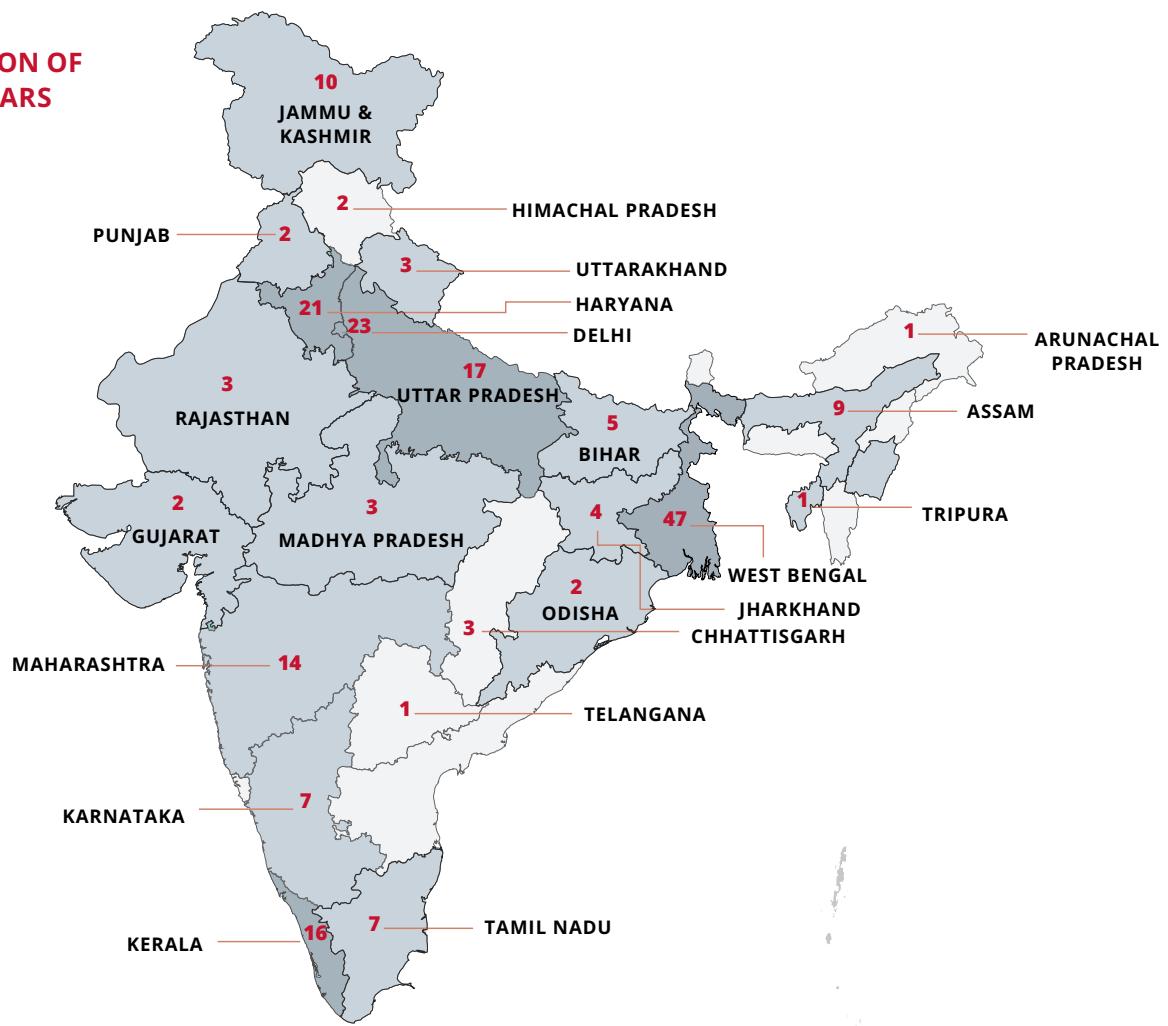
Imroze Khan
Assistant Dean of Research
and Professor of Biology

The total investment towards the PhD programme for 2024-25 session was INR 15.5 Cr

PHD ENROLLMENT OVER THE YEARS



STATE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PHD SCHOLARS



Celebrating our Doctoral Graduates

Ashoka's graduating PhD scholars represent the ambition and range of a young doctoral programme that's quickly coming into its own. The scholars from the 2025 cohort join a legacy of scholars whose work embodies Ashoka's commitment to building new knowledge and advancing cutting-edge research.



**Nitya
Pawar**

PhD, Department of English

Janabai – thirteenth-century poet, saint and the only *Śudra* woman from Maharashtra's Vitthal tradition to be canonised – was at the heart of Nitya's doctoral research. Her work explored how Janabai's poems, biographies, and oral traditions have been shaped by translation across time: not just between languages, but across form, devotion, and memory. In centering Janabai's voice, Nitya's dissertation challenged dominant hierarchies of caste, gender, and knowledge, offering a powerful re-reading of *bhakti* as resistance.



Soham Chakraborty

PhD, Department of Biology

Soham's doctoral research explored how a physiologically-relevant, force-sensitive protein senses and responds to mechanical forces. His work sits at the intersection of Physics, Biology, and Chemistry, using advanced instruments such as magnetic tweezers to observe the behaviour of individual protein molecules under force at exceptional resolution. By examining the relationship between protein mechanics and microscopic chain physics, Soham offers new insights into how proteins respond to mechanical forces, with potential implications for cellular mechanics and disease.



Debdutta Sanyal

PhD, Department of History

Śrī Harṣa – seventh-century king of Thanesar and Kannauj – stood at the centre of Debdutta's doctoral research. Her work wove together Sanskrit texts and inscriptions, to ask what it meant to be a king in early medieval India. Using tools such as GIS and Remote Sensing, Debdutta situated the texts within their physical landscapes to offer a more holistic understanding of Harṣa's world. In tracing how Harṣa's life came to be written, her dissertation offered a fresh reading of kingship, and how it was imagined, represented, and idealised during that period.



Pooja Vaid

PhD, Department of Biology

Pooja's research tackled a critical question in Indian oncology: how can we improve outcomes for patients with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)? In collaboration with the Centre for Translational Cancer Research, Pune, she mapped the tumour immune microenvironment using cutting-edge techniques like multiplex imaging and spatial analysis to identify key prognostic markers. Her work – in close partnership with Ashoka's Computer Science department – also enabled the automation of digital pathology pipelines for large-scale cancer profiling. This research now forms the basis of a multi-centre clinical trial across Indian hospitals, advancing precision oncology for underrepresented Indian patients on the global stage.



Antony Arul Valan

PhD, Department of English

Antony in his doctoral dissertation titled 'Caste Creativity: Interrogating the Rhetoric of "Castelessness" in Three Texts' explored how caste persists – not always in explicit identifications, but also in the subtleties of literary form, rhetoric, and voice. By tracing how language performs both concealment and confrontation, Antony aims to contribute to a register of public language that facilitates introspective dialogue within caste networks. His work has also been published in the peer-reviewed journal *J-Caste* and the feminist online archive *The New Historia*.



Samayita Banerjee

PhD, Department of History

Samayita's doctoral dissertation traced the history of a landscape that persistently defies cartographic fixity. With Archaeology at its crux, her research explores how material and epigraphical evidence can help us study a fluid landscape such as the ever-evolving terrain of the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta, and understand the lowermost reaches of the Bengal delta. During her time at Ashoka, Samayita conducted fieldwork at the delta belts of all three rivers, with particular attention to the tidal forests of the Sundarbans. In tracing these stories, she offered a radical cartography of motion, erosion, and the histories the rivers carry.



Sandeep Bhardwaj

PhD, Department of History

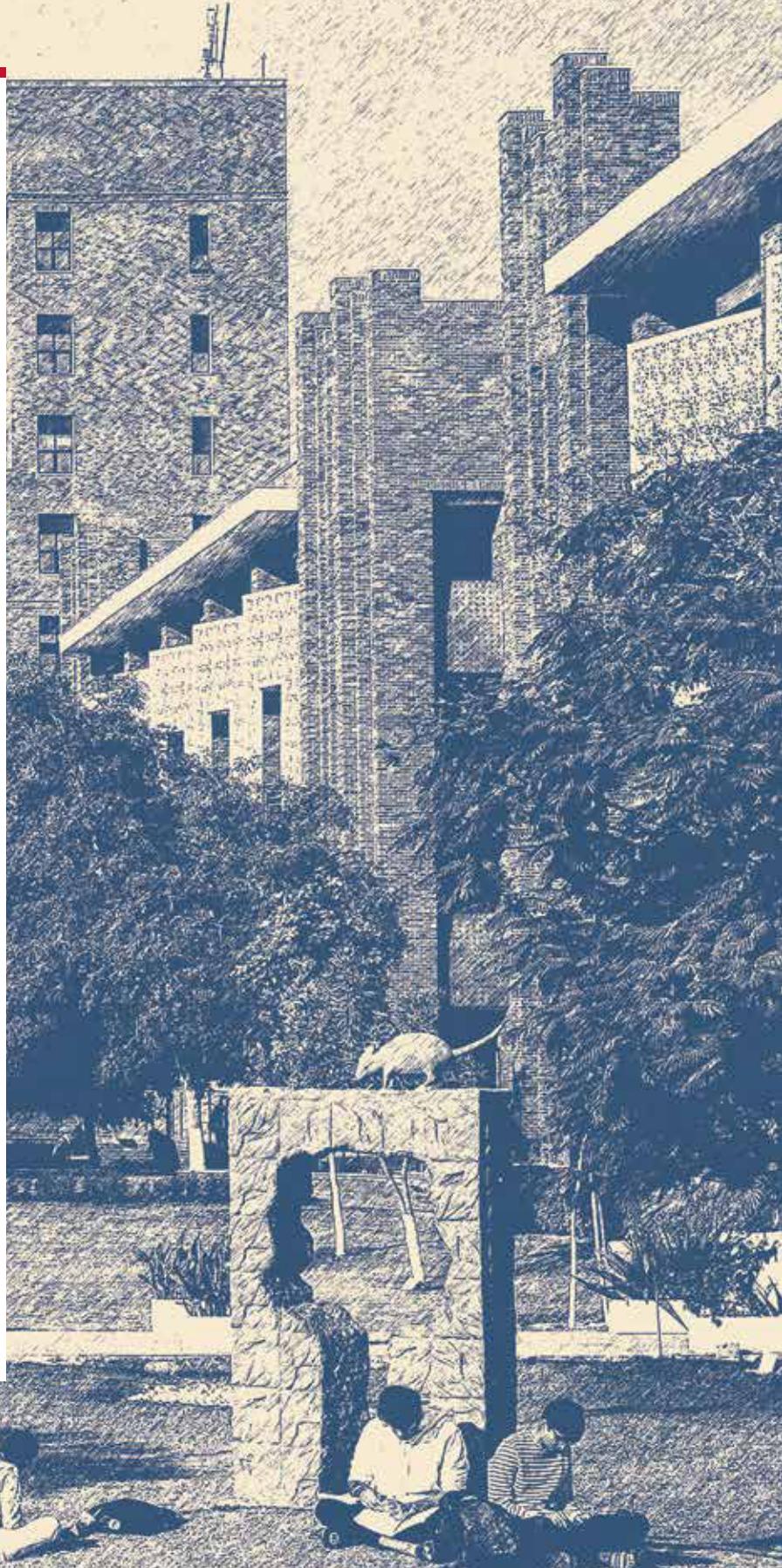
Sandeep's research interest lies in post-Independence diplomatic history of South Asia. Through his dissertation, he examined Nehruvian India's foreign policy towards the Third World – Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Sandeep examines India's changing position within Asia as imagined by Indian elites as well as external actors. In doing so, he went beyond the idealised narrative of seamless Asian solidarity by drawing attention to the tensions and conflicts within the Third World Movement. His work recovers a textured history of postcolonialism within the Global South, tracing debates around trade, regionalism, and identity – unmediated by the West.



Souradeep Banerjee

PhD, Department of Biology

When protein folding goes wrong, it can lead to diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. However, cells rely on chaperones that prevent misfolding and aggregation. Souradeep explored how chaperones affect the folding and unfolding of proteins, especially under mechanical force. His research uncovered a remarkable function of Hsp70, a molecular chaperone long known to prevent misfolding. Using magnetic tweezers, he showed that Hsp70 can also refold proteins under mechanical force – an ability previously unknown. Crucially, this was possible only for force-resistant versions of the protein. In peeling back the layers of protein dynamics one molecule at a time, Souradeep's work offered a new lens into how cells maintain order under stress.





Unlocking India's Literary Heritage

Translation lies at the heart of India's cultural and intellectual life. At Ashoka, the Centre for Translation works to make this multilingual heritage visible, accessible, and alive. It brings together writers, translators, and scholars to explore how languages connect us and shape ideas.

The Ashoka Centre for Translation (ACT) is committed not only to the *product* of translation but also to the *concept* of translation. This means that the Centre undertakes and facilitates the translation of works from (and, gradually, into) various languages – a process involving multiple stages of engagement.

The Centre documents linguistic, performative, oral, and written exchanges between communities, languages, and regions. This helps archive the relationships between word and meaning, language and translation, and the poetics and politics of multilingualism. Along with organising workshops and lectures, the Centre aims to bring forth more texts that have not been translated before, to cultivate and reward translators, to encourage dialogue between Indian languages, and to diffuse the hegemonic role of English.

The state-of-the-art translation search engine *Bhashavaad*, provides a quantitative yet also startling glimpse into the history of translation and the enduring preoccupations of Indian

writers. It serves as an aid to researchers and readers interested in both the meaning as well as the practice of translation.

Projects such as *Women Translating Women*, *Chronicles*, and *Translating Bhakti* – discussed in detail later – have been major milestones in the journey of the Centre. There are also a multitude of other ongoing initiatives designed to promote and enrich the sphere of translation in India. Some of them include the 'Indian Ideas' series, 'The Continuum of Indian Literature', 'Reading the City' series, 'Bengali Short Fiction' series, and the 'Ashoka University Faculty Translations' series, amongst others.

Looking ahead, ACT remains committed to expanding their reach and deepening impact. By training young student-translators at the University, fostering collaborations and championing linguistic diversity, the Centre strives to unlock the full potential of India's multilingual heritage, ensuring that its diverse voices are heard and appreciated both at home and around the world.

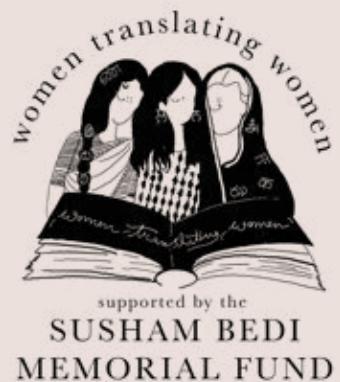
Rita Kothari
Co-director,
Ashoka Centre
for Translation and
Professor of English



Arunava Sinha
Co-director,
Ashoka Centre for
Translation and
Professor of
Creative Writing



Women Translating Women



*Honouring the Literary
Contributions of Indian Women*

This project is dedicated to sharing stories by women, written across languages in India. Supported by the Susham Bedi Memorial Fund, this initiative has commissioned twelve books for translation.

The selected works are translated by women translators, exploring women's experiences across varied contexts and spaces. The project addresses the historical under-representation of women's voices in translated literature by providing opportunities and support for women translators. This vision has been realised in partnership with Zubaan Books.

Zubaan, a leading independent publishing house based in New Delhi, was established in 2003 as an imprint of India's first feminist publishing house, Kali for Women. Zubaan continues to publish books on, for, by, and about women in South Asia. The impact of *Women Translating Women* is evident in the compelling publications that have emerged:



A New World Romance

by Susham Bedi

translated from Hindi by Astri Ghosh

Susham Bedi's *A New World Romance* tells the story of two academics who find an unexpected connection in the United States. Set against the backdrop of the Indian diaspora, the novel explores themes of love, loss, and the complexities of navigating cultural identities. Astri Ghosh's translation brings this Hindi novel to a wider audience, capturing the emotional depth of Bedi's characters and the nuances of her prose. The story examines how past relationships and cultural roots influence new beginnings.



Unmoored

by Ramachandran Usha

translated from Tamil by Krupa Ge

Ramachandran Usha's *Unmoored* presents the stories of women who migrate from Chennai to the Gulf in search of a better future for their families. The novella explores the challenges and resilience of these women as they grapple with issues of identity, belonging, and the search for home. Krupa Ge's translation captures the authentic voices of Usha's characters, bringing their experiences to life with empathy and insight.



Ittehad: A Life Together

by Guli Sadarangani

translated from Sindhi by Rita Kothari

Known and celebrated in her time, Guli Sadarangani, the first woman writer of Sindh, later sank into oblivion. *Ittehad*, the novel that told the story of a Hindu-Muslim romance culminating in marriage, was first published in undivided India and later appeared under another title, *Meelaapi Jeevan*. Rita Kothari's elegant and empathetic translation teases out the nuances of Asha and Hamid's understated relationship, revealing how pre-Independence and pre-Partition India held so many possibilities of living and loving together.



Other Skies, Other Stories

by Sara Rai

translated from Hindi by Ira Pande and the author

The collection of stories reveals a writer who can think in one language and write in another with rare fluency. With her faultless ear for the cadences of Hindustani, Sara Rai illuminates the life of small towns. Equally important to her – in the landscape of human lives – is the presence of trees, birds, insects, and fish. Rai's Zen-like meditations on the silent, yet profound, movements of this world are presented in a language that is pared down, spare, and evocative.



“This partnership has been an amazing opportunity to work with a group of people to whom translation of women's writing in India means as much as it does to us. The team understands how translations are literary interventions in their own right – and when those are of works by women, translated by women, then another form of epistemic injustice is being set right.”

Urvashi Butalia
Publisher, Zubaan

“This project is deeply personal for me, as one of these six books each year will be by my late wife, Susham Bedi. Seeing her work, and that of other remarkable Indian women, come alive in English has been truly moving.”

Rahul Bedi
Patron, Susham Bedi Memorial Fund





Hidden Treasure

by Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay

translated from Bengali by Ipsa S

Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay's *Hidden Treasure* unveils the story of a woman in contemporary Kolkata, caught between societal expectations and her own desires. As she navigates difficult circumstances, the novella explores themes of morality, agency, and the complexities of female experience within a patriarchal society. Ipsa S's translation opens this Bengali narrative to a wider readership, preserving the author's distinctive voice and the story's unsettling examination of how one woman's secret can ripple through her family and community.

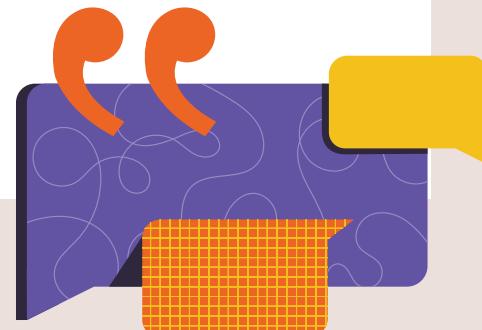


Darkness and Other Stories

by Razia Sajjad Zaheer

translated from Urdu by Saba Mahmood Bashir

In these stories, women travel alone, crossing borders, in search of their families. They carry their fears, desires, and hopes. Razia Sajjad Zaheer skilfully and eloquently recreates the mundane world of the daily lives of women, finding beauty and solace in them. Her women are strong, independent, and complex.



"My first translation was a personal and professional learning curve. It was about getting into the skin of my own mother tongue, reflecting on my roots – linguistic and bodily – and coming to terms with the responsibility of telling a story to the world. Bringing Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay's colourful, emotionally complex characters to life on the page required a series of decisions, many of which were made easier by careful readings and re-readings by ACT and Zubaan. Having taken this first step together, I've emerged a braver translator, one who hungers to read and perform more translations – something I hope places like ACT will bring into the world in many shades and stories."

Ipsa S

Translator of Hidden Treasure and Ashoka alum



Bhashavaad

*Building a Database and
Igniting a National Conversation*





The Centre, in partnership with the New India Foundation, launched the Bhashavaad initiative with a dual purpose: to convene a national conversation on translation and to create a lasting resource for the translation community in India.

In August 2024, the inaugural Bhashavaad: National Translation Conference at the India International Centre in New Delhi brought together writers, translators, publishers, and scholars from across India, with philosopher Sundar Sarukkai as the keynote speaker. The conference provided a forum for examining the challenges and emerging directions within the domain, fostering dialogue, building networks and reaffirming the role of translation in shaping India's multilingual ecosystem. Panels explored topics ranging from translating knowledge to writing and publishing in Indian languages, with multilingual readings showcasing the talent of

selected emerging student-translators from Ashoka University and beyond.

Building on the success of the first gathering, the Centre amplified its commitment to the idea of meaningful exchanges between Indian languages during the second edition of the conference, held on the 29th and 30th of August, 2025. This year's edition hosted leading writers, translators, editors, and other award-winning speakers from across India and beyond. While the linguist Peggy Mohan delivered the keynote address, the 2025 International Booker Prize co-winner Deepa Bhasthi, who won for her translation of Banu Mushtaq's short stories from Kannada, was among the speakers. Continuing the conversations and collaborations initiated in 2024, Bhashavaad is steadily shaping itself as a key platform for reimagining the present as well as the future of languages in India, mediated via translation.

A key outcome of the initiative, first unveiled at the inaugural conference, has been the launch of the Bhashavaad: Translation Search Engine (www.bhashavaad.in) – India's first non-profit, open-access, and crowd-sourced database of Indian translations. This dynamic resource aims to re-energise India's translation ecosystem by providing a comprehensive inventory of translated works, authors, and translators. With over 30,000 entries currently listed, the database offers invaluable insights into the landscape of translation in India, revealing trends, identifying key players, and highlighting the diverse languages and literary traditions being translated. The database continues to grow and evolve with the ongoing work of dedicated teams, relying also on the wider translation-allied community and inviting contributions from users to ensure its accuracy and comprehensiveness.

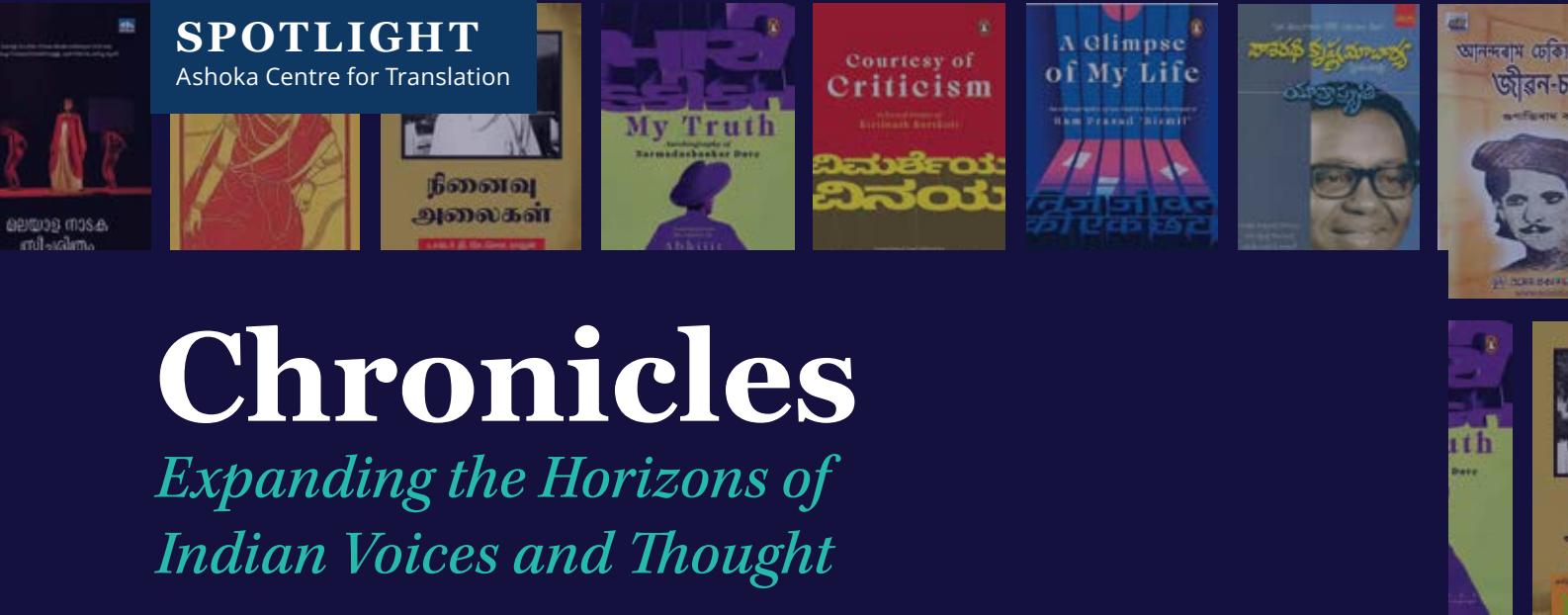
“Translation may be a global issue but it is a uniquely Indian lever for integration, productivity, and soft power. The Ashoka Centre for Translation’s establishment of the Bhashavaad database is just the start of a movement that can transform how Indian languages are researched, read, and used.”

- Manish Sabharwal
Ashoka Founder and Trustee





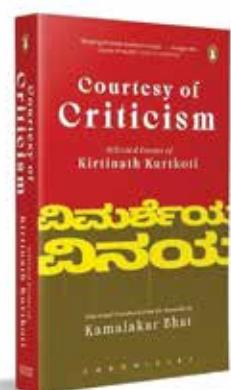
Bhashavaad, in both its conference and database forms, represents a significant step towards mapping, amplifying, and celebrating India's rich multilingual heritage, fostering a more connected and inclusive literary ecosystem for generations to come.



Chronicles

Expanding the Horizons of Indian Voices and Thought

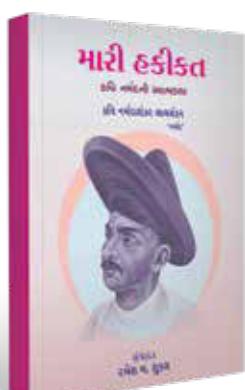
Chronicles is the Centre's inaugural non-fiction translation series, supported by the Manju Deshbandhu Gupta Fellowship. The series, encompassing ten books translated from nine Indian languages, resists the idea of a chronicle as a singular canon, a concluded story, or a monolithic telling. Instead, *Chronicles* offers a vibrant archive of subcontinental stories, lived histories, and traditions of criticism – captured in essays and life-writing across India's many languages and regions.



Courtesy of Criticism: Selected Essays of Kirtinath Kurtkoti

translated by Kamalakar Bhat

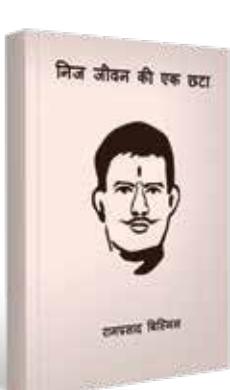
This book, drawing on Kannada literary traditions, exemplifies the multilingual ethos of *Chronicles*. Kurtkoti's essays on literature and aesthetics convey a uniquely regional, yet universally relevant, critical sensibility.



My Truth

*by Narmadashankar Dave
translated by Abhijit Kothari*

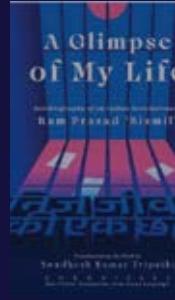
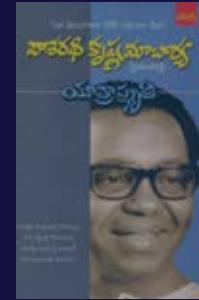
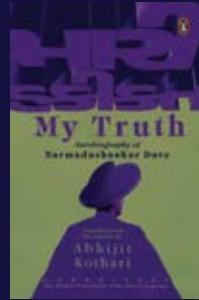
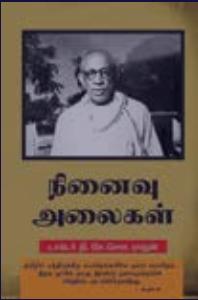
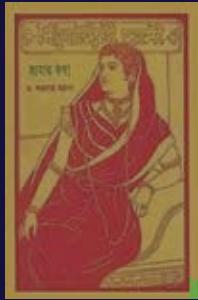
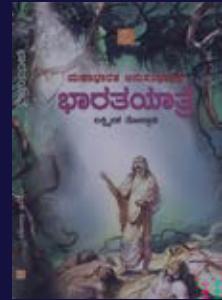
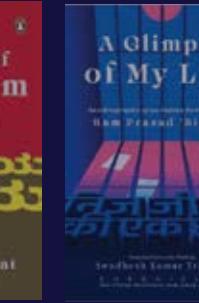
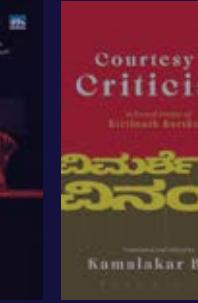
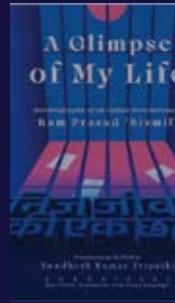
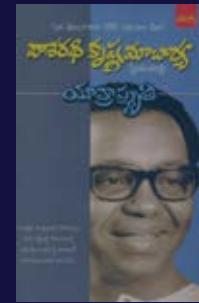
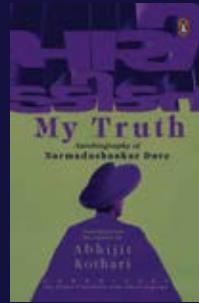
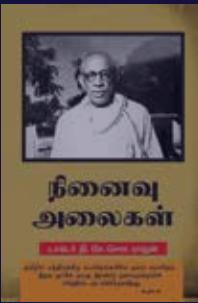
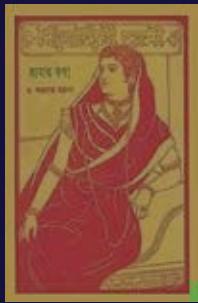
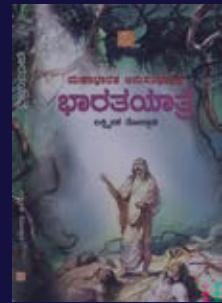
Considered the first autobiography in Gujarati, *My Truth* speaks to the advent of new genres under colonial modernity and concurrent revolutions in understandings of self, tradition, and a world caught in flux.



A Glimpse of My Life

*by Ram Prasad 'Bismil'
translated by Awadhesh Tripathi*

Bismil's Hindi autobiography offers a glimpse into the inner world of a young, revolutionary freedom fighter and a poignant view of the tumultuous makings of a national movement.



The remaining seven books (with three due for publication later in the year) in the *Chronicles* series take its aims further. These forthcoming narratives – translated from Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Kannada, and Malayalam – include:

Amar Katha

by Binodini Dasi (Bengali)
translated by Arunava Sinha

Yatra Smrithi

by Dasarathi Krishnamacharya (Telugu)
translated by T Vijay Kumar

Bharatayatre

by Lakshmisha Tolpadi (Kannada)
translated by Vanamala Viswanatha

Ninaivu Alaigal

by Dr TSS Rajan (Tamil)
translated by N Kalyan Raman

Raghnak: The Saga of Mahar Landlordism

by Shekhar Govindrao Korde (Marathi)
translated by Prashant Ingole

A Women's History of Malayalam Theatre

by Sajitha Madathil (Malayalam)
translated by Jayasree Kalathil

Being Modern: A Biography of Ananda Ram Dhekial Phookan

by Gunabhiram Barua (Assamese)
translated by Banani Chakravarty

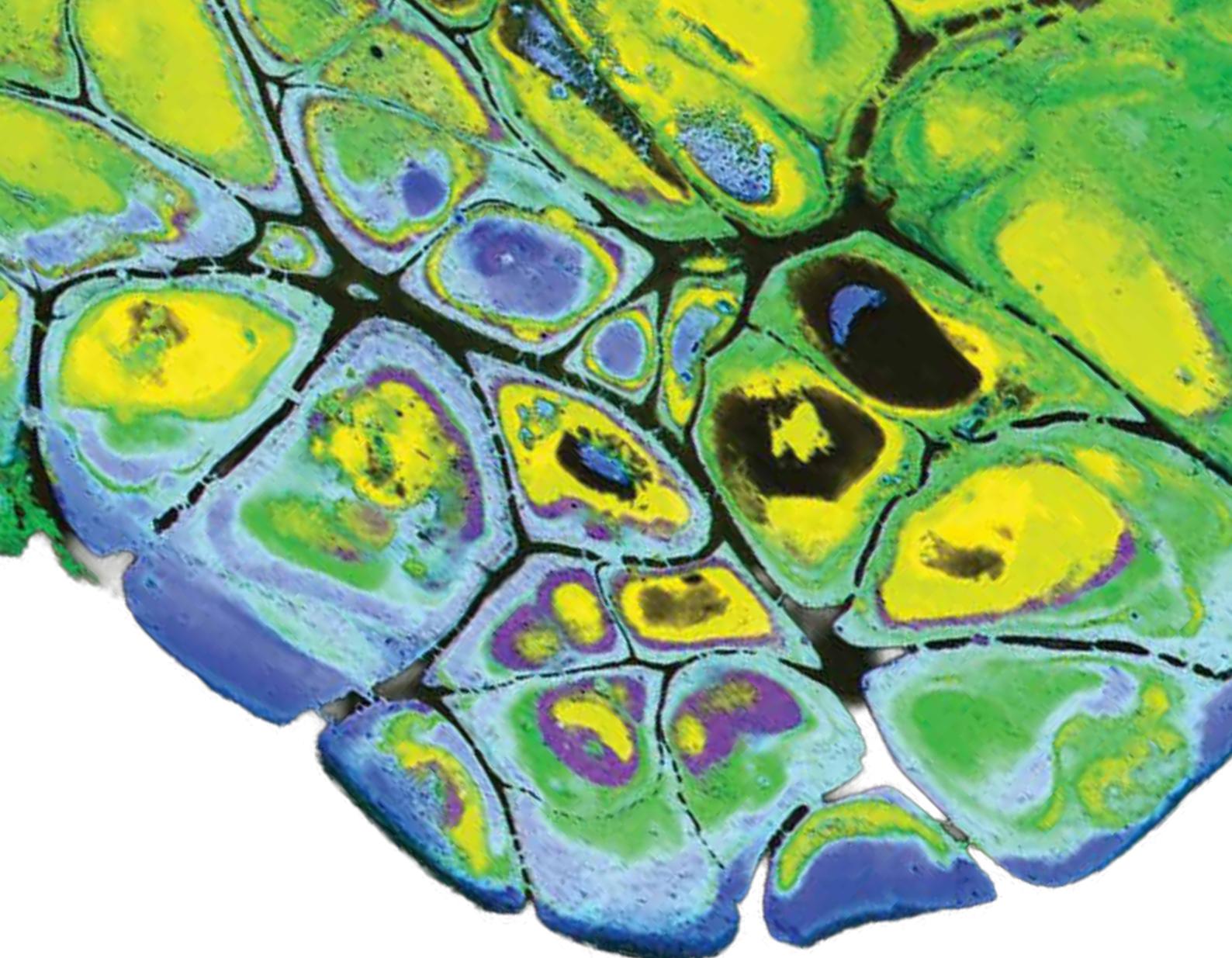
Chronicles leverages the potential of translation to refract the idea of an 'Indian' canon, offering a common thread that moves across media and languages, richly intersecting but never taking on a singular articulation.



Ashoka Global Research Alliances (AGRA)

Catalysing a Global Future for Research

With Ashoka stepping into its second decade, the University's vision of a globally significant, research-intensive institution continues to take shape. Ashoka Global Research Alliances (AGRA), established to enable this ambition, has made significant strides in developing research-led partnerships, strengthening research infrastructure, and shaping a sustainable ecosystem for collaborative research and innovation.

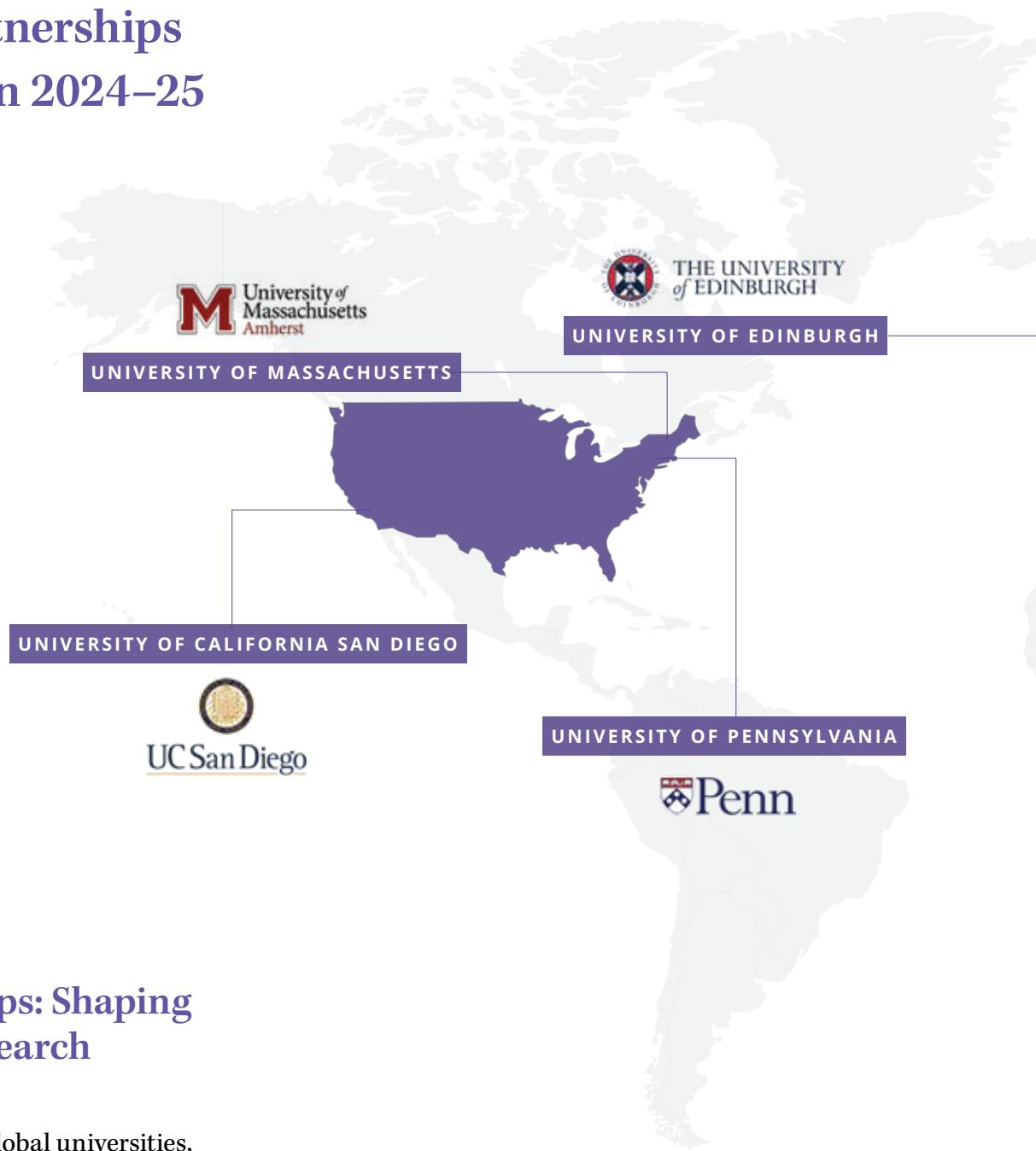


Blending Teaching and Research

At Ashoka, research is not seen as separate from teaching, but as integral to it – where students learn by doing and faculty model the curiosity and rigour they seek to inspire. AGRA is laying the groundwork for integrating Undergraduate Research Programmes and Undergraduate Research Training Labs into Ashoka's four-year Honours with Research degree. This structured model will support thesis development, research skill-building, and incubation opportunities for students.

Ashoka's growing network of global partnerships is redefining how research, teaching, and innovation connect across borders.

Key Partnerships Forged in 2024–25



Partnerships: Shaping Global Research Alliances

Engaging with global universities, research councils, industry and civil society brings mentorship, funding, and visibility. AGRA has facilitated several discussions on research-focused partnerships – involving different models of engagement. The Centres of Excellence, visiting scholars, and international research clusters help anchor the University within global networks.



SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES



WARWICK UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF GHENT

KU LEUVEN

KU LEUVEN

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY



MONASH UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Humanities on the Global Map

Ashoka's engagement with the Global Humanities Alliance (led by University of Melbourne) and sustained membership in the Cambridge-led Global Humanities Network signal a strong push towards internationalising and decolonising the Humanities.

Ashoka remains the only Indian institution engaging with the National Humanities Center, enabling opportunities such as the summer residency and other projects for its faculty – and in the future, for students as well.

Mobility through Erasmus+

Ashoka is growing faculty and PhD mobility through Erasmus+ programmes with Université Côte d'Azur, Central European University, and Linnaeus University.

Investments in Research Infrastructure

Labs, digital databases, libraries, and administrative support are integral to successful research ecosystems. In the last year, AGRA spearheaded the development of two state-of-the-art research facilities:

Ashoka-Zeiss Core Imaging Facility

Featuring India's first in-class microscopes, this facility is now operational at the Trivedi School of Biosciences – bringing cutting-edge bio-imaging technology to Ashoka. Established through a collaboration with ZEISS Research Microscopy Solutions (Carl ZEISS, India), the facility offers students, researchers, and collaborators access to advanced research microscopes:

- ZEISS Lattice Lightsheet 7
- ZEISS Elyra 7 LS (Lattice SIM2) with Dual sCMOS Camera
- ZEISS LSM 980 NLO
- ZEISS Cell Discoverer 7 with LSM 900 Airyscan

The facility supports research across fields such as Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, Immunology, Neuroscience, Cancer Research, and Soft Condensed Matter Physics. It aims to serve as a shared resource for institutions across India.



Infosys Foundation Advanced Chemical Biology Lab

A landmark collaboration between Infosys Foundation and Ashoka, this facility is advancing cutting-edge biochemical research. It is equipped with:

- NMR Spectroscopy
- Field-Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy
- Imaging Mass Cytometry
- Single Crystal X-Ray Diffractometry

Marking the beginning of a new era in interdisciplinary research, these initiatives significantly enhance Ashoka's in-house scientific infrastructure, positioning the University as a nucleus for high-impact scientific collaboration.





The Ashoka-Zeiss partnership stands out with Zeiss's direct investment and dedicated expertise, ensuring cutting-edge use of the facility. This model can serve as a catalyst for fostering future industry-academia collaborations.

Ashoka-Zeiss Certified Professional Course in Advanced Microscopy

Launched in June 2025, this three-month hybrid course – open to professionals and graduates – marks Ashoka's first certified offering in advanced research training.

The programme combines classroom lectures, hands-on lab sessions, online modules, and field visits – with a professionally curated curriculum that covers both foundational principles and advanced microscopy techniques for clinical and material sciences.



Ashoka Hosts Antoine Petit, Chairman and CEO, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)

Ashoka hosted Antoine Petit, Chairman and CEO, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), marking a significant step in scientific cooperation between India and France.

Two panels on Data and Society marked the occasion – 'The Circulation and Friction in Knowledge Production' and 'Societal Challenges as Catalysts for Scientific and Technological Breakthroughs'. While the first drew linkages between philosophical approaches to justice, population health, and a human approach to data; the second panel focused on the importance of contexts in utilising any kind of data.





The Road Ahead

This summer, Ashoka hosted two Nobel Laureates – Sir Paul Nurse and Professor Brian Schmidt – through landmark engagements that reflect its rising stature as a global research hub. While Sir Paul's visit explored pathways for a potential Crick-Ashoka collaboration, Prof Schmidt's multi-institutional tour across India further anchored Ashoka within international scientific networks.

In parallel, AGRA is laying the groundwork for a flagship event that will bring ambassadors and counsellors from key embassies to campus – spotlighting Ashoka's growing research footprint and evolving models of global engagement.

To sustain and scale these efforts, the University is also developing a robust Framework for Global Engagement. This strategic blueprint will enable long-term partnerships, funding pipelines and equitable access to global research opportunities – especially for students on scholarship. As Ashoka's research vision expands in scale and sophistication, AGRA's integrative approach continues to shape a globally connected, interdisciplinary academic future.



History Preserved

Ashoka's Archives of Contemporary India

The Archives of Contemporary India (ACI), supported by HDFC, was established in 2017 to collect and preserve documents from India's contemporary history. In less than a decade, it has emerged as a vital resource for scholars and students, offering access to rare private and institutional papers that trace India's post-independence journey through economic reforms, scientific advances, environmental challenges, movements for women's empowerment, and other social and political transformations.

The Archives aim to promote knowledge creation, preservation, and dissemination, safeguarding India's rich cultural, social, and political heritage. Through its high-quality services, ACI enables the effective use of these materials in forms most relevant to its users. Today, Ashoka is the only private university in India to house an archive of this magnitude and stature. With its growing repository, ACI aspires to become one of the foremost centres for historical and social science research in the country – building an indispensable repository of public affairs.

Among its prized collections are the original papers of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan; former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh; playwright and veteran actor Girish Karnad; environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt; and freedom fighter and activist Captain Lakshmi Sahgal, amongst several others.

TOTAL COLLECTIONS HOUSED

100+

DOCUMENTS DIGITISED

3,00,000+

Ashoka is the only private university in the country to house an archive of this magnitude and stature – building an indispensable repository of public affairs. The Archives at Ashoka are the fastest-growing archives in India today.

Please warn us however that I am near the end of my resources.

Yours,
Sapna

Between Languages: Researching Agyeya in the Ashoka Archives

Shubham Gupta, a PhD student in the Department of English, studies English not just as a language, but as a cultural system, using the term 'Englishness' to describe the sensibilities associated with English in India. In his doctoral research, Shubham argues that Indians, especially those bilingual in Hindi and English, often try to remove traces of Englishness from their work. This he suggests leads to a stronger focus on one language or identity in a multilingual nation.

When Shubham began working on the Hindi writer SH Vatsyayan 'Agyeya' for a chapter of his thesis, he wasn't sure where to start. "I remember sitting at my workstation, trying to find a way in," he says. "Then realised – the answers I was looking for were just a few floors below."

Since early 2025, Shubham has been poring over

this rich material, sifting through manuscripts, letters, and diaries as he explores Agyeya's relationship with language. His research reveals a man of paradoxes: though Agyeya fiercely advocated for Hindi, he was unmistakably shaped by English. The manuscripts and diaries complicate this tension, showing a writer constantly negotiating between linguistic inheritances, often questioning his own positions as he wrote and revised.

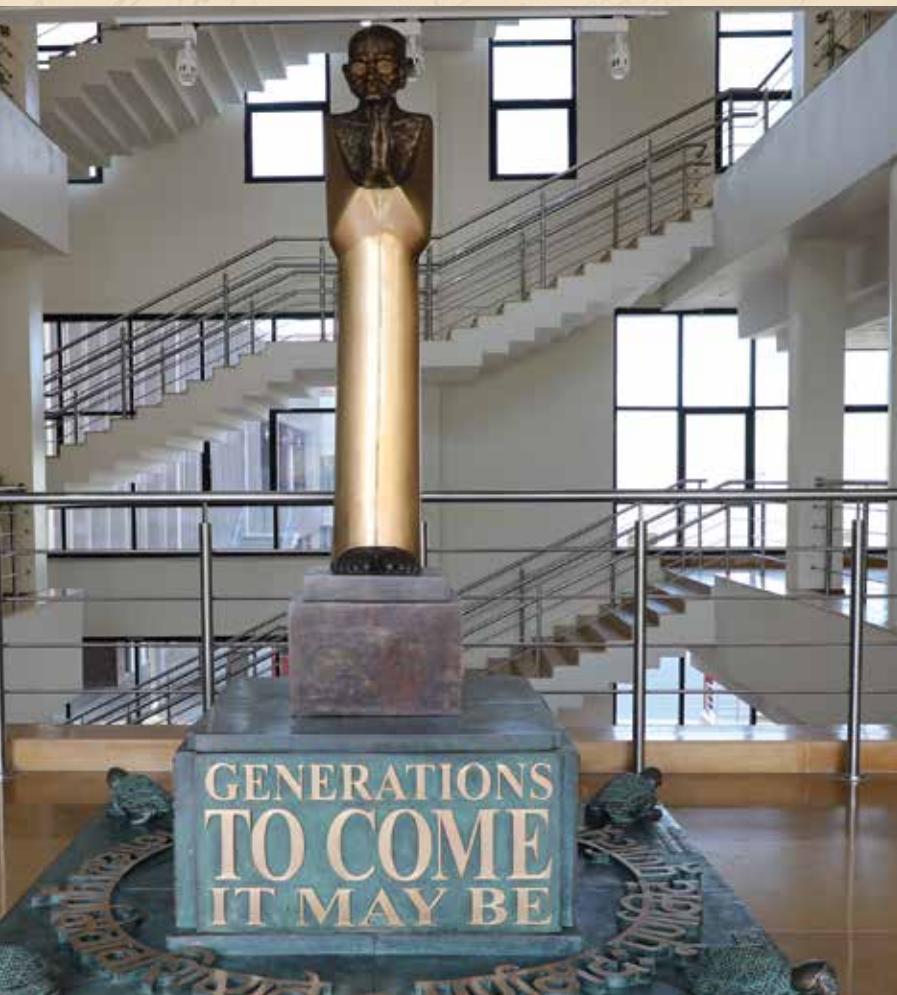
Shubham's time in the Archives has opened new directions for his work. He has received a grant from the University of Wisconsin–Madison to conduct further archival research on the influence of English on Hindi women writers. The process has not only reshaped his research but also how he thinks and reads. "I never knew I wanted to do archival work," he reflects.



প্রবাসী কার্যালয়
১২০১২, আপার সার্কুলের রোড,
মোহাম্মদপুর, ২০১২

Dear Vatsyayanji,
you have brought
in the Gandhi Ark of
such a remarkable col-
lection on the various





The Agyeya Papers

In 2023, the Archives acquired a large collection of the private papers of the famous Hindi writer, poet and journalist, Sachidanand Hiranand Vatsyayan 'Agyeya' (1911-1987) from Vatsal Nidhi. The collection includes correspondence with family, friends, contemporary writers and poets, journalists, publishers, and political figures. The materials include diaries, notebooks, drafts, manuscripts, press clippings, pamphlets, photographs, and drawings. One of the free thinkers of the Hindi literary world, his papers are most significant for the study and research of trends in modern Hindi literature in the twentieth century.



From the Dean of Research

The global research enterprise is currently challenged on many fronts. Many countries are cutting their support for research, as part of changes in their politics. But the challenges the world faces, whether from a changing climate, from needing to meet expanding energy needs, dealing with problems of biodiversity loss or understanding the resurgence of conflicts, can only be tackled by understanding them better. Many such problems span the Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. A scientific or engineering solution must make sense from the point of view of Economics. We must understand how people think and act if behavioural changes must happen. We must be able to communicate at many levels, to ensure both awareness and action.

Ashoka members have written high-profile books and published their work in high-profile scholarly journals. They have communicated their work in keynote talks, colloquia, and seminars, as well as written for the general public. We are especially proud of the involvement of students in research, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Ashoka-ZEISS Core Imaging Facility is the first of its kind in India. It provides cutting-edge microscopy technology to scientists in Ashoka and outside. Ashoka's international partnerships have expanded. We are part of prestigious international networks such as the Global Humanities initiative. Our network of academic partnerships in Delhi-NCR help to define this region as an Indian hub for both high-quality research, across subjects, and in both pure and applied areas. Interdisciplinarity is our unique strength.

As research in traditional powerhouses such as the USA and the EU faces unprecedented challenges, this is India's chance to make an impact. Research at Ashoka is uniquely placed in this respect.



Gautam Menon

The challenges the world faces, whether from a changing climate, from needing to meet expanding energy needs, dealing with problems of biodiversity loss or understanding the resurgence of conflicts, can only be tackled by understanding them better.

Publications

Books:

1. Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal, and Martyrdom, by Aparna Vaidik (History)
2. Inclusive Pedagogies: Teaching & Learning Practices in Higher Education in India, edited by Kanika Singh (Centre for Writing and Communication)
3. Dalit Ecologies: Caste and environment justice by Mukul Sharma (Environmental Studies)
4. Plant Thinkers of Twentieth-Century Bengal by Sumana Roy (Creative Writing)
5. Ecology and German Realism by Alexander Phillips (English)
6. Esoteric Orientalism, by Mandakini Dubey (English)
7. The Amateur by Saikat Majumdar (English)
8. The Light of Wilder Things by Ishan Shanavas (ASP 25)

Book Translations:

Arunava Sinha, Creative Writing, Ashoka Center for Translation (Translations):

9. Vadivasal (graphic novel), original by Perumal Murugan and Appupen, Jadavpur University Press
10. Unstoppable Spring and Other Stories, original by Murshida Zaman, Bee Books
11. You, Mother, original by Jayasri Burman, Art Alive
12. Hospital Poems of Mathematics and Madness, original by Binoy Majumdar, Parabaas
13. Limited Unlimited, original by Sankar, Bloomsbury
14. First History Lessons: Clothes and Dressing, original by Dev Kumar Jhanjh and Debarati Bagchi, Public Domain
15. First History Lessons: Food and Eating, original by Anwesha Sengupta and Simantini Mukherjee, Public Domain
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Grants/Fellowships

- Rintu Kutum's (Computer Science) project was supported by the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE). He has also been awarded a grant from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
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Faculty Achievements

- Munmun Ghosh (Chemistry), and her research group published a paper titled 'Bioinspired Di-iron Complex with Proton Shuttling and Redox-Active Ligand for Electrocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution' in the journal *Inorganic Chemistry*. In addition, the group had the honour of designing the journal's cover page, with the artwork created by Bharath M, a PhD student in Dr. Ghosh's lab.
- Satrangi Dastarkhwan, an anthology of writing on food in Hindi translation, co-edited by Sumana Roy (English and Creative Writing) was awarded Publishing Next's Printed Book of the Year 2024.
- Mekhala Krishnamurthy (Sociology and Anthropology), was recognised as one of LGIU's top 25 Thinkers in Local Government.
- Deepak Asthana (Chemistry) was named a Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee for 2025.
- Manvi Sharma (Environmental Studies) and Sandeep Ameta (Biology) Ashoka University were awarded the Prime Minister's Early Career Research Grant from the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) for her research on Himalayan Carnivores.
- Sandeep Ameta (Biology) was awarded the Indo-French CEFIPRA grant.
- Divya Karnad (Environmental Studies) Ashoka University was honoured with the Bay of Bengal Programme - BIMREN grant for her research on fisheries in India and Bangladesh.

Student Achievements

- Chandrakanth M and Biswajit Shit (Biology) won poster awards at the prestigious Indian Society of Evolutionary Biologists (ISEB5) Meeting, held at Lucknow University.
- Dinesh Jadhav and Dhoopchhaya Sarkar (Biology) secured top positions at the International Conference on Circadian Rhythms in Health and Diseases: From Discovery to Function, held in conjunction with the Biennial Meeting of the Indian Society for Chronobiology (InSC) at IIT Hyderabad. Dinesh Jadhav won first prize in the Post-Doc/Student Snap Talk presentation, and Dhoopchhaya Sarkar won second prize in the poster presentation.
- Amit Ranjan (History) received the prestigious International Student and Early Career Research (ECR) Support Award from the Society of Archaeological Science.
- Anubhav Preet Kaur (CIAR) was awarded the Norman Newell early career research grant.

Meetings/Conferences

- The RDO supported the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Catalysis: Synthesis, Theory, and Applications (SusCat-STA 2024). The conference was organised by the Department of Chemistry, Ashoka University & Ashoka Centre for a People-centric Energy Transition (ACPET), in association with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata.
- A conference titled '21st Century Cosmology- Tensions, Anomalies, and New Physics' was organised by the department of Physics at Ashoka University.
- The RDO supported organising EURAXESS Research & Innovation Day. The event aimed to enhance awareness within Ashoka University's academic community about the extensive involvement opportunities with Horizon Europe and highlighted the supportive services offered by the EURAXESS network.
- The RDO supported the Cognitive Science Seminar Series from 21st October - 25th October 2024, organised by Supriya Ray, Associate Professor, HoD, Department of Psychology, Ashoka University.
- The RDO facilitated a workshop on 'Archaeology and Ecology of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve' held on 22nd November 2024, organised by Prof. Nayanjyoti Lahiri, Professor, Department of History, Ashoka University.
- The RDO organised the 'Ashoka Colloquium: Nobel Prizes 2024 (Physiology/Medicine, Physics, and Chemistry)' on 19th November 2024.
- The RDO supported the second edition of the Global Immuno Course, hosted by the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University from December 13 - 23, 2024, and organised by Dr. Imroze Khan, Assistant Dean, Research and Associate Professor of Biology, Ashoka University.
- The RDO facilitated a Brain Network Dynamics Meeting (BraNDy 2024) from December 14 - 15, 2024, organised by Dr. Dipanjan Ray, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Ashoka University and his collaborators.
- The RDO supported the 'BREW-ESA (Annual Conference)' from December 15-17, 2024, organised by Dr. Srijita Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Economics, Ashoka University.
- The RDO supported the conference, 'Current Advances in Chemical Sciences' held from 7th March to 8th March 2025, organised by Dr. Munmun Ghosh & Dr. Deepak Asthana, Assistant Professors of Chemistry, Ashoka University.
- The RDO supported the conference on Recent Trends in Bio-Physics and Spintronics held from March 10th to March 12th 2025, organised by Dr. Susmita Saha & Dr. Garima Mishra, Assistant Professors of Physics, Ashoka University.
- The RDO facilitated the Sleep Regulation and Function Conference held from March 11th to March 14th 2025 organised by Dr. Krishna Melnattur, Assistant Professor of Biology and Psychology, Ashoka University.
- Regional Young Investigator Meeting (IndiaBioscience) 2025 held from March 19th to March 21st 2025 organised by Dr. Dipanjan Ray, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Ashoka University, Dr. Shivani Krishna, Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University and Dr. Manvi Sharma, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Ashoka University was supported by the RDO.
- RDO supported the Behavior, Ecology and Evolution (BEE) Symposium held on April 26-27, 2025, organised by Dr. Shivani Krishna, Assistant Professor of Biology, Ashoka University and Dr. Imroze Khan, Assistant Dean of Research and Associate Professor of Biology, Ashoka University.

As Ashoka's research ecosystem grows – from new schools and global partnerships to a thriving doctoral programme – its community of scholars continues to ask bold, boundary-crossing questions.

The third edition of *Enquiry* celebrates this spirit of exploration, highlighting ideas and collaborations that connect India's research future to the world.

