

# *Building a New Nepal – After the Quake*

BY

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CASI Spring 2015 Visiting Fellow*

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**PRASHANT JHA** is a journalist and author. He has written *Battles of The New Republic: A Contemporary History of Nepal*, a deeply personal, reportage-based account of war and peace in his country. He is currently the Associate Editor of *Hindustan Times*, writing on Indian politics and foreign policy. Mr. Jha was a political columnist for Nepal's leading dailies for over five years, focusing, in particular, on the role of the far-left, rise of identity politics, and Nepal-India ties. He has been the Kathmandu correspondent for *The Hindu*, a contributing editor with *Himal Southasian* magazine, and an analyst with the International Crisis Group.

## **About the Lecture:**

On April 25, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake. Over 7,000 people have died and the numbers are steadily increasing. The full scale of losses in terms of human casualties, homes destroyed and cultural heritage reduced to rubble is still not known. The earthquake has tested the already limited resolve of the Nepali state, which is struggling to cope and respond to the disaster – especially in rural areas. In this backdrop, what is the current situation on the ground and challenges ahead for the government? How did Nepal get here and could a functional political order have equipped the country to deal with this better? What will be the possible political implications of this disaster – in terms of the quest for a new constitution? What has been the role of India in relief efforts – and in general in Nepal? Where does the rest of the international community come in? This lecture will focus on these and related issues.

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**LECTURE TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

**VENUE: CASI – 3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5<sup>th</sup> floor) Philadelphia, PA 19104-2653**

## **About CASI**

*Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania is the first research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. 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.*

