

CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
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Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia

Department of Political Science

Special Lecture

on

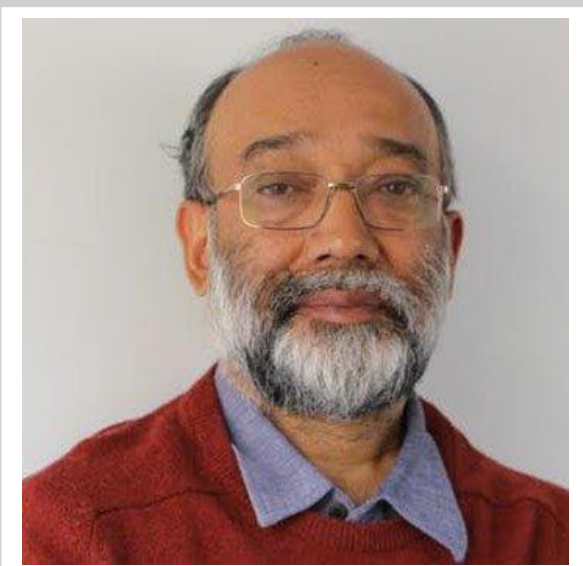
From Conflict to Engagement: Managing the challenge of ethnic diversity in India's North East

by

Sanjoy Hazarika

The Center for North East Studies and Policy Research

The eight north-eastern states of India form one of the most ethnically and geographically diverse regions in the world, shaped uniquely by colonial history and its location on the confluence of south, east, and southeast Asia. This is where the Nagas insurgency, which triggered a history of prolonged armed confrontations between other ethnic groups and the Indian State, first challenged the idea of India in the 1950s. This state of confrontation and a proliferation of contesting narratives continued until the first decade of the twenty-first century, with ethnicity lying at the heart of politics and political mobilization. These have found expression in cultural policies, employment and development. However, in the past 20 years, violent conflicts have abated with fresh political engagement, dialogue and settlements. A burst of economic and infrastructure growth is visible, and national leaders have recently proclaimed their commitment to remove the 64-year old Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the region, a law that bestows arbitrary powers on the military. While this meets a long-standing demand of civil society, this complex region continues to be deeply troubled by other unresolved tensions around citizenship, migration, and displacement, especially among minority groups.



Sanjoy Hazarika is a well-known journalist, researcher, and commentator working on development and governance issues in North-East India, and Managing Trustee of the Center for North East Studies and Policy Research (CNESPR; www.c-nes.org). His books include the acclaimed *Strangers of the Mist* (1994) and *Strangers No More* (2018), and three collections of essays (co-authored). Hazarika has also held various positions in academic and policy areas and is a member of the Consultative Group for North East State Division, Niti Aayog, Government of India. He was earlier a member of the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee to Review the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).

Date: Monday, July 18, 2022

Time: 14:00 – 16:00, CET

Venue: CATS, Great Lecture Hall (room 010.01.05, building 4130)