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India at the Crossroads: The Meaning of Modi’s Victory
By Dr. Vivek Dehejia

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
17:00
Policy Room 4400
Simon Fraser University, Segal Building
500 Granville Street, Vancouver BC

In May 2014, the Indian general elections produced a generational shift in Indian politics, with the defeat of the incumbent Congress party and the election of the Bharatiya Janata Party, a centre right party with Hindu leanings, led by Narendra Modi, who is now Prime Minister.

Did Modi win as many believe because of his promises to jumpstart the Indian economy and because of voters’ disgust with the corruption and drift in the last years of Congress rule? Is it because Modi’s humble origins resonated with voters? Or instead were voters responding to Modi’s social message and a resurfacing of Hindu nationalism? And what does Modi’s monumental victory mean both for India’s economy and relations with the rest of the world? And, finally, what does Modi’s victory mean for Canada?

Dehejia had the unique opportunity to spend the entire election campaign season on the ground in India and will share his thoughts, analyses, and opinions on the questions above, and more generally on the course of economic policy reform in India since the 1991 liberalization to the present day and beyond.

Vivek Dehejia is a professor of economics at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, and is a columnist with the Business Standard, a leading business daily in India. He also is a regular contributor to other Indian and foreign publications, and was a contributing writer to the New York Times “India Ink” blog. Dehejia holds a PhD in Economics from Columbia University, where he worked with the noted international trade economist Jagdish Bhagwati and the Nobel Laureate Robert Mundell. His work has appeared in numerous scientific journals. In 2012, Dehejia was co-author of Indianomics: Making Sense of Modern India, a book published by Random House India.