

CUTS Webinar

Future of Work in India: Why and how labour and technology can gainfully coexist

Date and Time: Monday, May 01, 2023 • 11:00-13:15 IST

Background Note

India is at a critical juncture in its economic development path, which has potential to lay the foundation for good and better job creation. One of the key challenges before the country as it navigates the future of work is the need to address skill gaps in and between industries, and between regions.

While there is a large pool of young workforce in India, many of them do not have necessary and sufficient technical skills, including digital skills, which are required for accessing future jobs. For example, it is estimated that there is a shortage of 150,000 skilled workers to operate the 5G technology-based telecommunication systems.

This has resulted in a growing demand for new generation education and skill development programmes in India. Are they sufficient? Probably no, as demands are to be matched by a comprehensive supply-side ecosystem.

Given this Context, CUTS International, under its project titled ‘Good and Better Jobs in India’, supported by the Ford Foundation, is organising this webinar to deliberate on conditions necessary for gainful coexistence of labour and technology in India in future.

Agenda

11:00-11:05 Welcome Address & Opening Remarks	Pradeep S Mehta , Secretary General, CUTS International
11:05 - 12:05 Panel Discussion and Q&A	Moderator Aruna Sharma , Former Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS International <i>Session I - Changing nature of economic growth and job opportunities in India</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High growth, high unemployment, high inflation – Are we entering a new era of productivism?</i> • <i>Emerging opportunities and challenges to the future of work in India.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bornali Bhandari, Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research • Farzana Afridi, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute • Samar Verma, Program Officer, Ford Foundation

<p>12:05 - 13:15 Panel Discussion and Q&A</p>	<p>Moderator A Didar Singh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS International</p>
	<p><i>Session II - How to bridge demand and supply gaps in skills for better access to future job opportunities in India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Today's sunrise, tomorrow's sunset – Need for skilling and re-skilling for better alignment of India's workforce with current and future job requirements.</i> • <i>Academia-industry linkages – Will the New Education Policy bridge the existing gaps?</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. K. Saji Narayanan, Former President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh • Amrat Singh, Director, CUTS International • Gopinath Parakuni, Director (Strategy), Cividep India