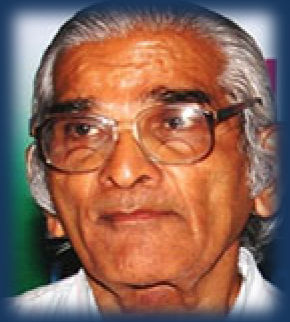




CRM

Prof. B S Bhargava Memorial Lecture -1

26 November 2020 at 5.15 p.m



Organized by

Prof. B S Bhargava Chair on Decentralized Governance & Development, Centre for Rural Management (CRM) Kottayam, Kerala



Prof. B S Bhargava : A Memoir

Prof. S.S. Meenakshisundaram

Hon. Professor

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)

*Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Campus
Bengaluru*

Theme

**Decentralized Rural
Governance in India
Some Reflections**

Thursday

26 November 2020

5.15 p.m

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88204866794?pwd=YkJSSTE2b1ZucVJLYzhVZlISU1ZTQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 0486 6794

Passcode: 83782

Memorial Lecture



Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy

Former Professor & Head

Division for Sustainable Development Studies

*Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)
Hyderabad*



Moderator

Dr. T M Joseph

Hon. Professor

*Prof. B S Bhargava Chair on Decentralized
Governance and Development, CRM
Kottayam & Principal, Mount Carmel
College, Karukadom, Kothamangalam
Ernakulam, Kerala*

All are Welcome

Please sign in at least 10 minutes before 5.15 p.m on 26 November 2020

Greetings from Dr. Jos Chathukulam, Director, CRM, Kottayam, Kerala

Prof. B S Bhargava Memorial Lecture -1

By

Prof. M Gopinath Reddy

26 November 2020 at 5.15 p.m

Dr M. Gopinath Reddy is an eminent Political Scientist in the country. He was a Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and currently he is Research Consultant at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) Hyderabad and also Principal Coordinator for the Division for Sustainable Development Studies (DSDS) at the CESS. He was Principal Coordinator for the recently concluded Research Unit for Livelihoods and Natural Resources (RULNR), supported Jamsetji Tata Trust (JSTT, Mumbai) and brought a number of Monographs/Working Papers under its banner. He has published articles relating to decentralized governance and development in International and National Journals such as *Development and Change* and *Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)*. He also works on forest governance, livelihoods and natural resources. He has written three books: "Political Economy of Watershed Management: Policies, Institutions, Implementation & Livelihoods", brought by the Rawat Publications, (co-author) and "A Study of Redistributive Politics and its Impact on PRIs: A Case of Assembly Constituency Development Programme (MLA LADS Scheme in Andhra Pradesh)". His recent book (along with Dr. Suri Babu and Prof. S. Galab) is on "Swacch India: Experience of Water and Sanitation Programmes in Three Indian States of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh", published by Academic Foundation (2017), New Delhi. As a part of his work on Forest Governance, he has contributed chapters in the Book titled "Forests, People and Power: The Political Ecology of Reform in South Asia", Edited by Dr. Oliver Springate Bangianski and Piers Blaikie of University of East Anglia, UK, brought out by EARTHSCAN publishers, UK. His recent paper on "Rural Local Governance", is going to be published in the Forthcoming India Rural Development Report being brought by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India.

Decentralized Rural Governance in India Some Reflections

ABSTRACT

Decentralization of power and authority to the local governments from the central government is seen as progressive and necessary instrument to achieve social development which strengthens the local democracy. It is also felt that decentralization of power to the local units of government and management is one of the best ways of empowering people, promoting public participation and increasing efficiency. The perceived benefits of decentralization range from stimulation of economic growth and alleviation of rural poverty to strengthening civil society and reducing the responsibilities of the centre. On account of its many failures, the centralized state everywhere has lost a great deal of legitimacy, and decentralization is widely believed to promise a range of benefits. However, the experience of decentralization in India to date has been mixed. The problems most frequently encountered include: the risk of funds failing to arrive from the center; the lack of capacity at sub-national levels of government to take responsibility for public service provision; the disjuncture between political decentralization and administrative decentralization, with central governments still having almost total control of policy formulation and programme funding, local governments having very limited scope for decision-making, and the potential for local elites to take charge of initiatives or to capture a large share of public resources, which limits the potential for pro-poor outcomes. It could be argued that the reason why decentralization does not always lead to desired outcomes is the insufficient political commitment to reform on the part of national governments (or state governments in the case of India). Thus, decentralization must be accompanied by citizenship-building, information-sharing, transparency over decision-making and use of funds, and capacity-building for local functionaries, so as to increase the level of accountability and improve local governance.