



Colloquium: Mainstreaming the Marginalised in Development: Conceptualising the Challenge in India

Speaker:

Pulapre Balakrishnan, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

Date / Time:

July 25, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

It will be argued that it is capability which lies at the core of the nexus between freedom, opportunity and development. Now it should be possible to see that the marginalised in a society are those who lack the capability set enjoyed by the mainstream. It is next argued that while India's Constitution is in many ways impressive, its provisions are, on their own, inadequate to the task of mainstreaming the marginalized in the country. A proximate cause of India's failure to build the capabilities of its population is outlined, and substantiated by data. It is concluded that the future of development in India, by now the world's third largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), lies squarely in the space of politics. In the process, an assessment of the economic reforms as practiced since 1991 emerges.

A Note on the Speaker:

Pulapre Balakrishnan was educated in Moscow, Madras and New Delhi, and trained as an economist at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. His published work spans the inflationary process in the Indian economy, productivity growth in manufacturing, the macroeconomics of the transition to the market in Ukraine, agricultural involution in Kerala and economic growth in India. He has written in the professional journals and is the author of the books 'Pricing and Inflation in India' (Oxford University Press, 1991) and 'Economic Growth in India: History and Prospect' (Oxford University Press, 2010). Balakrishnan has held appointments at the University of Oxford, the Indian Statistical Institute at Delhi and the Indian Institute of Management at Kozhikode. He has served as Country Economist for Ukraine at the World Bank and been consultant to the International Labour Organisation, the Reserve Bank of India and the United Nations Development Program. Currently Professor at the Centre for Development Studies at Thiruvananthapuram, he has for over two decades intervened in the public debate on India's economy via his popular writings.