

# *The Politics of Social Justice in India*

## A NAND & JEET KHEMKA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

BY

### PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

*President, Centre for Policy Research*



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA is President of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, one of India's most distinguished think tanks. He was previously Visiting Professor of Government at Harvard University, and Associate Professor of Government and of Social Studies at Harvard University. He has also done extensive public policy work and was a Member-Convenor of the Prime Minister of India's National Knowledge Commission. Dr. Mehta has published widely in political theory, intellectual history, constitutional law, and Indian politics. His most recent work includes *The Burden of Democracy* (Penguin India, 2003), and was also co-editor of *Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design* (Oxford University Press, 2005), and *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India* (Oxford University Press, 2010). Dr. Mehta is also a prolific contributor to public debates in India, and writes an influential column for the *Indian Express*. He was most recently awarded the Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Award for distinguished contributions to social sciences.

#### About the Lecture

Dr. Mehta will examine the discourse of social justice in contemporary India and the ways in which it arises out of the intersection of caste and politics. He will also look into the historical origins of this discourse and the sense of self and moral psychology that underlies it, which argues that what is at stake is the meaning of India's constitutional project.

#### About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania is the first and only research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. A national resource, it fills an urgent need for objective knowledge of India's politics and society, rapidly changing economy, and transformation as an ancient civilization and emerging major power. The Center's key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

**Wednesday**

**October 27, 2010**

#### Reception

**5:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

**Foyer of The McNeil Center for  
Early American Studies (MCEAS)  
University of Pennsylvania  
3355 Woodland Walk  
(at 34<sup>th</sup> & Walnut Streets)  
Philadelphia, PA 19104**

#### Lecture

**5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

**The Stephanie Grauman Wolf Room  
at MCEAS**

Please **RSVP** by  
Friday, **October 22 – seating is limited**  
email: [casi@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:casi@sas.upenn.edu)  
tel: 215.746.3159  
<http://casi.ssc.upenn.edu>

