

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia
Department of Political Science

New Issues in the Caste-based Reservations in India

by

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Explicit constitutional provisions for the advancement of the historically depressed and socially backward sections of the society, popularly known as reservations or quotas, is a distinctive feature of Indian polity. Over the years, these provisions have been reinforced, expanded and strengthened through a variety of legislation and executive orders even as they are contested and reinterpreted. In the process they gave rise to fresh claims for reservation benefits and new issues. Two such developments are of far-reaching importance. First, several social groups have launched large-scale agitations demanding that they too be accorded backward caste status. Second, the more backward among the backward classes have been demanding for categorizing reservations within reservations so that the advanced sections among the backward classes do not capture the reservation benefits. This talk examines the causes of these demands and the new issues that they bring forward in the domain of reservation policy and politics.



Prof. K. C. Suri is currently a DAAD guest Professor at the SAI. He teaches at the Department of Political Science at the University of Hyderabad. His recent publications include *Political Parties in South Asia: The Challenge of Change* (International IDEA, Stockholm, 2007), *Indian Democracy*, ICSSR Research Surveys and Explorations: *Political Science: Volume 2* (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013), and *Party Competition in Indian States: Electoral Politics in Post-Congress Polity* (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014). He has published many book chapters and papers in national and international journals on different themes pertaining to politics and policies in India. Presently, he is the Managing Editor of *Studies in Indian Politics*, a bi-annual political science journal published in India by the Sage.

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All are cordially invited!

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