



European Institute for Asian Studies asbl

Rue des Deux Eglises 35, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 230 8122 – Fax: +32 2 2305402 – E-mail: eias@eias.org – www.eias.org

28 May 2004

The Return of Congress! India's 2004 Elections and Beyond

Brief CVs of the Speakers

After growing-up in Jamaica, India, Ghana and the USA, **Dr Apurba Kundu** gained a BA (Joint Honours) in English Literature/Philosophy at the University of Leeds, an MA in International Affairs at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and a PhD in Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Dr Kundu's doctoral thesis examined why India has never suffered a military coup d'état, and this subject forms the basis for his book, *Militarism in India: The Army and Civil Society in Consensus*. Although Dr Kundu has taught at De Montfort University, Leicester, and Chatham College, Pittsburgh, most of his professional career has been spent at the University of Bradford, most recently as a lecturer in the Department of Cybernetics. South Asia returned to the top of his research agenda when Dr Kundu was appointed Senior Research Fellow at the European Institute of Asian Studies, Brussels, in 2003. He has published articles on South Asia and cybernetics in a variety of journals and web outlets, including *Contemporary South Asia*, *Defence Today*, *Immigrants and Minorities*, *Indian Defence Review* and *Pacific Affairs*, and has served as Editor of *Contemporary South Asia* since 1995.

Dr Kunal Sen, Reader in the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, UK, is an economist specialising in macroeconomics and international trade, with over a decade of experience in research and consultancy on economic reform programmes in India and other developing countries. He has been involved in major research projects funded by DFID (UK) and IDRC (Canada) on various aspects of economic reforms, including the impact of structural adjustment programmes in rural livelihoods in Africa, the impact of globalisation on labour markets in selected countries in Africa and South Asia, and financial liberalisation in India. Dr Sen has previously been a member of faculty in the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, India, The Australian National University, and Massey University, New Zealand. Among his many publications are *International Competitiveness, Investment and Finance: A Case-study of India* (with A.G. Kumar and R. Vaidya), *Saving, Investment and Growth in India* (with P. Athukorala), and *Economic Restructuring in East Asia and India: Perspectives on Policy Reform* (with P. Agrawal, S. Gokarn, V. Mishra, and K.S. Parikh).

Dr John Zavos studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, and the University of Bristol, UK. He is now a lecturer in South Asian Studies at the Department of Religions and Theology of the University of Manchester, and a member of the Centre for Applied South Asian Studies. His research is focused on issues of religion and politics in South Asia and the South Asian Diaspora, with a particular emphasis on Hindu nationalism in its variant forms. Dr Zavos is the author of *Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in India*, and has jointly edited two volumes on recent Indian politics, *Politics of Cultural Mobilisation in India* (with A. Wyatt and V. Hewitt), and *Decentring the Nation* (with A. Wyatt). He has also published articles on Hinduism, Hindu nationalist ideology and Indian history, including "Conversion and the Assertive Margins: an analysis of Hindu nationalist discourse and the recent attacks on Indian Christians", in *South Asia*, Vol.24, No. 2, and "Searching for Hindu Nationalism in Modern Indian History: an analysis of some early ideological developments", in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 34, No. 32. Dr Zavos currently serves as Reviews Editor for the journal *Contemporary South Asia*.