

11th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting 2025 Adopts Declaration Under Brazilian Presidency

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Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting held under Brazil's Presidency in Brasília on 25th April 2025. The meeting, convened under the slogan *"Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance"*, culminated in the adoption of a forward-looking declaration addressing two pivotal themes: **"Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work"** and **"The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition"**.



Sushri Karandlaje highlighted India's human-centric approach to technological transformation, aligning with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of *"Technology for Empowerment, Not Exclusion"*. She highlighted India's National Strategy for AI, which prioritizes ethical adoption, workforce upskilling, and sectoral applications in agriculture, healthcare, and education. Initiatives like FutureSkills Prime and the Namo Drone Didi program exemplify India's commitment to creating tech-enabled livelihoods, especially for rural women and youth. The National Career Service (NCS) platform, powered by AI, was showcased as a model for bridging skill gaps and connecting millions to employment opportunities.



On climate action, India emphasized its just transition framework, ensuring green growth translates into equitable job creation. The Sector Skill Council for Green Jobs (SSCGJ) and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were highlighted as transformative initiatives driving skilling and sustainable practices. India's achievement of reduction in GHG emissions (2020–2019) and its net-zero by 2070 pledge reinforced its climate leadership. Collaborative efforts with the ILO to protect workers' rights during this transition were also emphasized.

Key Outcomes of the BRICS Declaration

The declaration commits BRICS nations to:

1. **Promote inclusive AI policies** that balance innovation with worker protection.
2. **Advance social dialogue** to ensure fair climate transitions.
3. **Strengthen South-South cooperation** on labour governance, digital inclusion, and green job creation.

India's contributions were commended for aligning cutting-edge technological advancement with inclusive social welfare, reflecting Hon'ble Prime Minister's mantra of "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*". The meeting reaffirmed BRICS' collective resolve to build a future where no worker is left behind in the face of AI-driven disruption or climate challenges.

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