



“My own conviction is that Indian democracy needs honest brokers. By honest brokers, I mean people who can impartially and objectively assess different kinds of arguments. And, if my writing can be a small contribution to that, I think I'll take some satisfaction.”

**Pratap Bhanu Mehta**

*President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi*

- B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from St. John's College, Oxford University
- Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University

Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta has established himself as one of India's finest scholars and public minds, who has inspired a new generation of intellectual enquiry. He has contributed to not only political philosophy and social theory in general, but has also addressed urgent issues of Indian politics and public policy.



Role of intellectual inquiry in a democracy



Ever since Plato's *Republic* examined the nature of justice and what makes a just society, political theorists have delved into how democratic societies can approach an ideal of justice so that their citizens can realize their full potential.



What is the nature of good governance? How can a democratically elected government and its institutions be made accountable and transparent? How can these societies achieve the idea of justice? These are some of the questions that Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta has been trying to answer over the years through his research.



Dr. Mehta's work however is not confined to the academic space. His insightful and critical analysis of India's politics and policy has resulted in broadening the sphere of public debate. Political discourse in the public sphere is an important part of nation building and Dr. Mehta has initiated many debates by successfully challenging the many reigning orthodoxies.



A prolific writer, Dr. Mehta's scholarly works cover a wide range of subjects such as Indian political thought, constitutional law, Indian society and India's role in international affairs. His non-academic writing as a columnist captures the zeitgeist of the moment and encourages citizens to ask the right questions on the most urgent issues facing the nation.



In addition to his work in academia and in the public sphere, Dr. Mehta has contributed to institution building with his leadership of the Center for Policy Research (CPR) which has become the foremost non-partisan center for research into public policy and democratic institutions.



Dr. Mehta's research in political philosophy and social theory has inspired a new wave of intellectual enquiry in political science and theory in India.