

Business of Innovation: The case of India

Wednesday 8th June, 1pm
(Lunch provided from 12:45pm)

L. K. Sharma

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Venue: School of Business and Economics, BE0.53

Book your place: For catering please email [Janice Coulson](mailto:Janice.Coulson@lse.ac.uk).

Introduction:

L. K. Sharma is a journalist who has worked for 45 years in Mumbai, New Delhi, London and Washington and visited several countries on reporting assignments. He served as the European Correspondent of the leading Indian newspaper The Times of India in London for 20 years. His personal column, London Calling enjoyed an avid readership and he was frequently invited by the BBC to comment on international affairs. His coverage from London extended to scientific, cultural and literary trends and included interviews with writers such as Tom Stoppard, V. S. Naipaul, Nirad C. Chaudhuri, Vikram Seth and Salman Rushdie. Before moving to London, as The Times of India's Special Correspondent in New Delhi, he wrote on political and economic affairs and diplomacy and accompanied successive Indian Prime Ministers on their tours abroad. He interviewed international leaders and covered the UN, UNCTAD, GATT, UNIDO, IAEA, G-7, UNESCO, World Science Forum, the Commonwealth, South Asian, European and the Non-aligned Summits. He has edited two well-received books on India's progress in Science and Technology called Innovative India (1999) and Innovative India Rises (2005). He has just completed editing a sequel, which focuses on innovations with societal applications.

Abstract:

In this talk, I provide a brief introduction to India's core competence in science and technology and its comparative advantage in R&D that is making it a global hub for business. I also examine why Indian firms are increasingly becoming R&D centric, with the word "innovation" creeping into almost every business plan and company profile. I conclude with a report on 'innovation' in the social sector, with some illustrations of for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, which are using an existing technology or developing new techniques, equipment and business models for community development.