



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia

Department of Political Science

Special Lecture

on

The Shrinking Civic Space in India

by

Biraj Patnaik

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Civic space in India has over the past few years shrunk rapidly. The impact of this has been felt widely across a spectrum of institutions and now encompasses activists, comedians, fact checkers, political leaders, civil society organisations and a range of institutions. The State capture of autonomous institutions and the media is near-complete. This lecture explores the evolving landscape particularly for NGOs and other civil society organisations and the trajectory so far.



Mr. Biraj Patnaik is the Executive Director of National Foundation for India - NFI. Prior to joining NFI, he was the South Asia Director of Amnesty International. He was formerly the Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the landmark 'right to food' case for close to a decade. A well-known human rights activist, he has been part of many national and global campaigns, including the right to food campaign in India. Biraj co-founded the 'Mitandin' community health worker program that trained and deployed 70,000 health workers in Chhattisgarh which was the precursor to the nationwide ASHA community health worker program.

Date: Monday, July 4, 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00, CET

Online: via Zoom. For the Zoom registration, please send an email at: polsai@sai.uni-heidelberg.de