



# Invitation



## **Centre for Economic and Social Studies**

*Cordially invites you to the Distinguished Lecture*

*by*

**Prof. Ashwini Deshpande**

(Professor of Economics, Ashoka University, New Delhi)

*under*

**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Lecture Series**

*on*

**The Demand Side Story: Structural Change and the Decline in Female Labour Force Participation in India**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

**Time: 3.00 PM to 4.30 PM**

**Venue: Seminar Hall -1, B. P. R. Vithal Auditorium, CESS**

**E. Revathi**  
Director, CESS



Prof. Ashwini Deshpande is Professor of Economics, and Founding Director, Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) at Ashoka University, India. Her Ph.D. and early publications have been on the international debt crisis of the 1980s. Subsequently, she has been working on the economics of discrimination and affirmative action, with a focus on caste and gender in India. She has published extensively in leading scholarly journals. She is the author of *Grammar of Caste: economic discrimination in contemporary India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2011 (Hardcover) and 2017 (Paperback); and *Affirmative Action in India* Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Oxford India Short Introductions series, 2013. She is the editor of *Boundaries of Clan and Color: Transnational Comparisons of Inter-Group Disparity* (along with William Darity, Jr.), Routledge, London, 2003; *Globalization and Development: A Handbook of New Perspectives*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007 (Hardcover) and 2010 (Paperback); *Capital Without Borders: Challenges to Development*, Anthem Press, UK, 2010 (Hardcover) and 2012 (Paperback) and *Global Economic Crisis and the Developing World* (with Keith Nurse), Routledge, London, 2012. She received the EXIM Bank award for outstanding dissertation (now called the IERA Award) in 1994, the 2007 VKRV Rao Award for Indian economists under 45 and SKOCH Award for Gender Economics in 2022.

### **Abstract of the Lecture**

Two of the most noteworthy features of Indian labor markets for the last two decades are the falling female labor force participation rate (LFPR) and jobless growth. However, they are seldom discussed together. In this paper, we study the effect of falling demand due to jobless growth and structural change on female LFPR in India. We use the shift-share instrument approach for exogenous change in local labor demand. In particular, we use the initial share of different industries in local employment, along with the industry-level employment growth in the country over the years to construct the instrument for change in labor demand. We find that women are highly responsive to the labor demand. Therefore, a large share of the recent drop in female labor force participation can be explained by falling aggregate labor demand. We estimate the contribution of supply side factors in the decline in female LFPR and find that the fall after 2011 cannot be explained by changes in supply-side factors. Further, the fall in labor demand had a limited impact on male employment. Our analysis suggests that India needs to focus on job creation to boost the female LFPR.