

# *A Thorn in the Heart: The Past and the Future of India's Maoist Movement*

BY

**RAHUL PANDITA**

*Opinion and Special Stories Editor, The Hindu  
CASI Fall 2014 Visiting Fellow*

**Thursday, October 16, 2014**



**RAHUL PANDITA** is the Opinion and Special Stories Editor for *The Hindu*, one of India's leading newspapers. He has extensively reported from the Maoist-affected areas in India. In 2009, he was given a rare opportunity by the Maoists to interview their supreme commander, Ganapathi. His vast experience in reporting on India's Maoist insurgency has resulted in two books: *Hello, Bastar: The Untold Story of India's Maoist Movement* and *The Absent State*. He is also the author of the best-selling memoir on Kashmir, *Our Moon has Blood Clots*. He is the recipient of the International Red Cross Award for conflict reporting.

## **About the Lecture:**

India has many years of experience in dealing with armed uprisings. But none of these have proven to be as challenging as the Maoist insurgency in central and eastern India. For decades, the Adivasis (indigenous people) in large swathes of land were left untouched by the Indian State. This lecture will discuss how the void left by the Indian State was filled by Maoist guerrillas and how, from a small group in 1980, they became "India's biggest internal security challenge." In the last few years, the Indian security forces have managed to put pressure on the Maoist rebels. Rahul Pandita will draw from his reporting experience in the Red Corridor to argue how the end of the Maoist rebellion may not mean an end to the suffering of the poor and the marginalized in these areas.

---

**LECTURE TIME: 12 noon to 1:30 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.*

