



INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES KOLKATA

(A Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences funded by the Government of West Bengal)

SALT LAKE CAMPUS • DD 27/D, SECTOR 1, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA 700 064

Webinar Notice

People, Land and Politics in an Agrarian Struggle

Speaker:

**Prof. Nikita Sud, Associate Professor of Development Studies,
University of Oxford**

Date: 5 February 2021 (Friday)

Time: 3.30PM

Abstract:

As unrest against the central regime's farm laws grows, I reflect on another long fight that is taking place in Kachchh, western India. Over three decades, this has pitted farmers, fishworkers and pastoralists against a morphing, expanding, private but state-blessed 'Amoebal Zone'. Events in Kachchh make us confront (a) the sheer breadth of the 'agrarian' in terms of people, occupations, and land use regimes. (b) Land in the everyday has multiple, socially entwined lives. It is history memory and identity; territory that orders, demarcates and is to be protected; a source of authority; privatised property, but also a crucible of access, exclusion and contestation. (c) The oppositional political is built around the many lives of land, even as the state and capital try to flatten land and its politics via mediation, negotiation and coercion. Like in colonial times, the agrarian struggles of today are trying to open the eyes of those in power to the multi-dimensionality of land and the people who live off it. We who bear witness must also rethink our ways of seeing and relating.

**Please register in the linked form to receive the zoom link
<https://forms.gle/PNH7ZTYLxpHDkQuUA>**

**Sd/- Subhanil Chowdhury
Convener, Seminar Committee, IDSK**