



Talk: Darkness in the Centre: Possibilities and Challenges in Chhatisgarh

Speaker:
Sudha Bhardwaj

Date / Time:
February 18, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:30pm

Venue:
10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

Formed in 2000, Chhattisgarh is a small state in Central India with a population of two crores. Apart from its dense forest cover, Chhattisgarh was once known for its rice fields. Gradually, its mineral wealth and arable land attracted attention. On the other hand, a part of Chhattisgarh did not see any development. Dis-satisfaction was rife as human development indicators were low. How were people to react to corporate land grab and mining mafias? How were they to cope with their difficulties which were compounded by neglect of tribal areas and resistance therein, violation of civil liberties and the criminalisation of dissent? In this background, Ms Sudha Bharadwaj, the speaker, will talk about her experience of working in the young state of Chhattisgarh.

Ms Sudha Bharadwaj has a M.Sc. in Maths from IIT, Kanpur. She has taught in prestigious schools of Delhi. However, she was attracted to the idea of social change and decided to work in the field. Associated with the trade union movement in Chhattisgarh for the past 25 years, she is also a public interest lawyer taking up cases of trade unions, land acquisition and environmental matters in the Chhattisgarh High Court. Ms Bharadwaj is currently the General Secretary of Peoples' Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Chhattisgarh.