

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia

Department of Political Science and Global India Network

cordially invite you for a special lecture on

The Evolution of Indian Defence Policies

by

Professor Sumit Ganguly

Indiana University, Bloomington

What are the sources of India's defence policy and how has it evolved? This lecture will argue that it can be traced to four distinct factors: ideas, institutions, resources and threat perceptions. These four factors, obviously, have waxed and waned over the course of seventy years of India's independence. To that end, it will be demonstrated that the evolution of the country's defence policies can be divided into three and possibly four discrete phases. In the initial phase, ideas dominated the making of Indian defence policy. The exogenous shock of the 1962 Sino-Indian border war led to the diminution of the role of ideas and threat perceptions came to the fore. However, resource constraints and institutional pathologies hobbled the conduct of Indian defence policy. The next phase came about in the wake of the Cold War's end and the Soviet collapse. The final phase, where ideas again seem to be ascendant and where resource constraints seem to have been loosened might have begun following the emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party regime in 2014.



Sumit Ganguly is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and holds the Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, at Indiana University, Bloomington.

He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2017), and a recipient of the Humboldt Research Award (2017), to be hosted by the Department of Politics, SAI, Heidelberg University. A specialist on the contemporary politics of South Asia, Professor Ganguly's research spans security, ethnic conflict, democratization, foreign policy, and international politics of that region. He is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of over 20 books on the region. His most recent books include *The Oxford Handbook of India's National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2015, coedited with Nicolas Blarel and Manjeet S. Pardesi); *Deadly Impasse: Indo-Pakistani Relations at the Dawn of a New Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and, with William R. Thompson, *Ascending India and Its State Capacity* (Yale University Press, 2017).

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Date: Friday, June 15, 2018

Time: 10:00 am – 12.00 pm

Venue: The Heinrich Zimmer Hall, SAI

Followed by a reception at 12:30 pm in SAI Cafeteria