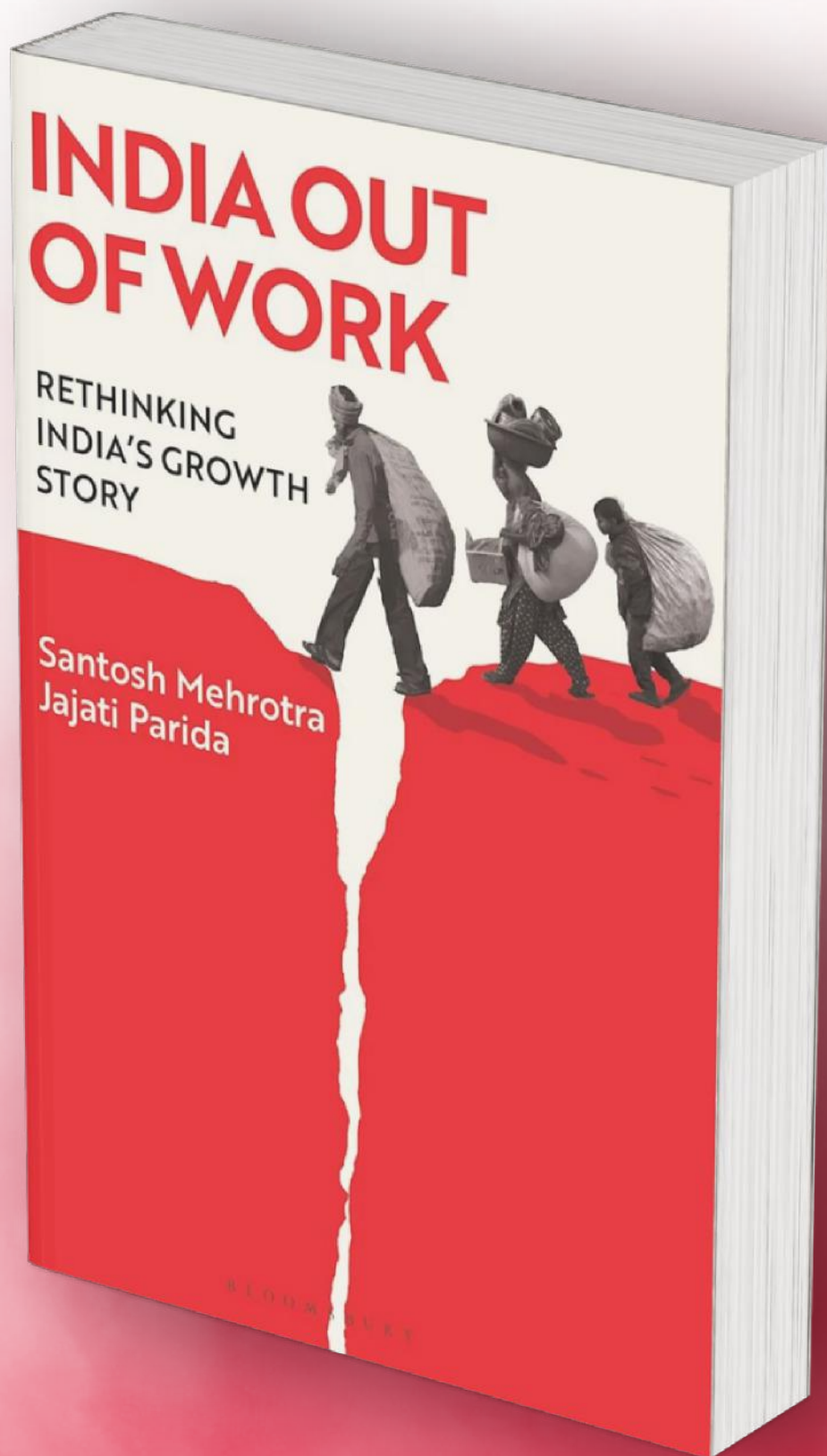


Invitation



LAUNCH & DISCUSSION ON THE BOOK

**JUN
22
2026**

MONDAY

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MMA Management Center



Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia*



Prof Santosh Mehrotra



Dr Suresh Babu M

SYNOPSIS

India's race against time has already begun and it is falling behind.

With barely fifteen years left of its demographic dividend, India faces a stark possibility: growing old before it grows rich. Millions remain unemployed, underemployed, or trapped in precarious, low-quality work signaling a crisis that cannot be ignored.

India Out of Work is a powerful and urgent examination of why India must rapidly accelerate economic growth and what it will take to become a self-sufficient, prosperous nation before this window closes.

Drawing on rigorous research and real-world data, Santosh Mehrotra and Jajati K. Parida unpack the structural challenges holding India back from rural distress and weak job creation to the fragile realities of the 'new economy'. They argue that India must sustain 9% annual growth and create 350 million non-farm jobs by 2055 to secure its future.

This book reveals:

- The truth behind India's "jobless growth"
- Why economic expansion has failed to generate enough quality jobs
- The widening gap of inequality and stagnant wages
- The alarming underrepresentation of women in the workforce
- The myth of large-scale poverty reduction

With sharp insights and compelling evidence, the authors expose the systemic barriers preventing millions from achieving economic security and upward mobility.

Why this book matters now

Without urgent and bold reforms, India risks a future defined by deepening inequality, missed opportunities, and unrealized potential.

A timely call to action and a clear roadmap for reform, India Out of Work is essential reading for policymakers, economists, business leaders, and anyone invested in India's future.

The question is no longer whether India can grow but whether it can grow fast enough.

PROGRAMME

5:15 PM Registration & Hi-Tea

6:00 PM Welcome Address

Mr Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy

President, MMA &

Managing Director, Sundaram Home Finance Ltd

Address by the Author

Prof Santosh Mehrotra

Author & Visiting Professor - Centre for
Development Studies, University of Bath

Launch of the book by the dignitaries

Address by the Chief Guest

Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia*

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Stern School of
Management, NYU & Former Deputy Chairman of the
India Planning Commission

Dr Suresh Babu M

Director, MIDS

In conversation with the author

Prof Santosh Mehrotra

Q&A

7:20 PM Concluding Remarks

Mr V Kumaraswamy

Author, Columnist and Consultant

7:25 PM Vote of Thanks

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

Executive Director

Madras Management Association

7:30 PM End of the Program

*Confirmation Awaited

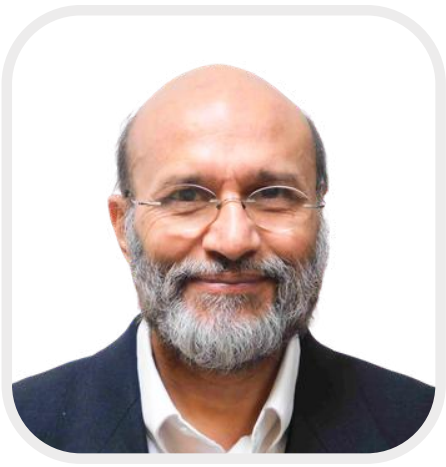


Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia*

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Stern School of Management, NYU & Former Deputy Chairman of the India Planning Commission

Dr Ahluwalia is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Stern School of Management, NYU. He served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Government of India from 2004 to 2014. A key figure in India's economic reforms from the early 1980s onwards, he has held several important positions including Special Secretary to the Indian Prime Minister (1988-90); Commerce Secretary (1990-91); Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (1991-93); and Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance (1993-98). He was also Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (1998-2001). From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Ahluwalia worked as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office, International Monetary Fund. Mr. Ahluwalia holds a B.A. (Hons.) Economics degree from Delhi University; M.A. and M. Phil. from Oxford University.

His published works include "Reforming the Global Financial Architecture", Economic Paper No. 41, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 2000; "State Level Performance Under Economic Reforms in India", in Economic Policy Reforms and the Indian Economy, edited by Anne O. Krueger (University of Chicago Press, 2002); "Economic Reforms in India since 1991"; "Has Gradualism Worked?", Journal of Economic Perspectives, August 2002; "Infrastructure Development in India's Reforms", in India Economic Reforms and Development: Essays for Manmohan Singh, edited by Isher Judge Ahluwalia, and IMD Little (OUP, New Delhi, 1998); and "India's Economic Reforms: An Appraisal", in India in the Era of Economic Reforms, edited by Jeffery Sachs and Nirupam Bajpai (Oxford, 1999).



Prof Santosh Mehrotra

Author & Visiting Professor,
Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath

Santosh Mehrotra, a development economist, is Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath, and before that he was a Prof of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has lectured at the Universities of Florence, Italy; American University, Cairo; & the Higher School of Economics, Moscow. After an MA in Econ. from New School for Social Research, New York, and Phd (Economics), Cambridge University (1985), Santosh spent 15 years with the UN(1991-2006) in research positions, heading UNICEF's global research programme on social policy for developing countries at the Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, and as chief economist of the global Human Development Report New York. He returned to India to head the Rural Development Division and Development Policy Division of Planning Commission (2006-09), and was lead author of several chapters of the 11th & 12th Five Year Plans of India. He was also the Director General (2009-14) of the National Institute of Labour Economics Research, Planning Commission, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

His writings have been translated into Hindi, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian, German and Portuguese. He has published 14 books (including 3 with Cambridge University Press, 4 with Oxford University Press).

He consults regularly with ILO, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, UNESCO and UNEVOC.



Dr M Suresh Babu

Director, MIDS

Dr M Suresh Babu currently serves as the Director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies. He holds a Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2002), with his thesis focusing on "Competition, Barriers to Entry, and Productivity Growth in Indian Manufacturing Industries." He also completed his M.Phil. in Applied Economics from the same institution in 1994, where he explored the "Role of Industrial Sector in Indian Inflation." In 1992, he earned an M.S. in Development Economics from Pondicherry Central University, achieving the second rank in the university. His academic journey began with a B.A. in Economics from the University of Calicut in 1990.

Dr Suresh Babu's research interests lie in Applied Macroeconomics, Trade & Industrial Economics, and Development Economics. His extensive teaching and research career includes roles such as Professor (2018-2024), Associate Professor (2012-2018), and Assistant Professor (2011-2012) in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. Prior to these, he was an Associate Professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore (2010-2011), and an Assistant Professor at IIT Madras (2006-2010). He also served as a visiting faculty member at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune (2005-2006), a Research Associate at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala (2001-2004), and a Lecturer at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune in 2001.



Mr V Kumaraswamy

Author, Columnist and Consultant

Mr V. Kumaraswamy did his schooling in Chennai and later graduated from IIM Ahmedabad in the 1980s, where he studied under some of the leading economists of India. The institute encouraged freedom of thought by its unique system of pedagogy. Both the tutelage under illustrious teachers and the system have encouraged him to experiment boldly while writing his columns in economic news dailies.

He has been working with the industry since the mid-1980s. His corporate work in search of natural resources takes him to several remote rural areas in India and abroad. The unconventional ideas and insights in several parts are born out of first-hand experience during such sorties. He enjoys travelling and loves talking to people at various strata in remote areas here and elsewhere which has given him unique insights and helps him get into the core of some of the key issues affecting them.

He has been writing on reforms and economic policies in economic dailies such as Business Line and Business Standard for well over a decade which has honed his skills as a writer.

Written 3 books - Making Growth Happen in India (Sage Publications), Weird Adventures and Uncommon Lessons (Authors Point) & Unsung Heroes, Uplifting Stories (Leadstart). Over 100 articles and of late poems.

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