



# INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

University Enclave, University of Delhi (North Campus), Delhi-110 007, INDIA

July 22, 2019

## SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: **"Technologies of Development and the Global Cold War in India"**

Speaker/s: **Dr. Michael Homberg**  
Feodor Lynen Research Fellow  
Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschungen Postdam  
University of Cologne

Chair: Professor Veena Naregal

The seminar details are as follows:

Date & time: Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 3.30 p.m.

Venue: A.M. Khusro Room  
Institute of Economic Growth,  
University Enclave, North Campus,  
Delhi-110 007

All are welcome.

**(Oindrila De)**

**Seminar Coordination Team**

### **Abstract:**

In the postwar decades, modernization approaches gained particular importance. These approaches were based on a triad of economic growth, technological progress and social adaption and soon became a dominant paradigm of international development policy in an era of technocracy and planning euphoria. This seminar explores the role of foreign technical aid missions in postcolonial India. Such missions were designed to promote knowledge and technology transfers, trigger the exchange of experts, ideas and goods between the Global North and South and thus played a particular part in shaping "knowledge societies". From the late 1950s to the 1970s, scientists, businessmen and politicians, especially in India, explicitly linked the socio-economic development of the nation-state to the success of the High-Tech industries (computer and nuclear sciences, satellite and space technologies) while computer sciences rapidly became a "transmission belt" for power politics. Hence, "development" became a widespread policy-making focus, a matter of academic and philanthropic interest, and a main feature in the global arena of international politics. So, the promise of "development" eventually advanced to an essential element in the *raison d'être* of the new nations in the Global South.