



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*

# **Tribal Policy in Independent India**

*by*

**Professor Virginius Xaxa**

*Institute for Human Development, New Delhi*

As per the 2011 census, 705 tribes inhabit different states and union territories of India. They are enumerated at 104 million constituting 8.6 percent of the total population. Though they are numerically small, they are enormously diverse in terms of language, size of the population, level of development and ecological settings. On the eve of independence, they have been the most underdeveloped segment of India's population. The scenario is no different today. They represent a disproportionate share of the people living below the poverty line, low literacy rate, and poor health indicators. However, if one were to locate them in the regional context one finds a great deal of variation in development indicators. The lecture will address this problem and attempt to explain why tribes in a certain region have done well whereas others have not. It will examine if this is to do with policy.

Professor Virginius Xaxa is currently visiting Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. Prior to this, he was Professor of Eminence and Bharat Ratna Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Chair at Tezpur University (2016–2018). He was also Professor and Deputy Director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus (2011–2016). He taught Sociology at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi (1990–2011), and North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong (1978–1990). He obtained MA in Sociology from Pune University and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. He is the author of *Economic Dualism and Structure of Class: A Study in Plantation and Peasant Settings in North Bengal* (Cosmo, 1997) and *State, Society and Tribes: Issues in Post-Colonial India* (Pearson, 2008), co-author of *Tea Plantation Labour in India* (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 1996) and co-editor of *Social Exclusion and Adverse Inclusion: Development and Deprivation of Adivasis in India* (OUP, 2012), *Work, Institutions and Sustainable Livelihood: Issues and Challenges of Transformation* (Palgrave, 2017) and *Employment and Labour Market in North-East India: Interrogating Structural Changes* (Routledge, 2019). He was also the Chairman of the *High Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities of India*, Government of India (2014).



**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022

**Time:** 14:00 – 16:00, CET

**Online:** Zoom link, <https://bit.ly/3luCCVK>

**Passcode:** 812 5314 7896

**Meeting Id:** TheoryM21