

# International Workshop

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## The Political Economy of Industrialization in India: A Pro-Labour Perspective

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Organised by

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, India, and  
Manchester University, UK



*Academic Partner*



# **The Political Economy of Industrialization in India: A Pro-Labour Perspective**

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## **An international workshop**

Date: 13-04-2022

Time: 9:00 AM (IST) – 5:30 PM (IST)

Venue: Mahatma Hall, Second Floor, Humanities and Sciences Block, IIT Madras, Chennai

Time Allocation: Each invited speakers will present for 30 minutes followed by a discussion of 10 minutes.

### **Organisers**

Dr Smytta Yadav, Manchester University, UK

Dr Santosh Kumar Sahu, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, India

### **For more details contact**

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Rapporteur: Ms. Jayshree Dutta, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, India

## **The Political Economy of Industrialization in India: A Pro-Labour Perspective**

India's first two five year plans gave grave importance to industry-led growth or industrialization. However, the growth in this sector has been sluggish and has stagnated at around 25% of GDP. Compared to other developing countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Mexico, and Brazil at that point, India's industrial growth lagged far behind. Focus on heavy industries, resource allocation policies, wealth concentration, too much bureaucratic control and regulations, little public investment and corruption led to India's industrialization as a mere dream. Post liberalization, India leapfrogged to services which today account for more than 50% of the GDP. But a significant share of India's labour force is still employed in the primary and secondary sector, vastly in the informal sector, almost 86%. The lack of jobs and a vast share of unskilled labour have forced workers, especially female workers, to take up jobs below the national or state wage rates, often even lower than their male counterparts. This is accompanied by no job security, no or limited social security benefits, poor working conditions and no leverage to negotiate.

Studies have found cheap labour and weak labour laws to aid inward FDI in India. Further, there are industry-specific issues that only specific labour communities face. Labour unions, meant to be actively working pro-labour, often ditch the idea of working towards the benefit of the labour community. Union leaders often gain political and personal help from firm owners, local government leaders, or party heads. How does one ensure the well-being of the labour in India significantly when more than 80% do not fall under the radar of labour laws or policies?

To this extent, the workshop aims to understand the current labour force scenario in India, both in the formal and informal sector, shaped by the process of industrialization and the political economy surrounding it. It brings experts from various academic backgrounds, industries, think tanks, and policymakers to provide a holistic view on the subject, promoting discussions and future works in this field. This event will be conducted offline at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras, Chennai Campus. List of confirmed speakers from various organisations are listed below.

## Programme

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**09:15 AM Registration**

09:45 AM Welcome address: Prof. Jyotirmaya Tripathy, Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

10:00 AM Inaugural Address: Prof. Rabindra Gettu, Dean ICSR, IIT Madras

10:30 AM Introduction to the workshop: Dr. Smytta Yadav, The University of Manchester, UK

10:45 AM Prof. Vidya Mahambare, Great Lakes Institute of Management and Member of the Expert Committee of the State Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu

*Indian Workforce in the 21st Century: Patterns, Heterogeneities, and Policy Priorities*

11:30 AM Prof. Takahiro Sato, Kobe University, Japan

*Labour Allocation of the Indian Automobile Industry: With Special Reference to the Transferability of Japanese Management Practices*

12:15 PM Prof. Sowmya Dhanraj, Madras School of Economics

*Location, Location, Location: Regional Disparities in Structural Transformation, Employment and Standard of Living*

**1:00 PM Lunch, Taramani Guest House, IIT Madras**

2:15 PM Dr. Smytta Yadav, The University of Manchester, UK

*A Pro-Labour Critique of 'Make in India' Campaign*

3:00 PM Prof. Swarna Vepa, Madras School of Economics

*Growth of Indian Industry and Women's Workforce Participation*

3:45 PM Mr. Rajdeep Mukherjee, Bay of Bengal Programme, Chennai

*Are There Labour in Marine Fisheries Sector in India? Issues of Definability, Invisibility, and Approachability*

4:30 PM Santosh Kumar Sahu and Devlina

*Informal Labour Market and Bribery in India*

5:15 PM Discussion on the workshop: The takeaways and reporting

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5:45 PM Vote of thanks: Dr Santosh Kumar Sahu, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, India

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## About organisers

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Dr. Smytta Yadav completed her PhD from University of Sussex in Anthropology followed by her current postdoc in Economic Geography at the University of Manchester. She is the author of the book *Precarious labour and informal economy: Work, anarchy, and society in an Indian village* (Palgrave Macmillan). She is the author of several article including the *Journal of African and Asian Studies*. apart from this she was a Urban Studies International Fellow at the University of Bristol. She is originally from Mumbai with an undergraduate in Physics from the University of Mumbai with several years of experience studying economy, state, and society of India using multidisciplinary perspectives from Geography, Anthropology, and Sociology.

Santosh Kumar Sahu is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India. He is also a Fellow at the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP), USA and the International Society for Development and Sustainability (ISDS), Japan. In the past, he has served as an “Assistant Professor” at the Madras School of Economics, Chennai, India. He completed PhD at IIT Bombay and awarded with “Excellence in PhD Research Award 2012-2013”. His research interests include applied energy economics & policy, climate economics and applied microeconomics. He is one of the recipients of Prof. Raghuram Rajan’s “Young Scholar Grant Programme” to attend the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) summer programme in Boston.



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