

***To Trade Or Not to Trade:
Decoding India's Trade Policy and Its Implications***

BY

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3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5th floor) ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19104**



AMITENDU PALIT is a Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead (Trade and Economic Policy) at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore. His books include *The Trans-Pacific Partnership, China and India: Economic and Political Implications* (Routledge, UK; 2014), *China India Economics: Challenges, Competition and Collaboration* (Routledge, UK; 2011), *Special Economic Zones in India: Myths and Realities* (Anthem, UK; 2008, co-authored) and *South Asia: beyond the Global Financial Crisis* (edited; World Scientific, 2011). He is a consultant for the Commonwealth Secretariat, International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Ministry of Commerce, India. A columnist for India's *Financial Express*, he writes for the *China Daily* and appears regularly on the BBC, Bloomberg News, Channel News Asia, CNBC, and Reuters.

About the Lecture:

Despite participating actively in institutionalization of the multilateral trade framework of the WTO and engaging in multiple regional and bilateral FTA negotiations, India's trade policy remains ambiguous. Over the years, India has acquired the reputation of being a difficult and obstructive trade negotiator, unwilling to grant preferential market access to partners by lowering tariffs in agriculture, dairy, automobiles, and many other sectors, while insisting on easy mobility for its skilled professionals in partner country labor markets. In this lecture, Amitendu Palit will attempt to identify the reasons behind India's "defensive" trade posture, the contrast in proactivity between India's contemporary foreign and trade policies, and the impact of the divergence between the latter policies on India's international relations.

About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at Penn is the first research institution in the U.S. 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.

