

## **CUTS Webinar**

# **Future of Work in India: Exploring How Labour and Technology Can Gainfully Coexist**

### **Speaking Notes for Opening Remarks**

- **Workers are considered the backbone of the economy and yet are the most neglected. On May 4, 1886, in Chicago, Illinois a violent confrontation took place in the Haymarket. It began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour workday.**
- **In 1889, May 1, was declared May Day as a symbol for workers' rights across the world.**
- **In the present scenario digital economy is transforming the world of work. Over the past decade, the expansion in broadband connectivity along with the innovations in information and communication technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence (AI), has penetrated a number of economic sectors and also resulted in increasing job opportunities.**
- **Despite the opportunities emerging through these platforms, concerns are being raised about the worker experience on such platforms.**
- **One of the key challenges facing India as it navigates the future of work is the need to address significant skill gaps in the country. While there is a large pool of young workers in India, many of them do not have the**

**necessary and sufficient technical skills including digital skills which are required for future jobs.**

- **Thus, one of the key areas that require attention is the need to upskill and reskill the workforce.**
- **The future of jobs in 2030 is going to be demanding and the influence of AI and automation will be very significant. Therefore, we must prepare young people for the future of jobs by instilling these skills.**
- **Thus, to engage on the issues of how we can achieve the equilibrium in the demand and supply ecosystem of the job market, CUTS has organised this webinar to engage eminent experts from the industry and other stakeholders to discuss and build understanding about the complexities of the future work, and deliberate on conditions necessary for gainful coexistence of labour and technology in India in future.**
- **I would like to welcome our speakers, participants and look forward to an engaging discussion.**
- **Over to my colleague Yatika to take this event forward.**