

RSA India Community Update

Regional Studies India Connect Networking Session 1

20 May 2026

On 20 May 2026, researchers from institutions across India came together for the first RSA India community networking session.

Facilitated by Lavanya Gupta (RSA Blog Editor) and Marcus Atkinson (RSA Head of Partnerships & Engagement), the session brought together researchers from institutions spanning New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Zurich and beyond, including South Asian University, IIT Madras, TISS, Manipal University, the School of Planning and Architecture and Anant National University, among others.

The discussion reflected the breadth and ambition of regional research in India, a country whose scale, diversity, and pace of development present both extraordinary research opportunities and real structural challenges. Participants shared a wide range of ideas for how RSA can best support the community and strengthen collaboration and exchange.

Supporting early career researchers

There was strong consensus that early career researchers (ECRs) should be at the heart of RSA India's work. Participants identified key barriers, including limited funding for international travel and a lack of structured mentorship and publication support. The group was enthusiastic about developing resources, funding pathways, and events specifically designed to address these gaps.

What Happens Next

The RSA team will now follow up on several fronts. This includes supporting the formation of research and mentorship networks, widening access to publication opportunities, including through [the Early Career publishing initiative](#) run by the RSRS editorial board, and opportunities to publish in the [Regions e-Zine](#) and the very popular [RSA blog series](#).

Get Involved

The RSA India network is open to all RSA members working on regional studies projects connecting with India. Whether you are an established academic, a doctoral student, or a practitioner working on regional development, RSA membership opens doors to a range of funding, publication, and networking opportunities. Visit our website or get in touch to find out more. We look forward to seeing you at the next networking session.

[Regional Studies Association India Network](#)