

LABOUR REFORMS AND COLLECTIVE VOICE OF WORKERS

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(Indian Standard Time)



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India is witnessing a regular debate on labour reforms, which is currently doing rounds of discussion owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has adversely affected the two most crucial stakeholders of the Indian economy i.e industry and workers. While industry has witnessed a situation of workplace lockdown with no revenue, the workers have lost their sources of livelihood.

Among other challenges, this pandemic brought to fore the vulnerability of workers, especially informal migrant workers in the absence of a social security net. Inarguably, workers from those sectors are disproportionately affected where collective voice is non-existent. Traditionally, collective voice has actively ensured that workers' welfare becomes a key agenda of industry and policy makers. However, its diminishing presence due to a number of factors has added to the vulnerability of workers.

This pandemic has also taken us back to a situation where industry and workers have locked horns due to their perceived conflicts of interest. Though, there has been some progress on the legislative front through the enactment of the Code on Wages, 2019 and with three other proposed Codes in pipeline, the situation on the ground remains challenging.

Given this Context, CUTS Webinar aims to discuss the ground realities of labour welfare and much needed reforms therein, especially in terms of enhancing socio-economic welfare through collective voice of the Indian workforce. Furthermore, it will deliberate on the prospects of a human-centric industrial growth, with universal social security as one of its major themes.

The webinar will be organised through Zoom platform.