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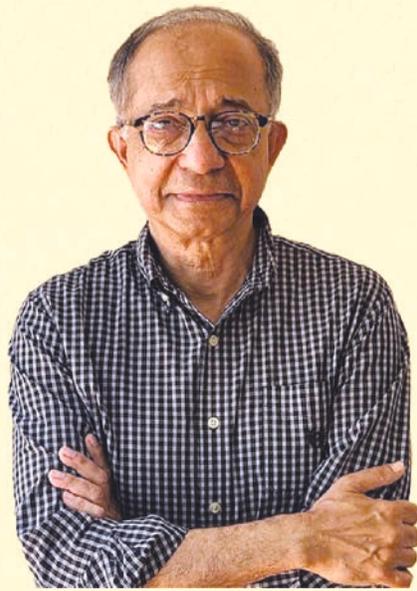
Youth Unemployment: Causes and Remedy

WEDNESDAY | 21 JANUARY 2026

Kaushik Basu

India's youth unemployment is extremely high and this is damaging economic well-being as well as our moral compass. What is the cause and what can we do about it? In answering this question, we have to note that overall unemployment in India is high but nowhere nearly as high as youth unemployment. This means that conventional solutions for the problem do not lie in fiscal and monetary policies, such as interest rate adjustments by the Reserve Bank of India. The lecture will argue that one prominent cause of the high youth unemployment has to do with the microeconomics of the labor market in India. The lecture will analyze the problem and suggest some correctives.





Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. From 2012 to 2016, he was Chief Economist of the World Bank and from 2009 to 2012 he served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India. He was president of the International Economic Association from 2017 to 2021. He is currently the N. R. Kamath Visiting Chair Professor at IIT Bombay. Educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the London School of Economics, Kaushik Basu has published widely in development economics, game theory and moral philosophy. His books include Analytical Development Economics, Blackwell Publishers, The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics, Princeton University Press, and Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C., Simon and Schuster. In 2021, he was awarded the Humboldt Research prize.

