

# Ford Plant Workers Protest against Planned Plant Closure

Recently, Ford Motors India has announced that it will close its Gujarat's Sanand Plant by the year end and its Chennai Plant by 2022. Ford entered India in the mid-1990s in the wake of liberalisation dreaming of a huge growth in middle and upper middle classes. Liberalisation proved disastrous not only to the majority of Indians but also to the dreams of Ford which failed to adapt to the Indian markets.

This is the third exit of a western automaker in the recent years after General motors and Harley-Davidson. These are some of the examples of how poor the idea of 'Make-In-India' was conceived and executed.

Ford claims that it has incurred \$2 billion operational loss in the last decade. This after obtaining many concessions on land and taxes apart from cheap labour. It has already exited another emerging market Brazil. Its recent announcement to invest \$30 billion by 2030 on electric vehicles could be the real reason for its exit. Even companies such as General Motors, Renault SA and Stellantis NV are moving out of unprofitable ventures and redirecting their capital to electrification and investments in more profitable technologies. This only proves that Capitalism runs wherever profits takes and doesn't care an iota for the people.

There are over 1200 workers in Sanand Plant alone. They are working there since 7 years and now suddenly their lives are thrown into jeopardy. They are now protesting at the plant demanding the government's intervention and the plants continuation.