

Understanding India (Lecture Series)

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“Election in India – Dynamics of political change in India”

Vidya Subrahmaniam

Vidya Subrahmaniam is Associate Editor with the leading Indian newspaper The Hindu. She writes news stories, editorials and opinion pieces on a wide range of subjects but with the focus mostly on politics and socio-political conflicts and interests. Her passion lies in election reporting which she has done extensively over the past two decades – and with a degree of success -- tracking in particular the translation of subaltern aspirations into political power in Uttar Pradesh. She will be watching the upcoming general election to see if the anticipated polarisation of votes happens and if resurgent Hindutva can win back the ground it lost to OBC and Dalit politics.

In 2010, Ms. Subrahmaniam wrote a monograph on Indian Elections for Penguin Books, setting the context in pre-Independence India and tracing India's electoral transformation from single party-dominance to multi-party coalitions reflecting the rise of regional and caste-community aspirations.

In July 2013, she was awarded the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism in the category 'Commentary and Interpretative writing.'

In February 2013, she received Star-Vijay TV's 'Best woman journalist' award.

In December 2013, President Pranab Mukherjee nominated her to the jury of the Dr. Ambedkar National Award in the category 'eminent journalist'. The seven-member jury is headed by the Vice-President with the Chief Justice of India as ex-officio member.