Invitation

Centre for Economic and Social Studies

Cordially invites you to the fifth

B.P.R. VITHAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

by

Dr. Ashok Kumar Lahiri

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

on

"STATE OF INDIAN STATES"

Chair

Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao

Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Monday, 30th November, 2026

Time: 11.00 AM

Location

Venue: B.P.R Vithal Auditorium
Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad

Lunch Follows

E. Revathi
Director, CESS

About the Speaker



Ashok Lahiri is currently Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. He was a member of the 17th West Bengal Legislative Assembly (2021-2026). He was Chairman of the Governing Council of Indian Statistical Institute between 30 September 2020 and 17 September 2022. He retired as Executive Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila on June 30, 2013. Before ADB, he served as Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India; Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy; Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund; and Reader, Delhi School of Economics. A graduate in economics from Presidency College, Kolkata, he did his MA and Ph.D. from the Delhi School of Economics.

Ashok Lahiri has served as a member or chairman of various Committees appointed by the Government of India, including as a member on Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (2000). He has served on boards of various organisations, including Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He was the Dean of the ADB Board during 2012-13. He was the Chairman of Bandhan Bank during 2015-2018. He was a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. The Finance Commission deals with vertical and horizontal devolution of funds between the Centre and the States.

His recent book is "India in Search of Glory – Political Calculus and Economy," (Penguin Random House India, 2022). Apart from in economics, he has published several books and articles on electoral behaviour in India. Election analysis is his hobby.

Sri Baru Pandu Ranga Vithal (1927-2020)

Sri B.P.R. Vithal, is the Founder Member and the first Chairman of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies. He positioned CESS as an autonomous national institution providing a platform between academicians and policy makers.



He was educated at Madrasa-e-Aliya High School, Hyderabad. In 1942 he quit his under-graduate studies at Nizam College, attended the Quit India session of the Indian National Congress in Mumbai and immersed himself in the national movement. He graduated from Madras Christian College with B.Sc. in Chemistry. He joined the Hyderabad Civil Service in 1949, and qualified for the IAS in 1950.

B.P.R. Vithal served the Planning and Finance Departments, Government of Andhra Pradesh for a continuous period of 13 years during 1969 to 1982, as Secretary and Principal Secretary. He was Deputy Chairman, A.P. State Planning Board and Member of the Tenth Finance Commission. He was also Chairman Expenditure Commission, Government of Kerala. He had a brief stint at the International Monetary Fund as Fiscal Advisor to the Governments of Sudan and Malawi. He was a Member of the K N Raj Committee on Taxation of Agricultural Income, Government of India (1969).

B.P.R. Vithal has many publications to his credit. Prominent among which are ***A State in Periodic Crises - Andhra Pradesh, (2012), In Retrospect - A Miscellany,*** (2012), ***Gadgil Formula for Allocation of Central Assistance for State Plans,*** (2002), and ***Fiscal Federalism in India,*** (2001). His research paper titled "The Telangana Surpluses: A Case Study" played an influential role in shaping the demand for a separate state of Telangana.