Welcome Back!

Welcome to an exciting year of public programming and other activities for The India Center. We hope you will join us as we endeavor to broaden awareness and understanding about India.

Our Fall 2016 India Fellow Pratyush S. Goberdhan will help facilitate these efforts. He is a junior at UCF, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in International and Global Studies, with minors in French and Art History. He is a member of Sangam Indian Students Association and the United Nations Association at UCF. He is also a professional Indian classical musician. Goberdhan’s research interests include Kashmir, secularism in India, and the struggle between cultural identity and progress. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue law school. A student of French and Hindi, Goberdhan has traveled to China, Ireland, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago.

On September 8th, Goberdhan will help us welcome our first distinguished visitor for the new academic year, Somini Sengupta. A former New York Times bureau chief in New Delhi and the author of *The End of Karma*, Sengupta will speak at a public event about hope and fury among India’s youth (see adjoining article).

The India Center will also co-sponsor or support other events, including the annual UCF Interfaith Forum on October 25th and the annual UCF International Education Week kickoff breakfast on November 14th.

We look forward to seeing you at these events, and encourage you to contact us with ideas for future programming.
On Thursday, September 8th, 2016, the UCF Global Perspectives Office and The India Center at UCF will host Somini Sengupta, a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*. This event will be free and open to the public, and will be held from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Cape Florida Ballroom, room 316 of the UCF Student Union. Sengupta will discuss her book, *The End of Karma: Hope and Fury among India’s Young*.

Sengupta emigrated from Kolkata to California as a young child in 1975. She returned thirty years later as the first Indian-American bureau chief in New Delhi for *The New York Times*. A George Polk Award-winning journalist, Sengupta now covers the United Nations, and previously served as the bureau chief in Dakar. In her time as a foreign correspondent, she has reported from a Himalayan glacier, a Congo River ferry, the streets of Baghdad and Mumbai, and many places in between.

When Sengupta returned to India in 2005, she found a vastly different country from the one she and her parents left. The number of Indians under age 35 surpasses the combined population of the United States, Great Britain and France. Approximately one million Indians turn 18 every month. In *The End of Karma*, Sengupta explores 21st century India through the stories of the young, hungry and hopeful in India. Keen to write their own destinies, driven by aspiration and thwarted at every step by state and society, India’s young are making new demands on India’s democracy.

Sengupta spotlights the stories of several ordinary men and women, creating a penetrating, personal look at contemporary India. In an NPR interview, Sengupta explained, “They’re all stories of incredible grit and resilience and great hope, but also a bit of fury -- quite a bit of fury, which is why the subtitle of the book is ‘Hope and Fury among India’s Young.’”

Please find the most up-to-date information on Sengupta’s visit [here](#), as well as information about other upcoming events related to The India Center.
Robert Vogan, a senior at UCF majoring in International and Global Studies with a minor in Spanish, spent his summer as an intern in Washington, D.C. There, he contributed to efforts to fight human trafficking in India. We asked Robert to share his internship experience.

During the summer of 2016, I spent ten weeks in Washington, D.C. interning for Justice Ventures International (JVI). This anti-human-trafficking organization does legal work to free victims and prosecute traffickers in India. Much of the organization’s work focuses on victims of bonded labor. JVI fights to ensure that the victims, once freed, receive all reparations to which they are entitled and that the perpetrators are held accountable.

In my time at the organization, I researched corporate social responsibility in India, studying the ways different companies’ policies addressed human rights. This is an important step to understanding how to solve the plight of forced labor that exists in many domestic industries in India.

After my time with JVI, I find myself much more aware of the reality of human trafficking. I have witnessed some of its effects, as well as the work being done to stop it. It is hard to say that I have been encouraged, but I have. This is because I know that more people, like myself, are being exposed to the reality of human trafficking. With the power of awareness, together we can force the awful cruelty of modern slavery out of existence.