

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

GITAM SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



GITAM
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

Presents
a Guest Lecture on

SWARAJ OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S DREAMS: REFLECTIONS ON CONTEMPORARY INDIA

Mahatma Gandhi's conception of Swaraj went far beyond the quest for political independence; it embodied an ethical, social, and spiritual transformation of India. For Gandhi, true Swaraj meant self-rule grounded in moral responsibility—a society free from exploitation, inequality, and communal division, where even the poorest had a voice in shaping the nation's destiny. Drawing on Gandhi's writings in *Young India* (1931), the talk will explore the many dimensions of his idea of Swaraj: his reflections on religion and secularism, democracy and dissent, and the dialectic between violence and non-violence. By revisiting the moral and political foundations of Gandhi's Swaraj, the talk invites a critical engagement with the idea of freedom and responsibility in contemporary India. It will also interrogate the continuing relevance of Gandhi's vision in the twenty-first century: how far has independent India realised his dream?

PROF. MRIDULA MUKHERJEE

DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN & FORMER PROFESSOR

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Professor Mridula Mukherjee retired as Professor of Modern Indian History at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. She has also been Visiting Scholar at Duke University, USA, and at the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo, and was Chairperson of the Archives on Contemporary History at Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has published widely in the areas of agrarian history, peasant movements, social movements and the Indian National Movement. Some of her significant works include the bestselling *India's Struggle for Independence* (1988), *India Since Independence* (2000), and *Colonizing Agriculture: The Myth of the Punjab Exceptionalism* (2019).

DATE: 14TH OCTOBER 2025 | 10:00 AM- 12 PM

VENUE : ROOM NO 2, VDC THEATRE ROOM, GSHSS, VISAKHAPATNAM CAMPUS, GITAM (DEEMED TO BE) UNIVERSITY

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