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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS

Speaker

**Dr Bruce J Nicholls**

Topic

***The Role of Politics and Religion in Post-Election India***

Date & Time

**Thursday 18 July 2024, from 5:45 pm.**

**NOTE:** to come within the time window set by the University, an earlier start is required to recognise an earlier finishing time.

Location

**Lecture Theatre, Old Government House, Princes Street, University Of Auckland**

Synopsis

The recent Parliamentary Elections in India saw the Party of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi lose 20% of its Seats, requiring him to court allies for a Coalition.

Mr. Modi has had great achievements in parts of the economy (e.g. infrastructure such as ports); but other parts are weak (e.g. education). Concerns exist about an erosion of civil liberties (e.g. in journalism) that parallels his economic programme.

Further, he faces opposition in the delicate realm of religion. To be sure, in a large nation he has much support for his creed of Hindu nationalism. Yet, some lower-caste Hindus resent the success of higher-caste ones, while his use of Hindu rituals offends some Brahmins. Outside of Hinduism, this creed causes anxiety to many Indians, especially in the big Muslim minority, and in the smaller Christian one.

Biographical Details

Dr Nicholls is a minister in the United Church of North India. He has studied at Universities in Auckland and in London, and at Princeton Seminary. His doctorate is from Ashland Theological College and University in the USA.

He has had 60 years of experience in theological education in India and in Asia. Much of that time has been spent in India. His activities include 20 years at the Union Biblical Seminary in Yavatmal and Pune. He and his wife Kathleen (a specialist in Asian arts) founded a research centre in Delhi, the Theological Research and Communication Institute.

He is the author of a number of theological works. A recent book covers points of overlap between Christian beliefs and Muslim beliefs. In Auckland he continues to assist Indian churches.

*The Forum provides a space and an opportunity for discussion and consideration of topics of international affairs. The meeting is open to the public, without charge or seat reservation.*