



## **Colloquium: The Chronicle of a Birth Foretold? The Emergence of Bangladesh, 1971**

Speaker:  
Srinath Raghavan

Date / Time:  
August 29, 2013 - 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Venue:  
10th Floor, Pixel A, APU

### **Abstract:**

The emergence of an independent Bangladesh in 1971 was the most decisive geopolitical event in South Asia since the partition of India. Forty years on, the historiography of the crisis remains captive to the parochial perspectives of the subcontinental protagonists. For the Indians this was a war of liberation; for the Pakistanis a war of secession; and for the Bangladeshis a war of independence. Despite the differences of inflection in each of these narratives, the underlying assumption remains the same: the independence of Bangladesh was, for a variety of reasons, inevitable. This paper argues against this dominant, determinist reading. It does so by widening the framework in which we view the event. The paper contends that the global context of the late 1960s played a crucial role in enabling the creation of an independent Bangladesh. Only by situating the event in the wider international history of the period can we explain the outcome and interpret its significance.

### **A Note on the Speaker:**

Srinath Raghavan is Senior Fellow at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. He is also Senior Research Fellow at King's India Institute, King's College London. He is the author of *War and Peace in Modern India: A Strategic History of the Nehru Years* (2010). His next book, *1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh*, will be published later this year. He is now writing a book on India and the Second World War. He is also a regular commentator on contemporary foreign and strategic affairs.