Dipak Banerjee Memorial Lecture 2018

Dipak Banerjee

Dipak Banerjee is one of the legendary teachers of economics at Presidency College, Calcutta. He graduated from the London School of Economics with, as Lord Lionel Robbins wrote, "an unbroken string of A's". Although he was offered a good graduate-school fellowship to do his PhD, and perhaps an assistant lectureship later at London School of Economics, Dipak Banerjee chose to come to Presidency College as Assistant Professor.

He subsequently returned to London School of Economics for a brief period, and also spent a year at Berkeley. Apart from these two stints, he remained in Economics Department, Presidency College for over four decades, starting from the late 1950s, where he produced one brilliant economist after another for the rest of his life. It was here that legends started accumulating this charismatic teacher to create the myth of "DB", as his students used to call him.

After his expiry in 23rd January 2007, a memorial lecture was initiated from 2007. Earlier lectures have been given by eminent economists like Debraj Ray, Maitreesh Ghatak, Partha Sen, Amit Bhaduri, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, Dilip Mookerjee, Raghuram Rajan and Jean Tirole.

This year, the Department of Economics, Presidency University is proud to announce that the Tenth Dipak Banerjee Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Esther Duflo, Co-Founder and Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty action Lab and Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at P C Mahalanobis Auditorium, Presidency University, on 22nd February, 2018 at 10.30 am.

Esther Duflo

Esther Duflo is Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at MIT. She is better known for her action oriented work on poverty, micro-credit and education at the grass root level. She is the founder and Co-Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Alleviation Lab (popularly known as J-PAL). Duflo's research, based on random evaluation methods, is path breaking and has opened up a new horizon in the social sciences. Her research has substantially advanced our understanding of how incentives, policies and institutions can improve education and health outcomes, and reduces poverty levels. Her book, written in collaboration with Professor Abhijit Banerjee, "Poor Economics" needs no introduction.

Professor Duflo at present is the Editor of American Economic Review. She has received many prestigious honours and awards. Among these, in 2017, she has become the Member of National Academy of Sciences and received Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa from Amherst College for her pioneering and prodigious contributions to development economics.