



Colloquium: Nature without Borders: Opportunity and Challenge in an Emerging Economy

Event Sub Title:

Topic: Nature without Borders: Opportunity and Challenge in an Emerging Economy

Speaker:

Mahesh Rangarajan, Director of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi.

Date / Time:

September 18, 2014 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A

Abstract:

Nature does not respect borders that people draw. Yet the securing of spaces of nature to protect ecological integrity and preserve biological diversity has been lynch pin of efforts at conserving nature in India. Even as such spaces are deeply contested by rival claimants, Professor Mahesh Rangarajan emphasises there is also need to rethink how ecological interests are to address the fluidity of water and wind, birds and animals. This does not entail ending efforts at secure protected zones but to go beyond these efforts in a manner that draws on scientific insight but engages with those who live in and use those land and waterscapes. Drawing on recent innovative approaches, it suggests how to secure gains and move ahead. In a nutshell, it argues against a rigid one size fits all approach and sees much potential for making spaces for nature in crowded country with an expanding economy.

A Note on the Speaker:

Professor Mahesh Rangarajan is the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi. He has studied at the universities of Delhi and Oxford and taught at Cornell, Delhi, Jadavpur and the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore. He was till recently Professor in Modern Indian History at the University of Delhi.

His most recent works include the co edited Environmental History as if Nature Existed (2010), India's Environmental History (2012) and two books in press, Nature without Borders and Shifting Ground. He is also working on a collection entitled Nature and Nation.

