

22nd November 2021

The Director,
Giri Institute of Development Studies
Housing Scheme, near C.M.S, Sector O, Aliganj,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226024

Subject: Formal Affiliation with the Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS).

Dear Sir,

I am writing to apply for institutional guidance and support in fulfilling my dissertation related field research in India during 2021-22. I am a doctoral candidate in my fourth year at the Department of Political Science, Brown University (USA) and associated with the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs.

- **I write to you seeking formal affiliation with the Giri Institute of Development Studies as a visiting fellow and PhD scholar.** I would be very much indebted for this
- My dissertation project entitled 'Variation in Service Provisioning and State Capacity in Urban India' is studying two cities in India – Lucknow and Bhopal. Since I am alternating my stay between two field sites of Bhopal and Lucknow, I would be in the Institute for short periods from Dec 21 to Sep 22. Therefore, I would request room in your guest house. I am a student and hence would request nominal rates for the room on monthly basis since I would be able to afford the same.

My CV, a short profile and my proposal are attached.

Sincerely,

Bhanu Joshi

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Bhanu Joshi Profile

Bhanu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science at Brown University. He is also a summer fellow with the Watson Institute of Public and International Affairs. Bhanu's research is focused on the cities of the global south; in particular, he is interested in the relationship between the state and societies of the cities of India. His dissertation asks - What explains the variation in service delivery in Indian cities -- its power and welfare -- when development takes place in a semi-democratic, fast industrialising framework? In addition, he is interested in questions about how does urbanisation affect the accountability relationships between voters and politicians in Indian democracies?

By examining politics in Indian cities, bureaucratic–politician interactions, participation and party competition, the dissertation would like to expand upon theories about the emergence of programmatic politics, the determinants of turnout, patterns of distributive politics, the importance of local ethnic geography, and the underlying causes of ethnic political competition in new democracies.

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