



Ms Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, Regional Director, ILO Asia and the Pacific, visited India from 27-29 July 2022. Ms Asada-Miyakawa met with all the tripartite constituents, including **Mr Bhupender Yadav**, Minister for Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change. She met with the Employer and Worker organizations' representatives to reaffirm the ILO's national and global commitment to strengthening partnership with the constituents. She also met the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, **Mr Shombi Sharp** and the UN India Country team to discuss the organizations' respective mandates and opportunities for collaboration.

Ms Maria Helena Andre, Director, ILO ACTRAV along with **Mr Ariel Castro**, Desk Officer, visited India to attend the South Asia Regional Trade Union Conference. The conference reaffirmed the need to protect workers and advance social justice to achieve decent work for all. Ms Andre also met with the Minister for Labour and Employment and discussed the changing world of work, migration and mobility, skill mapping and welfare of gig and platform workers.



Promoting
Decent
Work in
India

July to
September
2022

Highlights

- ▶ Hosted the “[Consultation on Labour Migration: Advancing resilient, inclusive and sustainable policies and institutions in India, promoting decent work for all](#)”. **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, Minister of Labour and Employment and Environment Forest and Climate Change delivered the chief guest address. Other key dignitaries included **Mr Ausaf Sayeed**, Secretary (CPV&OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, **Mr Hiranmay Pandya**, President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, **Mr A Didar Singh**, Ex-Secretary, MOIA and Advisor-Migration, All India Organization of Employers. **Ms Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa**, ILO Regional Director for the Asia and the Pacific and **Mr Shombi Sharp**, UNRC India fortified the UN's commitment to safe labour migration. The consultation saw detailed discussions on international and internal labour migration to advance **ILO's Fair Migration Agenda** and policy vision to achieve SDG 2030, the challenges, and opportunities in a post-COVID-19 world, the latest FPRW principle adopted - OSH, bridging skill gaps and reintegration to be achieved through overarching gender responsive policy perspectives. Please watch the [video](#) summarizing the key messages and outcomes.
- ▶ Organized the [South Asia Trade Union Conference](#) with the objective of empowering trade unions to effectively **participate in policy formulation on labour-related issues** and **engage in social dialogue**, provide **outreach support** to informal sectors workers, act on issues of common interest to support the achievement of the SDGs, define and undertake strategies to build the future of work and influence policy agendas on social, economic, and environmental issues in their own countries as well as develop forums and mechanism of cooperation, greater integrated solidarity and action, sharing of knowledge and good practices between trade unions across South Asian region to effectively deal the challenges facing the world of work in this region. Participants represented workers organizations from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka.



- ▶ Signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the **Chungcheongnam-do Economic Promotion Agency (CEPA)**, under the Promoting Sustainable Enterprise in India project on promotion of sustainable enterprise development for more and better-quality jobs, and income generation by catalyzing business links between India and Korea. The collaboration will enable the ILO to support local businesses in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in establishing market links with Korea and strengthen their knowledge on international standards. The LoI paves the way for dialogue and partnership between India and Korea to catalyze local economic development.



- ▶ An 18-member delegation from India completed a **5-day study tour** to the Republic of Korea. The delegation comprised of representatives from the State governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, Ministry of Food Processing and Industries, and MSMEs. The tour focused on Korea's **food processing sector**. The delegates travelled across the country and visited food start-up centres, testing facilities, smart factories, food processing units, wholesale food market, and food clusters. They also interacted with the Ministry of Start-up and SMEs; Busan Metropolitan City government; and a group of sea food importers.



- ▶ **Ms Dagmar Walter**, Director, ILO DWT/CO-New Delhi met **Additional Collector and Additional Commissioner Labour Telangana** to discuss various Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) issues at Nalgonda. ILO's FPRW project works with the cotton supply chain supporting the state's action plan.



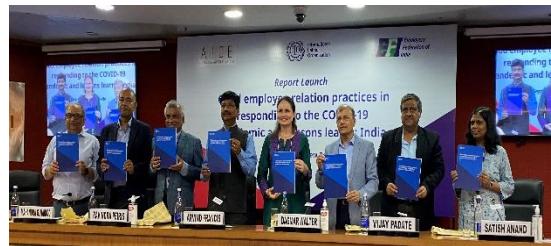
- ▶ **Ms Dagmar Walter**, Director, ILO DWT/CO-New Delhi delivered the special address at the **Economic Times Employee Excellence Summit**, in which she highlighted future-skills development as an important aspect of addressing the labour market's needs and helping a just transition.



- ▶ Signed an **MoU** with the **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals** to adopt the ILO-WHO [International Chemical Safety Cards \(ICSC\)](#) to ensure the safe use of chemicals in the workplace and mitigate industrial accidents. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, **Mr Mansukh Mandaviya**, and Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, New & Renewable Energy, **Mr Bhagwanth Khuba**. The ICSCs will be used by the department to disseminate the appropriate hazard information at the workplace.



- ▶ Launched the "[Good employee relation practices in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and lessons learnt: India](#)" with AIOE and EFI. The report captures the good labour relations practices based on strong cooperation between management and workers, in effectively responding to the pandemic crisis. The practices adopted by the 21 surveyed enterprises to maintain and strengthen labour relations provide valuable lessons for other enterprises to adopt.



Publications

- ▶ [World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Regional companion report for Asia and the Pacific](#): Summarizes the status of social protection worldwide and highlights key social protection developments, challenges and priorities for this region from a life-cycle perspective.
- ▶ [Women entrepreneurs leading the way: Promoting a circular economy and more sustainable practices in the garment sector](#): Outlines four women leaders in Asia's garment and textile sector making positive contributions to sector-specific challenges.
- ▶ [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people](#): Updates world and regional youth labour market indicators and gives detailed analyses of trends and issues facing young people in the labour market.



Media center

- ▶ [Regional Director meets trade union leaders empowered to 'work in freedom'](#)

Ms Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, ILO's Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, met the women working with the Work in Freedom programme, who shared their struggles and victories from the COVID-19 pandemic.



- ▶ [Statement by ILO's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#)

"Trafficking in persons is preventable, not by barring workers' mobility, but rather by strengthening measures to tackle trafficking in persons, promoting labour rights and upholding the international labour standards."



- ▶ [OpEd: The Panchtantra of the future of work](#)

Wrote an OpEd on the future of work, highlighting how job-rich recovery, growth and sustainable enterprises are achievable, as the global economy seeks to rebuild a fairer and more inclusive world of work, for [ET Edge](#).

- ▶ [OpEd: The gender pay gap, hard truths and actions needed](#)

To commemorate International Equal Pay Day, the ILO and UN Women penned an OpEd on the asymmetries in India's labour market and how closing the gap is key to achieving social justice for working women, for [The Hindu](#).

- ▶ [The ILO India journey: From the Centenary Declaration and beyond](#)

Watch the ILO's **100-year journey** and the **adaptations** made to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, to prepare for a world of work that is future-ready and protected against such future shocks.



Further highlights in line with the priorities of the Decent Work Country Programme 2018 – 2022

- ▶ Organized the “[Consultation on Child Labour Policy in India](#)”. **Mr Anurag Kundu**, Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights delivered the special address. Representatives from workers organization included **Ms Shahnaz Rafique**, Secretary INTUC and **Mr Mukesh Galav**, Secretary, HMS & General Secretary, HMS Rajasthan State Council. Shared information on “**Child Labour: Global Perspective**” during the technical session. **Ms Bharti Ali**, HAQ Centre for Child Rights and **Ms Protiva Kundu**, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability presented on “**Child Labour Data: Policy Implications and Government Budgetary Allocations**” for NCLP and Samagra Shiksha respectively.



- ▶ Hosted the first, hybrid **sectoral steering committee meeting** with the Department of MSME in Odisha. The Department established this **multi-stakeholder committee** on the ILO's recommendation, to promote dialogue mechanism for effective coordination and policy coherence. Khorda district was identified for implementing the pilot for capacity building of local institutions with a focus on value chain development of the priority sectors - food processing, garments and textiles. Shared the initial findings of a value chain analysis for stakeholder validation and held a discussion around the action plan for formalizing the food processing sector. The PSEI project will support the state with the aim to promote local economic development for growth, and more and better-quality jobs.
- ▶ Organized a ten-day **training of master trainers** for 15 SIYB master trainer candidates in India. The training was provided by **Mr Gemunu Wijesena**, global master trainer developer, and was co-facilitated by local master trainer, **Mr Isaac Singh**, where the expectations of the ILO and SIYB's contribution in advancing Decent Work for All in India were emphasized upon.



- ▶ Conducted a **“Preparatory Workshop to Implement Activities in States through Workers’ Information and Support Centers (WISC)”**. The workshop’s objective was to brief the WISC about the method of technical and financial reporting required under the project. Highlighted linkages between the project outcomes and the activities of WISCs supported by the project.



Central Trade Union Leaders, **Mr M Shanmugam** (LPF), **Mr Harbhajan Singh Sidhu** (HMS) and **Mr Chandra Prakash** (INTUC) shared their experience of supporting workers through WISCs during the pandemic’s height. Participants were briefed on gender mainstreaming while implementing activities and how technical, financial and activity progress reporting is to be done, along with guidance on recording impact stories.

- ▶ Organized an interaction for officials from the **Ministry of Labour and Employment on International Labour Standards** and their reporting. Issues related to the submission of reports on ratified Conventions and other issues related to working on complaints to the CFA and future ratifications were discussed.

- ▶ Organized a webinar with ICA on **“Cooperatives and the Social and Solidarity Economy”** where the keynote address, experience of cooperatives and what can be learnt from the efforts over the past 20 years of experience with cooperatives/collectives in the Asia-Pacific region were presented.



- ▶ Conducted training of trainers on **“Improving Safety and Health of Waste Collectors”** and **“Organization and Management of Workers’ Collectives”** as part of the intervention on green and decent jobs in the waste value chain, in Pune and Ahmedabad. Central trade unions, Municipal Corporations, the ILO’s implementing partners and cooperative of waste collectors were part of these trainings. The Pune Municipal Corporation appreciated the training and has requested the office to train more of their officials in the coming months.



- ▶ Conducted a two-day classroom training on **SCORE Module 1 - Workplace Cooperation** in Bhubaneswar and Vishakhapatnam. MSME apparel manufacturers attended the training, along with participation from workers and supervisors. These SCORE-trained industry experts will provide on-site coaching to enterprises over a period of three months on adoption of good management practices to promote workplace cooperation in the shopfloor alongside productivity improvement. The training in Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by **Mr P K Gupta, Director MSME DI - Cuttack, Mr N Singh - GM DIC Cuttack, and Mr Satwik Swain, Secretary General, OASME.** In Vishakhapatnam, **Mr Ramlingeshwar Raju, GM DIC - Vishakhapatnam, Dr V Padma - Administrator Apparel Export Promotion Park, Vishakhapatnam, and Mr K Mallikarjun, Vice President - FAPCCI** spoke at the opening.

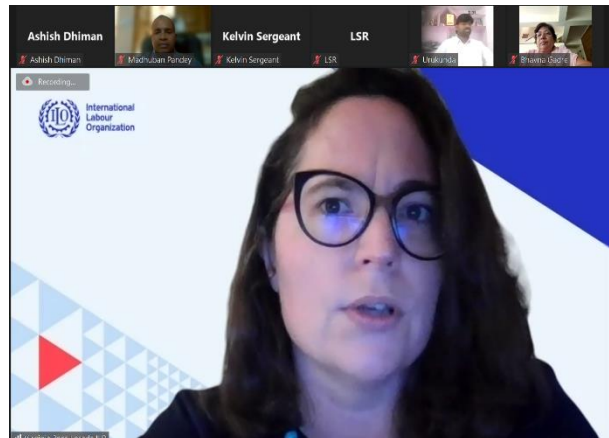


- ▶ Participated in the [International Conference on Sustainability Education \(ICSE2022\)](#), organized by UNEP, in the **"Green Jobs for Youth"** session. Delivered a presentation on **'Green Jobs and Green Economy'** and participated in a panel discussion elaborating on 'what more do the youth want? - 'Green Jobs for Youth Pact'. Discussions and engagement with experts, academics, industries and the youth underscored the importance of a collaborative approach towards our pursuit of achieving the global agenda and a climate-resilient world.

- ▶ Organized a state-level consultation on **Prevention, Rehabilitation and Elimination of Child Labour** with the Uttar Pradesh Labour Department in Lucknow, chaired by **Mr Suresh Chandra, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of UP. Ms Shakuntala Gautam, Labour Commissioner, Mr PP Singh, Special Secretary, Labour, Ms Nisha, Secretary, Building and Construction Board, Govt. of UP** led the discussions and the keynote address was delivered by **Mr Satoshi Sasaki, Deputy Director, ILO, DWT/CO-New Delhi.** Officials from the departments of Education, Health, WCD, Skill Development and Police (Anti-Human Trafficking Unit) were also present. The state level event was planned to seek commitment from the senior officials towards strengthening the State Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour.



- ▶ Organized a training for 40 SIYB trainers from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on **“Approaches on women entrepreneurship development”** for specialized counselling and mentoring to enable women to start businesses and sustain competition, while particularly addressing the barriers faced by them in entrepreneurship in the food processing, garments, and textiles sectors. 200 youth will be trained and mentored to start business, of which at least 30 per cent will be women.



- ▶ A delegation with **Mr Ariel Castro** (Desk Officer, ILO ACTRAV) met with Trade Union constituents, including the JAF, in Tamil Nadu. Organized an event to felicitate 67 women auto drivers, where they formally submitted applications to **Mr M Shanmugham** (Member, Rajya Sabha) to avail subsidy of INR 100,000 to buy autorickshaws under a newly launched State Scheme. The delegation also met with **Mr CV Ganesan**, Minister for Labour Welfare, Population, Employment and Training, Census, Urban and Rural Employment, Government of Tamil Nadu, on the sidelines of the JAF meeting.

