



## Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia

Department of Political Science

*Special Lecture on*

# Two Cycles of nation-building in post-colonial India: From Osmosis to Symbiosis (1947 – 2014)

*by*

**Professor Anand Kumar**

*Nehru Memorial Museum & Library*

In this lecture, Professor Anand Kumar interrogates the dynamics of nation building in India, which began with ‘unity in diversity’ as its explicit goal, focusing on the dynamics of a ‘double-movement’ — the two inter-related processes of ‘democratization from above’, and the making of ‘dominant caste’ politics as its reaction from below. India’s staggering ethno-linguistic and religious diversities; colonial legacy of regional economic disparities; caste-based deprivations; and deeply imbedded gender injustice; and an upsurge in the demand for distributive social justice presented enormous challenges in reorienting the Indian economy towards economic decolonization. Professor Kumar presents this narrative as two successive cycles of socio-economic and political transformations where the first cycle promoted osmosis through dominant party system (1947-1977) followed by a cycle of symbiosis through competition between the dominant castes (1977-2014). He concludes that this journey began with an awareness of cultivating the values of liberty, equality, justice, fraternity and unity through a transformational Constitution, but has generated both a ‘crisis of success’ (revolution of rising expectations) and a ‘crisis of failure’ (paradigm shift in favour of Liberalization-Privatization-Globalization [LPG]). India has evolved into a unique site of continuities and change — while the nature of challenges has altered substantially, reflecting major deficits of development, governance, legitimacy, democracy, ecology, nation building, and citizenship, all of which have serious consequences for the cycles of osmosis and symbiosis.



Professor Anand Kumar is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi, and former Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He completed his PhD from Chicago University, and has held several prestigious visiting fellowships around the world. He has been a part of academic networks nationally and internationally and published widely both in the English and Hindi languages. Among his books are *Understanding Globalization and Emerging India* (2011) and *State and society in India* (1989).

**Date: Monday, May 31, 2021**

**Time: 14:00 – 16:00, CEST**

**Online - Via Zoom**

**Meeting id: 812 5314 7896, Pass code: TheoryM21**

**Zoom link- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253147896?pwd=RE1HUiFtYmRrczVkJW9Lbi9pS3E4Zz09>**