

CUTS Webinar

Towards Good and Better Jobs in India: Budget 2023

Date and Time: Friday, March 17, 2023 • 11:00-13:00 (IST)

India is at a crucial point in its economic transformation, with efforts being made to create a better and more sustainable work environment. The fact that around 12 million people get added to the workforce every year in India, yet the employment situation remains a challenge, particularly given the rising young demographic dividend of India.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly had a significant impact on employment in India, with the youth being particularly affected. It has been observed that the unemployment rate has been the highest among the country's youth Post-COVID. Further, as per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in India was 7.45 per cent comprising 7.93 per cent in urban and 7.23 per cent in rural in February 2023. Therefore, it is crucial for the country to invest in job creation and skills development, particularly in sectors that are likely to drive future growth.

It is worth noting that there have been some positive developments in recent years, which aims to boost employment and create more opportunities for workers. In this regard, the union budget of 2023 has outlined three imperatives for the economic agenda that is, 'providing a strong impetus for growth and job creation', 'facilitating ample opportunities for citizens, especially youth' and 'strengthening macroeconomic stability'. The budget has further emphasised on high investments in infrastructure projects, followed by other key employment-generating sectors, such as tourism and MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises). However, there is not a direct focus on job creation, but on spillover effects that can create more jobs.

Thus, addressing the unemployment challenge in India will require a multi-faceted approach, with a focus on education and skills development, creating an environment that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation, and investing in sectors that can drive growth and job creation.

In this context, CUTS International, under the project '[Good and Better Jobs in India- Inclusive Finance for Workers' Welfare](#)' that aims to build a narrative towards a better 'Future if Jobs' in India supported by Ford Foundation, is organising a webinar to discuss the role of the centre and state government in promoting better jobs and growth.

The modus operandi is to bring together key stakeholders, develop an understanding and discuss the complexities of the future of work, and deliberate ways to advance quality employment through strengthening skill sets for the future of work.

Agenda

11:00–11:10 hrs Welcome Address & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International
11:10 – 12:00 hrs Panel Discussion and Q&A	Moderator Sushil Muhnot , Senior Advisor, CUTS International
	<i>Session 1 – Budget 2023 and Employment</i> <i>This session aims to discuss the initiatives undertaken to promote employment and the role of centre and state government in promoting good and better jobs.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radhicka Kapoor, Senior Visiting Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajay Shankar, Chairman, TEMA Council on Industrial Policy
12:00–12:50 hrs Panel Discussion and Q&A	<i>Session II –The Future of Work</i> <i>This session aims to understand the complexities of the future of work, and deliberate ways to advance quality employment. The session will highlight the facets of future jobs and skill sets in light of Digitisation, AI and other sectoral employment opportunities.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janaki Srinivasan, Associate Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gayathri Vasudevan, Co-Founder and CEO, LabourNet
12:50-13:00 hrs Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rituparna Chakraborty, Executive Director, Team Lease
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International