



Mentoring Excellence

Madras School of
Economics



Dr. Raja J. Chelliah Memorial Lecture



Invitation

Programme

03.15 p.m. : Registration & High Tea

Welcome Address : **Shri V.N. SHIVA SHANKAR**
Sr. Vice President, SICCI

Introduction of Chief Guest : **Dr. N.R. BHANUMURTHY**
Director and Professor
Madras School of Economics

Memorial Lecture : **Dr. HASEEB A DRABU**
Economist and Former Finance Minister of
Jammu & Kashmir

President's Remarks : **Dr. C. RANGARAJAN**
Chairman, Madras School of Economics

Vote of Thanks

Cordially invite you to the

Dr. Raja J. Chelliah Memorial Lecture:

"Federalism in India: Sub-national Architecture for a Regulated Open Economy"

*at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 28th January 2026 at
the MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AUDITORIUM
Gandhi Mandapam Road, Behind Anna Centenary Library
Kottur, Chennai – 600 025.*

Dr. HASEEB A DRABU

Economist and Former Finance Minister of Jammu & Kashmir
will deliver the Memorial Lecture.

Dr. C. RANGARAJAN

Chairman, Madras School of Economics
will preside over the function.

Profile of Dr. RAJA J. CHELLIAH

Dr. Raja J. Chelliah was a national icon at least in four respects: as a teacher of economics, as a fiscal policy maker, as an institutional builder and as a mentor. The most prestigious Padma Vibhushan was conferred on him by the Government of India in 2007.

Born in 1922, he obtained BA and MA degrees in Economics from the University of Madras. After a few years of teaching at Madras Christian College, he won the Fullbright-SmithMundt scholarship and did Ph.d in Economics at University of Pittsburgh, USA.

After serving at NCAER, New Delhi, University of Rajasthan, and Osmania University, he was invited to join the staff of IMF in the Fiscal Affairs Department. He was the chief of Fiscal Analysis Division during 1970-75. Dr. Chelliah came back from the IMF in 1975 with view to finally settling down in India and rebuilding India's fiscal system.

Dr. Raja J. Chelliah has been remembered as the Chief Architect of the Tax Reforms initiated by the Government of India when the country embarked on its liberalization journey in 1991. Through his work in the area of fiscal federalism as well as his research on development issues, poverty eradication, Dr. Chelliah has made invaluable contribution to the Indian Economic Reforms and has left an indelible impression on the present rapidly globalizing economy of India. Introduction of VAT in the case of indirect taxes owes much to Dr. Chelliah's efforts.

He built both National Institute of Public Finance and Policy at New Delhi and Madras School of Economics, Chennai. He served as a Honorary Consultant to Ministry of Finance (1975-77), a member of the Planning Commission and the 9th Finance Commission during 1985-90, the Chairman of the Tax Reforms Committee stating (1991) and the fiscal adviser to Ministry of Finance etc.

He passed away in April 2009. His publications include: Political Economy of Poverty Eradication in India and Essay on Fiscal Reform, Eco taxes on Polluting Inputs and Outputs, Reports on India's Tax Reforms, Income-Poverty and Beyond, Towards Sustainable Growth: Essay in Fiscal and Financial Sector Reforms in India.