



# South Asia Center for Labour Mobility and Migrants

under the aegis of



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES, MUMBAI

Public Lecture on

## The Garment Industry in Bangladesh Under COVID-19: Lessons from the Rana Plaza Disaster on How we Understand Worker Safety



**Dr. Sanchita Banerjee Saxena**

Director, Subir and Malini Chowdhury  
Center for Bangladesh Studies &  
Executive Director, Institute for South  
Asia Studies, University of California,  
Berkeley, USA

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the world's economy and supply chains worldwide. The ready-made garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh has been especially hard hit as consumer demand for apparel has plummeted, leading to global retailers cancelling orders and revising their sourcing strategies. To situate what is currently happening to the industry under this global pandemic, the lecture will draw some lessons from an earlier crisis in Bangladesh - from one of the worst industrial disasters in history, the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013. In this presentation, the speaker will focus specifically on the distorted notions of what constitutes safety for workers, primarily for women workers, which continue to perpetuate the cycle of labor violations for those at the very bottom of global supply chain. The talk will draw on evidence from a survey with BRAC University, Bangladesh where we interviewed 1,057 garment workers to understand how the pandemic had impacted their lives (Rabbani, A, Saxena, SB & Islam, MF, 2020).



**20 December 2022**



**11:45 am - 01:15 pm**



**3rd floor, Library  
building, IIPS**

### Meeting Details:

<https://iipsindiaorg.webex.com/j.php?MTID=m1206ebfc1565686a40ea7b3cfa439e88>

Meeting number: 2642 917 6366

Password: IIPS@2022

### Organizers:

**Prof. K.C Das, Prof. Archana K. Roy, Dr. Reshmi  
R.S & Dr. Kunal Keshri**

**Prof. K. S. James**  
Director & Senior Professor