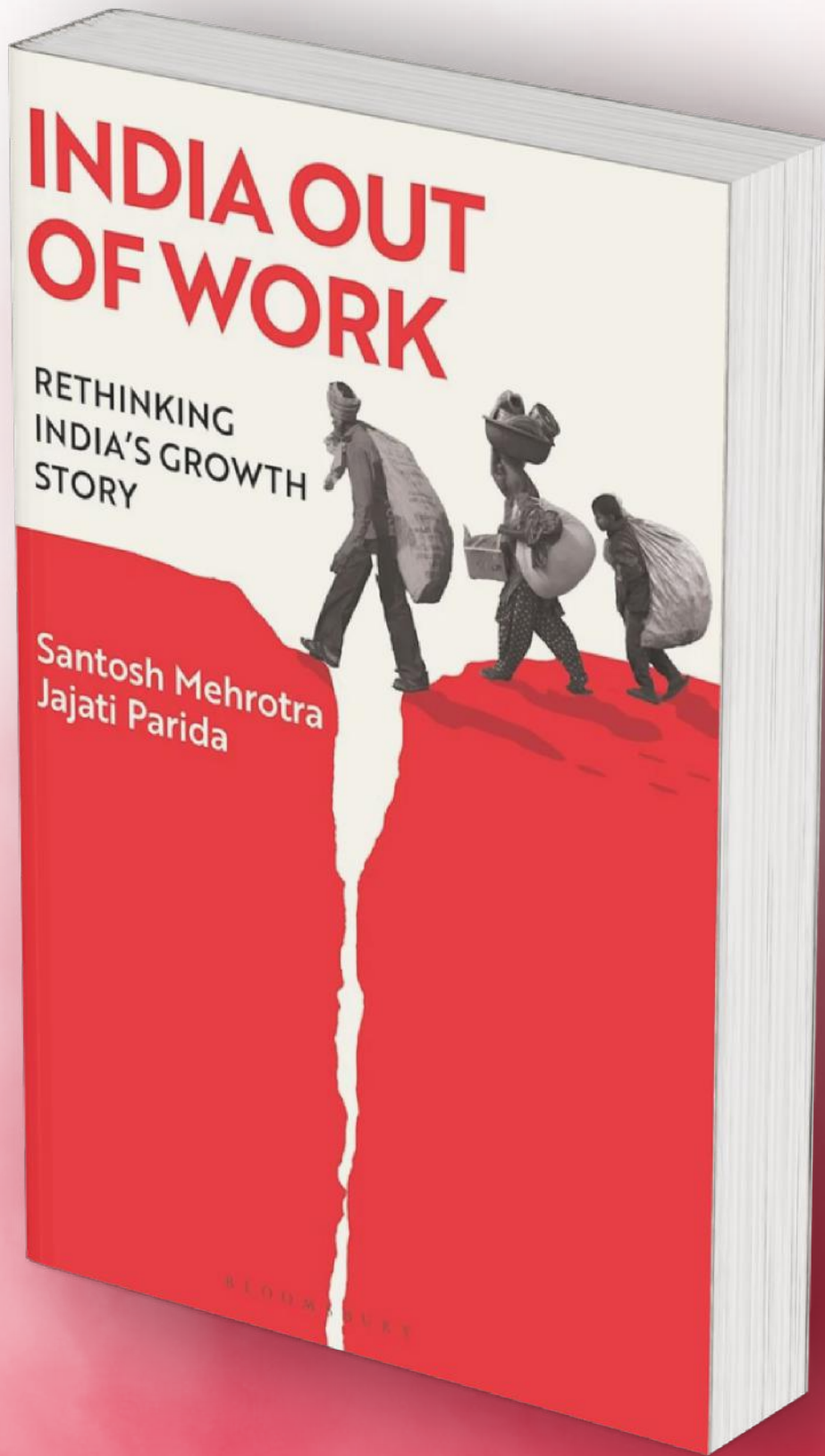


Invitation



LAUNCH & DISCUSSION ON THE BOOK

**JUN
22
2026**

MONDAY

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MMA Management Center



Prof Santosh Mehrotra



Dr Suresh Babu M



Dr M Vijayabaskar



Dr A Kalaiyaran

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

To be confirmed

Panel Discussion

Distinguished panelists

Prof Santosh Mehrotra

Dr Suresh Babu M

Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies

Dr A Kalaiyaran

Associate Professor

Madras Institute of Development Studies

Moderator

Dr M Vijayabaskar

Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies &
Member, State Planning Commission, TN

Q&A

7:20 PM Concluding Remarks

Dr V. Kumaraswamy, PhD, MBA (IIM Ahmedabad), FCMA

Author, Columnist, Commentator

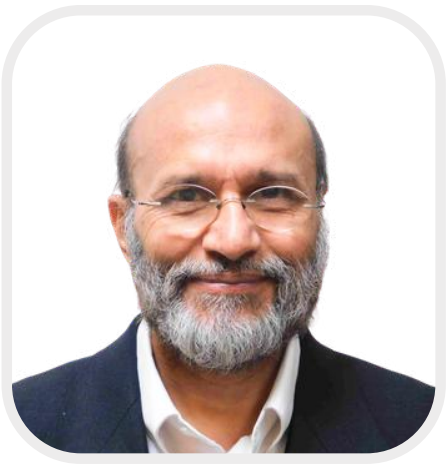
7:25 PM Vote of Thanks

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

Executive Director

Madras Management Association

7:30 PM End of the Program



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, Madras Institute of Development Studies

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.



Dr M Vijayabaskar

*Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies &
Member, State Planning Commission, TN*

Dr M. Vijayabaskar is a Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai and member of the State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu. His research canters on political economy of development with a focus on labour and land markets, technological change, rural-urban linkages, transformations, and their intersections with policy-making. In addition to publishing in numerous scholarly journals and media outlets, he has co-authored the book 'The Dravidian Model: Interpreting the Political Economy of Tamil Nadu', published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year and co-edited monographs including Rethinking Social Justice (Orient Blackswan 2020), Participopolis: Consent and Contention in Neoliberal Urban India, (Routledge 2012) and ICTs and Indian Social Development: Diffusion, Governance, Poverty (Sage 2008).

He has held Visiting Faculty positions at École des haute études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and IIT Madras. He is on the editorial advisory board of Oxford Development Studies, South Asia Multi-Disciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ) and the Indian Journal of Labour Economics and has served as a consultant to the Government of India, ILO, UNICEF and UNRISD. He holds a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University.



Dr A Kalaiyarasan

Associate Professor

Madras Institute of Development Studies

Dr Kalaiyarasan is an Associate Professor of Development Studies at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) and a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London. He was previously with the Planning Commission (NITI Aayog) of India, Institute of Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), Delhi, He was also a Visiting Assistant Professor and Fulbright Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs (WIIPA), Brown University, a research affiliate at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University, and Visiting Fellow at IIT-Bombay. His works among others include *The Dravidian Model: Interpreting Political Economy of Tamil Nadu*, which he co-authored, was published by the Cambridge University Press. His research focuses on the political economy of development, Fiscal Federalism and structural inequalities in the Global South.



Dr V. Kumaraswamy, PhD, MBA (IIM Ahmedabad), FCMA

Author, Columnist, Commentator

Dr. V. Kumaraswamy is a seasoned corporate leader, board professional, author, and policy commentator with nearly four decades of experience spanning manufacturing, financial services, international business, strategy, risk management, and corporate governance. An alumnus of the IIM Ahmedabad and a recent PhD from the Management Development Institute, he combines academic rigour with extensive industry experience.

Over his distinguished career, he has served on the boards of several companies, including JK Group enterprises, Sirpur Paper Mills, Umang Dairies, Oji India Packaging, and investment advisory firms. He has played significant roles in corporate restructuring, turnaround management, capital mobilisation, cross-border ventures, and international financing. He has worked closely with leading global institutions for raising funds such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC), FMO, DEG, Proparco, and several sovereign wealth funds.

A recognised thought leader on economic policy, finance, and industrial development, Dr. Kumaraswamy has authored more than 100 articles in leading publications including Business Line, Business Standard, Economic & Political Weekly, and other journals. He is the author of several books, most notably *Making Growth Happen in India* and *Weird Adventures, Uncommon Lessons*.

He has been actively associated with professional and academic bodies including the Madras Management Association, FICCI, ICC besides some leading academic institutions. His unique blend of boardroom experience, policy engagement, and grassroots exposure makes him a respected voice on governance, economic development, and business strategy.

CONNECT WITH US



Email:

mma@mmachennai.org

Phone Number

044 - 28291133 / 28291166

Website

www.mmachennai.org

MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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