



From 27 May to 11 June, Governments', Workers' and Employers' representatives from 187 ILO Member States discussed world of work issues at the **110<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)**. This year, occupational safety and health, apprenticeships, and the social and solidarity economy were among the items on the Conference agenda. This was the first Conference since 2019 that delegates were able to attend in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The delegates adopted a resolution to add a safe and healthy working environment to the existing four Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW). Additionally, the Conference adopted the report of the Committee on decent work and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and approved eight amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

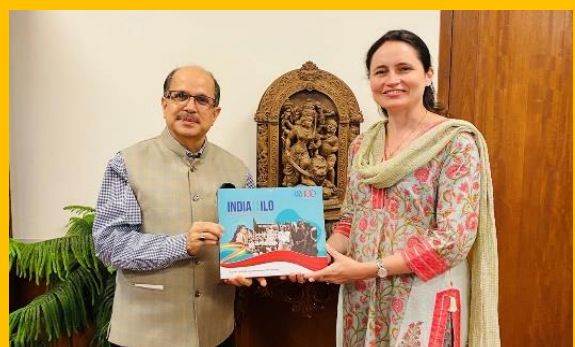
**Shri Bhupender Yadav**, Minister of Labour and Employment, participated in the World of Work Summit, which discussed the urgent action that can be taken by the ILO and its Member States to tackle the labour and social consequences of the multiple crises in the world through human-centred approaches for peace, resilience, and inclusive development, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.

## Promoting Decent Work In India

May - June  
2022

## Highlights

- ▶ The ILO DWT/CO-New Delhi Director, Ms Dagmar Walter attended the '**Felicitation of 1st Woman Labour Representative as a Board Member of Mumbai Port Authority in the History of 150 years in the Indian Ports**' in Mumbai, which showcased the constructive cooperation between the Transport and Dock Workers' Union and the management of the Mumbai Port Authority. Visited the Workers Information and Service Centre (WISC) in Panvel, which fosters female and youth leadership, and observed a unique synergy between the WISC, the local labour administration and the local school in whose premises the WISC is set up. Met the Labour Commissioner of Maharashtra, **Mr Suresh Jadhav** and exchanged information about the Labour Department's initiatives and areas of common interest for the ILO. Met EFI and CII which are working together now under a new partnership and learnt of numerous new initiatives planned around OSH and the labour codes.
- ▶ Met the **Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing** to discuss their various policies and initiatives to promote the development of India's food processing sector, in particular, PM Formalization of food processing micro enterprise (PMFME) scheme. The discussion touched upon State-Centre and inter-ministerial coordination. ILO's DWCP and outcome 2.3 on **promoting sustainable enterprises and formalization**, along with technical support in promoting decent work in the food processing sector globally and India was also touched upon. The Ministry elaborated on the implementation of PMFME, and the challenges, and explored scope of the ILO to extend technical support to the Ministry in the implementation of the scheme.
- ▶ Made a courtesy visit to the **Secretary, CPV & OIA**, Ministry of External Affairs and discussed the collaboration between the ILO and MEA, especially in the area of building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable, labour migration governance in India.



- ▶ Ambassador **Mr Venu Rajamony**, a career diplomat and currently serving as Officer on Special Duty (OSD), External Cooperation with the State Government of Kerala, made a courtesy visit to the ILO office. Among other, capacity building on occupational safety and health (OSH) was discussed.



## Publications

The report **"Making the right to social security a reality for domestic workers: A global review of policy trends, statistics and extension strategies"** provides data on social protection deficits experienced by domestic workers and identifies the barriers standing in the way of their effective social protection coverage.



The **"Skills development and lifelong learning in India: Challenges for trade unions"** brief examines outcomes for the population and the workforce thus far and highlights the main areas of weakness and focuses on developments in the economy and labour market that have provided impetus for policy changes.



The **"Labor migration in Asia: COVID-19 impacts, challenges, and policy responses"** publication analyzes the region's labour migration outlook, corresponding economic and policy developments, and changes caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.



## Multimedia

- ▶ Employers and Workers share testimonials to mark three years of the adoption of **Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (C190)**.



- ▶ **Fighting for rights and the future of 'chikankari'** - From making beautiful embroideries to lending a helping hand to others during the COVID-19 pandemic, Uzma Jalees is determined that the rights of home-based workers should be recognized and indigenous artforms like Chikankari promoted. Read Uzma's story [here](#).



## International Days

### World Day Against Child Labour – 12 June

#### ► Bihar

To mark World Day Against Child Labour, the ILO's [MAP'16](#) project, collaborated with Bihar's Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Jamui (Skill Development Centre sponsored by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship) organised a rally where children and adolescents raised slogans to **"support each other to eliminate child labour"**; **"bring all our children to school"**; **"universal social protection to end child labour"**. The rally followed a district-level consultation on Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition & Regulation Act, its implementation, and centred on the need for convergence and role of frontline workers. Children including released child labourers and their families and the government's frontline workers participated.



#### ► Chhattisgarh

The project also collaborated with the Chhattisgarh State Labour Department to launch a **21-day poster campaign**, with the objective of reaching out to all Gram Panchayats in to create awareness on the Child Labour Act. District-level programs are planned for affecting the convergence with partner departments/stakeholders to strategize action for eliminating child labour. The campaign is also reaching out to Housing Societies in select urban areas to sensitise residents about the CL Act (domestic work) and punishment for its violation.



#### ► Jharkhand

The ILO's [Asia Regional Child Labour Project](#) organized a virtual consultation on the theme **"Universal social protection to end child labour"** in Jharkhand's Giridih and Koderma districts. The consultation focused on the theme of universal social protection to end child labour. A panel discussion discussed the strategies, challenges and the best practices in addressing child labour issues in the Mica mining areas of Jharkhand. The outcomes of the 5th global conference on child labour and the call



to action were elaborated on, along with the role of the diverse stakeholders in combatting the issue. Children, who are beneficiaries of the project, participated and presented on the ill-effects of child labour on their childhood.

Leading up to the event, the ARC project, in collaboration with NACG (National Action and Coordination Group), organized a virtual consultation to seek inputs from participants on key recommendations from CSOs, which fed into the delegates' discussions for the [Fifth Global Child Labour Conference in Durban, South Africa](#). The consultation included presentations from ILO and NACG followed by group sessions, including one dedicated exclusively to capture the voices and experiences of children.

- **Getting children out of labour and back to learning** - The COVID-19 pandemic took millions of children, like Janny, out of school. The ILO helped them reconnect with their education, friends and future. Read Janny's story [here](#).

## International Domestic Workers Day - 16 June

**Launched a Voluntary Employers' Pledge to Promote Decent Work for Domestic Workers in India with AIOE and EFI, on Domestic Workers Day.**

Other Employers' Organizations like ASSOCHAM and SCOPE also participated in the event. The pledge was developed by Gender and Employer specialists. The event raised awareness on C189 among employers' organizations and their members and was to mobilize further support from them and their members to



act towards improving the working conditions of domestic workers in India. Such an initiative is new to the South Asian Region and marks the beginning of a significant step towards promoting decent work for domestic workers by employers' organisations in India.

Representatives from Employers' Organizations, **Mr Arvind Francis**, Executive Director, AIOE and **Mr Vijay Padate**, Advisor, EFI were the key speakers, and they also launched the pledge. They highlighted the important role employer organizations can play to improve the situation of domestic workers in India. The participants were encouraged to endorse the pledge who showcased their support by upholding placards with contents of pledge and interviews in support of the pledge were given by members of EFI and AIOE. Mr Francis and Mr Padate also personally subscribed to the Pledge as employers of domestic workers.

## Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day - 27 June

On the occasion of **Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day**, ILO DWT/CO-New Delhi Director Ms Dagmar Walter, along with UN Resident Coordinator Mr Shombi Sharp and UNIDO Representative Dr Rene Van Berkel published an [OpEd in The Hindu](#) on how the UN in India supporting India to bring MSMEs into inclusive and sustainable global value chains.

## Decent Work Country Programme 2018-22 Implementation: Highlights

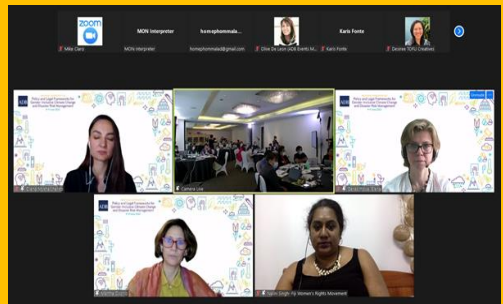
- ▶ The project "[Paving the way for sustainable development of natural stone industry](#)" conducted a 5-day Improve Your Business (IYB) physical training for 25 stone processing units in Kota, Rajasthan in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Stone (under the aegis of Department of Industries, State Government of Rajasthan), Kota Rotary club, and two cluster-level industries associations based in the district. This training was organised upon a request by the State to mentor stone processing units on improving business planning and make them market responsive, owing to the pandemic's impact on the sector and market uncertainties resulting from consumer preference for responsibly produced products.
- ▶ The **Expanding decent employment opportunities in the care economy in India project** met Employer and Business Membership Organizations (EBMOs) with the objective of building on efforts to document existing good practices by Indian enterprises in creating an enabling environment for workers with family responsibilities. The discussion focussed on survey results on measures/policies linked to care work, examples of good practices by Indian enterprises on care work, and to strategize next steps for survey of enterprises on care work. The importance of supporting care work policies and the need to document best practices from the industry was highlighted.
- ▶ India Business Disability Network organized a National Conference on **Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities: Building Accessible and Inclusive Workspace**. Business leaders, committed to putting disability on their agenda and who recognize the value of the people living with disabilities, spoke about their vision and commitment to further creating inclusive workspaces. Highlighted the ILO's work on disability inclusion and its 10 principles.
- ▶ Participated in a policy webinar roundtable hosted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and presented on International Experiences in Generating Livelihood through Road Maintenance. These webinars are part of a series titled "**Evidence-Based Policy and Action Roundtable: Consultations and Dialogues for Holistic Rural Development**" and bring eminent academicians, policymakers, experts, and implementors across targeted areas of rural development to facilitate sharing knowledge and evidence on development goals and contributing to India's rural development policy.



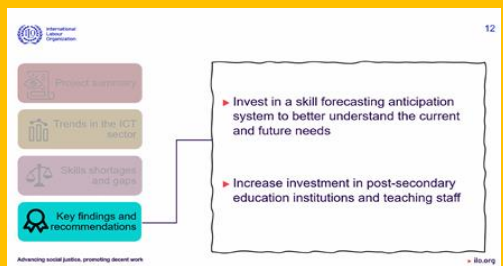
- ▶ Participated in VVGNI's Training Programme on "[ILO Convention 102 and Code on Social Security](#)" and made a presentation on "Building right-based social protection systems" with a focus upon C102, the minimum standard of social security.



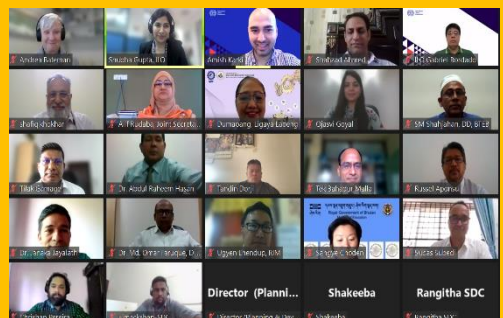
- ▶ Presented the key ILO Conventions on Gender Equality in the World of Work and their implementation in Asia and the Pacific at the ADB regional workshop "**Policy and Legal Framework for Gender-Inclusive Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**", during the "**Transforming laws and policies for gender equality**" session.



- ▶ Supported HQ's Sectoral Policies Department (SECTOR) in the webinar "**Towards a brighter future of work in the Indian digital economy**". The session was a follow up to ILO's report "[Skills shortages and labour migration in the field of ICT](#)" researched between 2017-2020 in which India participated by supporting research inputs.



- ▶ The [GOALS](#) programme organised its second 'South Asian Regional Qualifications Framework' (SAQRF) technical meeting which was represented by TVET and the Higher Education sector from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Technical discussions focussed on further developing the draft regional qualifications framework as well as the governance structure for the SARQF.



- ▶ Participated in the **Learning Route on "successful practices, tools and approaches to design implement and monitor Disability Inclusive programs: Uganda Learning Station"** held 23 June - 2 July in Uganda. The training is developed within the framework of the IFAD' SPARK Program, aimed at improving the understanding of IFAD and its implementing partners, and other rural development professionals, networks, and communities on "how" to mainstream disability inclusion



approach, tools, and methodologies to overcome the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. The Learning Route adopted a peer-to-peer learning process through which the participants from Uganda, Malawi, Burkina Faso, and India learnt from outstanding experiences in Uganda about strategies and solutions aimed at overcoming the barriers faced by people with disabilities that hinder their full participation in society and the economic system.

- ▶ The two sub-regional **ILO/Japan Projects** ([Sustainable Global Supply Chains in South Asia](#) and [S+H for All Plantation Workers](#)) and the ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities or ACTRAV (under the ILO-ACFTU South-South Cooperation) have been jointly working to build capacities of the trade unions in South Asia on occupational safety and health. With incidences of workplace accidents and lack of safe and healthy working conditions, especially for vulnerable workers and with the **inclusion of the principle of a "safe and healthy working environment" to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work** at the 110th International Labour Conference (ILC), a 3-day workshop of the central trade unions was organized from 21-23 June to build capacities and strengthen the central, state and youth leadership in India on occupational safety and health, especially understanding OSH as a rights-based approach. This was followed by a Strategy Meeting of the Central Trade Unions on 29-30 June 2022 to develop a strategic plan towards enabling safety and health for all workers from the formal and informal economy. Senior leadership from all central trade unions in India participated in the meeting and decided to take out a joint resolution.

