

# Centre for Culture, Media & Governance

Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi



## Electoral and Party Finance Reform in India

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### Abstract

Competitive political parties and election campaigns are central to the health of democracies. Parties and campaigns require significant resources to be effective. However, India has evolved highly restrictive political party funding and election expenditure laws. We demonstrate that these laws have had perverse effects, not just on elections, but on the evolution of the Indian political system: These laws drive campaign expenditure underground and foster a reliance on unaccounted funds or “black money” Sridharan (1999, 2006a, 2006b). These laws lead to adverse selection where only those willing and able to work with black money dominate politics. Further, these laws trigger extensive corruption in government. We therefore offer alternative remedies, e.g., abolition of campaign expenditure limits and partial state financing of elections, and examine their merits and demerits.

### About the Speaker

**E. Sridharan** is the Academic Director of the University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI), (in New Delhi), from its inception in 1997. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989, and has held visiting appointments at the University of California, Berkeley; London School of Economics; the Institute for Developing Economies, Tokyo; Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; and the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania. He is a political scientist and the author or editor of nine books and sixty-five journal articles and chapters in edited volumes. He is the Editor of *India Review*, a pan-social science refereed quarterly dedicated to India, published by Routledge in the United States, and the only India-based editor of a US academic journal, and is on the Editorial Board of the UK-based Routledge journal, *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Millennial Asia*.

### Event Details

**Venue:** CCMG Network Governance Lab,

**Date:** Thursday, 12 March, 2015

**Time:** 11:30-13:00 pm