CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES (CATS)

UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Lecture Series
Eastern Himalayan and Bay of Bengal Region, Political and Economic Developments
(Research Group EMERGE) (CATS)
&
Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia
Department of Political Science (SAI)

Hybrid Lecture: Mapping the 'Northeast' of India: from conflict to the challenges of peace - climate uncertainties, displacement and initiatives for change

Speaker: Sanjoy Hazarika (Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research/C-NES)

Date **Tuesday, 13th October 2026**

Time **16:15-17:45 (CEST) (19:45-21:15 Indian Standard Time)**

Room **010.00.01 (Ground Floor SAI building); Voßstr. 2., 69115 Heidelberg**

For online participation please register at emerge@cats.uni-heidelberg.de.

About the lecture: The lecture takes an overall look at how key challenges in the Northeast to the state have evolved through a process of political transition into collaboration and co-option, from confrontation to engagement. Anchored in the speaker's experiences of travel, dialogue, research, writing, initiatives and analysis over decades, the talk will look on new concerns over climate change, which adds a new layer of uncertainty to older anxieties over identity, displacement and migration. A focus of the talk will be on the state of Mizoram, which has been lightly studied overall, and how it emerged out of the chrysalis of conflict while dealing with contradictions such as achieving total literacy while struggling with the persistent problem of poverty.



Sanjoy Hazarika's debut book was *Bhopal: Lessons of a Tragedy* (Penguin), which *The Observer* of London called one of the best science books of 1988. He is the author of several acclaimed books such as *The Strangers of the Mist* (Viking Penguin), *Strangers No More* (Aleph*), Rites of Passage* (Penguin) and *Writing on the Wall* (Penguin). In 2025, Speaking Tiger published his travelogue *River Traveller: Journeys on the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra from Tibet to the Bay of Bengal*. He has also contributed to several anthologies, including the *Routledge Companion to Northeastern India*, and has made over a dozen documentary films. His last book *Lal Thanhawla: The Boy from Zarkawt, and the Making of Mizoram* was published in August 2026. He is the founder of the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES), which pioneered the unique boat clinics in Assam. He has also set up CNESPR at Jamia Millia Islamia. Hazarika reported for sixteen years for *The New York Times* out of South Asia and was international director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).