



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

Gandhian Politics in Contemporary India

by

Professor Anand Kumar

ITM University, Gwalior

Professor Anand Kumar will speak on how to make sense of the relevance of Gandhian politics in contemporary India. His talk will help contextualize Gandhi and his politics, especially his commitment towards an ethical life and society based on the ideals of truth and nonviolence, and his vision of Swaraj (freedom); Swadeshi (indigenous development); and Sarvodaya (well-being of all through participatory democracy) — to be realized through a judicious combination of character-building, constructive program, non-cooperation, and Satyagraha. Professor Kumar charts the evolution of Gandhian politics and the bewildering diversity among his followers in the early post-Gandhi period (1948 – 1979), and traces the multiple struggles faced — and strategies adopted — by Gandhian organisations and leaders as India moved into the era of Globalization and Hindu majoritarianism. He maintains that followers of Gandhian ideals face unprecedented challenges in contemporary India, in their continuing pursuit of nation-building, communal harmony, and a balanced coexistence of nature and humanity.



Professor Anand Kumar is Professor Emeritus, Gandhian School of Democracy and Socialism, ITM University, Gwalior, India; and former professor of sociology at the Centre for Studies in Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He has also taught sociology at the Banaras Hindu University (1979–1989), and has been a visiting faculty at many prestigious universities all over the world. He writes regularly in academic journals as well as the popular media outlets in both Hindi and English. Among his books are *State and Society in India* (1989) and *Political Sociology of India* (2014).

Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00, CET

Venue: CATS, room 010.00.06, building 4130

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