



The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development,  
Somerville College, University of Oxford  
seeks support for

## **THE SAVITRIBAI PHULE SCHOLARSHIP**

Oxford University's ground-breaking scholarship to  
support the next generation of leaders from India's  
marginalised communities

We are passionate about advocating for students  
from Dalit, Adivasi and other underrepresented  
backgrounds and providing them with a platform  
to change the world.





## PROPOSAL

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development, Somerville College, drawing on its founding values of inclusivity and equality, is seeking support for a new fully-funded postgraduate scholarship. It will be means-tested and filled on an annual basis by Indian students who would identify with one or more of the following categories:

- Dalit Bahujan and Adivasi (SC/ST/OBC)
- First generation learners

Applicants eligible under the first criteria will be asked to provide SC, ST and OBC certification. All applicants will also be means tested to reach target candidates who have greater financial need for the scholarship.

Eligible candidates will be evaluated based on academic merit, relevance of studies to the Centre's interdisciplinary aims, understanding of India's development challenges and leadership potential.

### INDIA'S STARK INEQUALITY

- ➔ 90% of Indians earn less than £270 per month
- ➔ Dalit and Adivasi households earn 21% and 34% less than the average annual income of Indian households
- ➔ Of 276 million registered informal sector workers, around 94% earn £107 or less per month. 74% of the enrolments belong to Dalit, Adivasi and Other Backward Classes categories



# SUPPORTING THE PHULE SCHOLARSHIP

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development aims to create a diverse pool of future leadership with the Savitribai Phule Scholarship, given its foundational aim to create 'brain gain' for India and its expectation that students will return to work in India and contribute to its sustainable development.

- Promote educational access among Indian students from disadvantaged backgrounds by enabling them to take up opportunities at the University of Oxford
- Foster integration and the development of civil society in India
- Promote diversity in academia more broadly



**Our aim is to establish three fully-funded scholarships at the OICSD with an initial target of £200,000.**

We are keen to significantly expand the number of scholarships so that more Indian graduate students can receive the funding they need to enable them to take up their places at Oxford. A graduate scholarship at the Centre can be endowed permanently at a cost of circa £1.2 million.

To support the Phule scholarship, contributions can be made to Somerville College which is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, or through our Delhi-based not for profit Section 8 company The Oxonian India Foundation, which gives donors based in India a tax-efficient way to support the activities of the OICSD.



India post, GoI, 1998

Savitribai Phule was a social reformer, educationalist, officially regarded as India's first female teacher. She worked towards dismantling gender and caste barriers to education. In 1873, she cofounded the Satyashodhak Samaj, an organization dedicated to equality across castes, class and gender. Somerville, with its pioneering history for women's education and empowerment is honoured to establish this scholarship in her name.



# RECOGNITION OF BENEFACTORS

Somerville College and the University of Oxford are proud to recognise the generosity of donors and we have established ways of honouring major benefactors.

**Naming opportunities:** a major donor may wish to endow and name a scholarship within the Cornelia Sorabji Law Programme. This will provide permanent recognition of the benefactor's generosity For successive generations of students.

**Foundation Fellowships** are awarded for outstanding service to Somerville College, at the discretion of the Governing Body. Somerville currently has 7 Foundation Fellows. Distinguished jurist and former Solicitor General of India Mr Gopal Subramaniam endowed The Gopal Subramaniam Scholarship at Somerville College, for which he was honoured with a Foundation Fellowship at Somerville, the College's highest recognition for philanthropy.

**The Vice-Chancellor's Circle** recognises individuals, foundations and corporate benefactors who have provided generous support to the collegiate University. Members receive regular communications From the Vice-Chancellor and senior officers, and are invited to an annual members' event in the spring.

**The Chancellor** may invite the University's most significant supporters to become members of the prestigious Chancellor's Court of Benefactors. The Court meets each autumn in Oxford and offers benefactors the chance to engage with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other senior leaders within the collegiate University. These meetings also allow benefactors to meet other members of the Court and to gain a greater understanding of the life and work of the University and the colleges.

**The Chancellor's Court of Benefactors Fellowship** is awarded to honour those members of the Court who have given exceptional support to the University of Oxford. Members of this distinguished group are known as CCB Fellows.

Members of the Chancellor's Court of Benefactors may have their generosity honoured by having their name engraved on the **Clarendon Arch**, near the entrance of the historic Bodleian Library.

The highest honour the University can bestow is the **Sheldon Medal**, which is reserved For an individual benefactor who has made a strategic difference to the life of the University. The medal was first awarded in 2002 and is named after Gilbert Sheldon, one of Oxford's early benefactors, who graduated in 1620.

# ABOUT OICSD

The Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development tackles fundamental sustainable development problems facing India and the wider world. The Centre is unique because:

- We grow the next generation of Indian leaders, equipping them not only with in-depth academic learning that crosses traditional boundaries, but also the leadership and social entrepreneurship skills they need to drive change.
- We focus on inter-disciplinary research. Transformative breakthroughs happen where traditional academic disciplines collide. The Centre connects experts from different fields who work across boundaries to devise lasting solutions in India.
- We work in partnership with academics, business leaders, policy makers, NGOs and others from Oxford, India and beyond to achieve real world impact.

At the heart of the Centre's vision is a commitment to building a better future for India through research, education and philanthropy.

For funding enquiries, please contact Ms Sara Kalim, Director of Development at [sara.kalim@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sara.kalim@some.ox.ac.uk) (or) +44 (0) 7972 864997

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