

Centre for Economic and Social Studies

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Foundation Day Lecture

By

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

on

Equitable Development Transformation with Technology: Relevance of the Indian Experience for Global South

Presided by

Prof. J. Mahender Reddy

Distinguished Advisor, ICFAI Society, Hyderabad

Friday, 1st March, 2024

Time: 11.00 AM

Venue: B.P.R Vithal Auditorium

E. RevathiDirector CESS



Professor Sachin Chaturvedi is currently Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhibased Think-Tank. He works on issues related to development economics involving development finance, SDGs, and South-South Cooperation, apart from trade, investment, and innovation linkages with a special focus on WTO

Professor Chaturvedi has persistently endeavoured to build up institutions and launching of networks, both at national and international levels. He is credited with the launch of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). He has also created the "Delhi Process", a major forum for the exchange of ideas on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi has been part of several important initiatives of the Government of India and takes a keen interest in transforming economic policy-making towards integrated and evidence-based approaches. He is one of the foremost commentators on India's external sector economic engagements and partnerships. He is considered as most dynamic and affable by his peers and has mentored several bright scholars and researchers in the profession.

He has authored/edited more than 22 books, apart from contributing several chapters in the edited volumes and also publishing several research articles in prestigious journals. He is on the Editorial Board of several journals including the South Asian Economic Journal, IDS Bulletin, Sussex, UK among others. His book "The Logic of Sharing – Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation" has been acclaimed internationally as one of the best volumes on international development cooperation.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi was also the 'Global Justice Fellow' at the MacMillan Center for International Affairs at Yale University (2009-2010) and has served as a Visiting Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and was a 'Developing Country Fellow' at the University of Amsterdam (1996), Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla (2003), and Visiting Scholar at the German Development Institute (2007).

Abstract of the Lecture

The wider dimensions of technology and its deeper socio-economic impact are becoming more complicated as new technologies are revolutionising the inter-balancing of factors of production, particularly, labour and capital leading to widening income inequalities across countries. Scholars have attributed such outcomes to skill-biased technological change in general and weak innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries. However, the impact of technology needs to be analysed not only from an income perspective but also from the perspective of access and equity. There has been low integration of widespread practices of inclusive innovations and inadequate support for pro-poor innovations. India on the other hand, has experienced large-scale development transformations in the recent past with technology, leading to relatively equitable outcomes ensuring both access and inclusion. This paper, documents, the four approaches for inclusive innovation - strategic, participatory, capability enhancing, and mitigating barriers towards supporting and promoting inclusive innovation for four key sectors in India: health, agriculture, banking/finance, and energy. It is argued that India's experience of technology-led Access, Equity, and Inclusion (AEI) offers an alternative perspective on the role of technology as a great equalizer with significant relevance for the Global South. We also outline the methodology to compute an AEI Index and identify the indicators under three components of AEI based on Indian experience.