

**PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:**

*Berlin: August 2016-Present*

**Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: German Chancellor Fellow**

- Lead author on the study titled *Get Smart or Get Lost- Institutionalising German Cooperation in the Development of Smart Cities in India*, a review of the status of urban resilience in 3 Indian cities. Presented preliminary research findings at the European Commission in Brussels.
- Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Industrial Organization at WHU, Otto Beisheim School of Management. Teaching aide (part-time) to Associate Dean Prof. Juergen Weigand on a Kellogg-WHU Executive MBA course in Managerial Economics.
- Advised on outreach measures aimed at facilitating participation of German businesses in the Government of India's Smart City Initiative. Engaged with three Indian cities of Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Coimbatore, currently being offered assistance by Germany.
- Have written extensively on India's urbanization experience. Writings have appeared in several national and international outlets including The Conversation, Huffington Post, U.S News, The Diplomat, Ideas for India, Scroll, The Wire, Mint, Gateway House etc.

*New Delhi: June 2014-February 2016*

**Indian National Congress: Chief of Staff to MP Prof. Rajeev Gowda**

- Headed the Congress Party's legislative research and strategy unit under Prof. Rajeev Gowda and was responsible for managing research for 110 Members of Parliament (MPs) in both the upper and lower house of the Indian parliament.
- Led a young team of 15 associates, over 20 analysts and several interns in developing and setting the policy agenda for the monsoon, winter and budget sessions of parliament.
- Have drafted roughly 500 parliamentary questions, 3 private member bills, 50 special mentions, 150 amendments to house bills and 17 select and standing committee proposals.
- Co-authored a [book chapter](#) with Member of Parliament Dr. Rajeev Gowda on Crony Capitalism and Electoral Finance, published by Palgrave Macmillan.
- Promoted twice in the span of 20 months (Lead Parliamentary Analyst | Head of Research | Chief of Staff)

*New Delhi: June 2012-September 2013*

**PRS Legislative Research: Legislative Assistant to a Member of Parliament Fellowship (LAMP)**

- Drafted close to 400 parliamentary questions, over 50 zero hour interventions, 1 private member bill and 4 private member resolutions.
- Managed several development projects for the Office of MP Dr. Ajoy Kumar. Oversaw installation of 2,000 solar lights funded under the PPP model in villages in East Singhbhum District. Directly managed a 4-member team and \$50,000 as part of this project.
- Led fundraising initiative for the *Ponds for Livelihood Project*, an effort to regenerate 200 small water bodies under a budget of \$ 30,000. Recruited Swaniti, a development consultancy specialising in rural projects. Farm productivity increased substantially. The project was featured in a Chatham House case study on best practices in water conservation.

- Worked on setting up a medical call centre in Chakulia with the aim of providing 500-1,000 patients with free healthcare every single day of the year.
- Managed communication and advocacy efforts for the city of Jamshedpur (pro-bono) on a go-green initiative. Addressed over 3,000 school students in 25 schools in the city of Jamshedpur as part of this program.

### **EDUCATION AND AWARDS:**

#### **School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, M.A International Studies and Diplomacy (2013-2014)**

- Masters [thesis](#)- Resource Curse, Dutch Disease and the Niger Delta.
- Trained in media management and presentation at B.B.C, London by veteran journalist Deborah Mackenzie. Moderated a *Better Works* workshop at the U.N International Labour Organization (I.L.O) H.Q, Geneva.
- Tutored 7 A-level students (AS and A2) in Economics and Politics for 7 months in London and assisted with their university applications. 5 students secured A+ and 2 secured A. (2013-2014)

#### **Symbiosis International University, Bachelor of Media Studies B.M.S (2009-2012)**

- One of four students nominated for the *Dean's Prize for Student of the Year* in 2012.
- Pursued summer internships with CNN-India and Tehelka.
- Founded the college debating society at Symbiosis and led it successfully to various national and international debating tournaments.

#### **Fred J. Hansen Institute on Leadership and International Cooperation, University of San Diego (June, 2016)**

- Took coursework in social entrepreneurship, negotiation and conflict resolution at the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES), University of San Diego.
- [One](#) of 20 fellows selected worldwide, to represent India, from an overall applicant pool of 1800 candidates.
- Mentored a Turkish social enterprise QZenobia that seeks to integrate Syrian refugees within the Turkish workforce. Designed their social business canvas and consulted with communication and design (pro-bono) (2016)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

- Conducted legislative literacy workshops (over 3,000 students) in several Indian universities including Symbiosis International University, Jindal Global University and Christ University (2014-2016)
- Taught courses in urban policy for four batches (120 students) of the University of Minnesota's International Development program in Bangalore (2014-2016)
- Visiting lecturer at the MIT School of Government in Pune. Teach courses in political communication, design thinking and political strategy. Won the distinguished teaching prize in 2015. (2014-2017)
- Over two years, trained 80 policy professionals and journalists in an annual workshop series on decoding India's financial budget.