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JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION GRANT WILL SUPPORT RESEARCH AND POLICY EFFORTS EXAMINING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST INDIA'S DALITS  
February 15, 2011

[Philadelphia] The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) has received \$421,071 from the John Templeton Foundation to support the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), which will investigate the principal characteristics of Dalit entrepreneurship in India and the key factors that facilitate and impede Dalit entrepreneurship that are distinct from those faced by entrepreneurs from other communities within India.

The grant will cover a two-year study period that follows a 2008 CASI-conducted survey which found that markets are eroding stigmatizing caste practices, leading to greater social freedoms and economic empowerment in India. This project will analyze the private sector's abilities to deliver economic and social empowerment to historically marginalized social groups. It will investigate entrepreneurs at three separate levels and focus on those who have been successful at promoting livelihood and entrepreneurship within their community. The results will subsequently be disseminated by implementing a wide-ranging didactic strategy that publicizes the research findings.

Devesh Kapur, director of CASI and Madan Lal Sobti Associate Professor for the Study of Contemporary India at Penn, is the principal investigator. He says "A key goal of this research project is ideational: to legitimize entrepreneurship amongst Dalit leaders and Indian political and intellectual elites who are still skeptical of markets and the private sector."

#### **About the Center for the Advanced Study of India**

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania is the only research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. A national resource, it fills an urgent need for objective knowledge of India's politics and society, rapidly changing economy and emerging major power. The Center's key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

#### **The John Templeton Foundation**

The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality. It supports research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution, and infinity to creativity, forgiveness, love, and free will. The Foundation encourages civil, informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, and theologians and between such experts and the public at large, for the purposes of definitional clarity and new insights.

The Foundation's vision is derived from the late Sir John Templeton's optimism about the possibility of acquiring "new spiritual information" and from his commitment to rigorous scientific research and related scholarship. The Foundation's motto, "How little we know, how eager to learn," exemplifies its support for open-minded inquiry and its hope for advancing human progress through breakthrough discoveries. For more information, visit [www.templeton.org](http://www.templeton.org).

