



# Seshadripuram Educational Trust Seshadripuram Evening Degree College

#27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560 020, Karnataka, INDIA

Affiliated to Bengaluru City University

**Ambedkar Study Center**

In association with



**ANTIRACIST RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTER (ARPC)  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON DC, USA**

and

**ASHOKA UNIVERSITY, HARYANA, INDIA**



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Monday  
Time: 5 PM (IST)  
07.30 AM (Monday)  
WASHINGTON

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*Organizes*

**Inauguration of International Webinar Series**

On

## 'Anti-Caste Politics and Environmental Justice'- Chapter 1

Dr. Wooday P. Krishna is a transformational leader with a rare blend of a technocrat, educationist and Gandhian Social worker, based in Bengaluru. He is the President of Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi. Dr. Krishna is a recipient of the prestigious fellowships of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, UK, and World Academy of Productivity Science, Canada. He is the National President of the Indian Institution of Production Engineers, Chairman of Gandhi Peace Foundation and Honorary General Secretary of the well known Seshadripuram Group of Educational Institutions in Karnataka. He has also held key positions in the National Management of Highly Credible Service Organizations like the Indian Red Cross Society and the Tuberculosis Association of India, which have pan India presence. The Government of Karnataka has honored him with the state award for the empowerment of persons with disabilities; State Youth Award for youth and community services and State Rajyotsava Award for social service. In recognition of his dedicated services to the nation, Dr. Krishna has been conferred with President's Gold Medal, the highest national award given for exceptional Red Cross Humanitarian work of high order, by the President of India.

**august presence**



**Dr. Wooday P. Krishna**  
President, Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi  
Bengaluru, INDIA  
Honorary General Secretary, Seshadripuram  
Educational Trust, Bengaluru, INDIA

### Keynote Address



**Prof. Ravivarma Kumar**  
Retired Advocate General  
High Court of Karnataka, India

Prof. Ravivarma Kumar began his career under the legal expert, the late L G Havanur (Havanur later became Minister for Law in the Devaraj Urs government). His areas of specialisation are Constitutional law, social justice, human rights, PILs, legal literacy among others. Kumar has appeared in over 30,000 cases in the High Court and the Supreme Court. As a government advocate of the land reforms cell, he championed the cause of tenants under the Karnataka Law Reforms Act, 1961, in over 8,000 cases. In the Supreme Court, Kumar appeared in the case of Dr Ramdoss of the PMK versus Union of India, demanding caste census. In the Ashok Kumar Thakur case, he appeared in defence of 27 percent reservation provided to the other backward classes in Central educational institutions. He also appeared in the Mandal case on reservation for backward classes and in defence of the Havanur report on backward classes. In the High Court of Karnataka, his celebrated cases include prevention of the construction of a five-star hotel in the Nagarhole National Park, quo warranto against the then chief minister

Ramakrishna Hegde and the arrack bottling case. Kumar, known for his progressive thoughts and secular credentials, was appointed the first chairman of the Backward Classes Commission in 1997. He headed the Commission till 2000 and presented about 85 reports to the State government, which include the ones on reservation in private sector, reservation for couple and children in inter-caste and inter-religion marriages, the creamy layer policy to get the best talent from each caste/tribe, revision of the list of OBCs and caste enumeration in census. He was also a faculty at the Havanur College of Law and a visiting professor at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, and at the Department of Management Studies, Bangalore University.

### Theme: Dalit Ecologies Series: Seeing through History

Mukul Sharma is a Professor of Environmental Studies at Ashoka University. Before this, he was the Professor and Head, Department of Development Communication, and Dean, Academics, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi (2014-2019). His formal academic qualification is in Political Science. Since 1984, he has worked in academic, development and media sectors. He has published sixteen books and booklets in English and Hindi, the latest being, Dalit aur Prakriti: Jati aur Bhartiya Paryavarn Aandolan (Delhi: Vani Prakashan, 2020, in Hindi), Caste & Nature: Dalits and Indian Environmental Politics (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2017), Green and Saffron: Hindu Nationalism and Indian Environmental Politics (Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2012), and Human Rights in a Globalised World: An Indian Diary (Delhi: Sage, 2010). He has been a research fellow in several universities and institutions, including Mahidol University, Bangkok (2010), United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC (2002-2004), SEPHIS scholar, International Institute of Social History, The Netherlands (1999-2003), London School of Economic and Political Science (2000) and University of Oxford (1998). Mukul worked as a Special Correspondent in Navbharat Times, Delhi (1983-1998), and received 12 national-international awards for his environmental, rural and human rights journalism. After that, he has been the Director of Amnesty International and Heinrich Boell Foundation in India, the South Asia Director of Climate Parliament and the Asia Campaign, Advocacy and Policy Director of ActionAid International. His research interests lie in examining the relations between nature, culture, politics, policy and power. He focuses on the interweaving of ecology, religion, politics and media in the making of environmental politics in India and South Asia. He is also interested in legislative and policy aspects of renewable energy in mitigating climate change. He is presently working on religion, sacrality and environmental politics in South Asia.

### Theme Speaker 1



**Dr. Mukul Sharma,**  
Professor  
Ashoka University, Haryana

## Theme Speaker 2

## Theme: Caste, Segregation, and Environmental Injustices in Urban India



### Dr. Malini Ranganathan

Director

Antiracist Research and Policy Center  
American University, Washington DC, USA

Dr. Malini Ranganathan serves as the Interim Faculty Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center and is an associate professor at American University. She is a critical urban geographer with a broad interest in environmental justice and global antiracist and decolonial politics. She draws on history, ethnography, and critical mapping to study the struggles surrounding urban water and sanitation, land and housing, and flooding and climate change vulnerability in India and the US. She is especially interested in the relationship between histories of racialized segregation and property law, and contemporary environmental inequalities shaped by race, caste, gender, and class. She is currently working on a book project, *Outcaste City*, focused on the making of property, ecology, and subaltern "others" in colonial and contemporary Bengaluru/Bangalore, India. In it she argues for an environmental ethics centered on radical and anti-caste humanism. She is also a recipient of an American Council of Learned Societies-Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for a collaborative book project that weaves together literary criticism and critical geography, *Corruption Plots: Stories, Ethics, and Publics of the Late Capitalist City*. Finally, Dr Ranganathan investigates environmental racism in America and has studied and spoken on NPR on climate justice in Washington, DC. For an overview of her transnational approach to research and teaching, stream this podcast. In her research and pedagogy more generally, she draws on Marxist geography, critical race theory, postcolonial and decolonial theory, anticaste traditions, and feminist theory, among other strands. Dr Ranganathan was recognized with the "SIS Scholar Teacher of the Year" award in 2018 and the "SIS Outstanding Contribution to Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" award in 2020. Her research is published in the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Progress in Human Geography*, *Environment and Planning: A (Economy and Society)*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Urban Geography*, *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*, and *Water Alternatives* among other journals. Her scholarship also appears in public venues such as *e-Flux Architecture*, *The North Star*, *Society and Space*, and *Black Perspectives*. She serves on the editorial boards of the *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* and *Environment and Planning: D (Society and Space)*.

## ABOUT SET

The Seshadripuram Educational Trust was founded by two lady educational enthusiasts viz. Smt. Anandamma and Smt. Seethama started a primary school with about 20 children in two rooms. The institution has grown in all dimensions and today the total strength of students is more than 22,000. The Trust runs

34 educational institutions all over Karnataka from kinder garden to postgraduate courses and research; it has collaborative programs with Universities overseas too. Under the umbrella of our trust more than 1,500 employees are serving.

Seshadripuram Evening Degree College was established in the year 1971, the first college established by the Seshadripuram Educational Trust for higher education which is celebrating its golden jubilee this academic year. It is affiliated to Bengaluru City University. In the beginning, the College catered basically to the needs of those who were in the employment but had zeal to enhance their educational qualifications and achieve higher standards of learning. The crux of the idea is to let people learn while they earn.

## ABOUT SEDC

## Antiracist Research and Policy Center, American University, Washington DC, USA

The Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University generates scholarly research, educational tools, and policy analysis geared towards dismantling racism in its many forms. We build multidisciplinary initiatives for fostering racial justice, decolonial politics, and intersectional liberation by forging relationships across AU and with external change makers in the DC region and beyond. The interim leadership team will continue to aggregate and amplify the work of AU scholars who study race and empire by partnering with external policy and practitioner stakeholders, advocates, and activists.

## Ashoka University, Haryana, India

Ashoka University is a pioneer in its focus on providing a liberal education at par with the best in the world. The aim at Ashoka is to help students become well-rounded individuals who can think critically about issues from multiple perspectives, communicate effectively and become leaders with a commitment to public service. An Ashoka education carries a strong emphasis on foundational knowledge, thorough academic research based on rigorous pedagogy, and hands-on experience with real-world challenges. The 2000 students on campus, drawn from over 28 states and 101 cities in India as well as 17 other countries, receive a world-class interdisciplinary education through undergraduate and post-graduate programmes led by internationally renowned faculty.

**Prof. C.L. Basavarajiah**  
Chairman, Governing Council

# All are cordially invited

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