

## **Abstract for the 12<sup>th</sup> Global Labour University Conference**

### **Topic: The State and Capital in India and Turkey: A Comparative Perspective**

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The similarities in terms of political development between India and Turkey are striking. How come a country like Turkey, geographically far from India, resembles each other? Amitav Ghosh's article plainly and convincingly demonstrates "that political developments in India and Turkey have occasionally mirrored each other is in some ways surprising, since the historical trajectories of the two republics have little in common" (Ghosh, 2016). Indeed, they have almost nothing in common, at least considering, among others, the empire heritage of Turkey and colonial past of India. However, the current resemblances are unmistakable. The resemblances stem from the circumstance that, as Ghosh discusses, "both are multi-ethnic and multi-religious, with very marked differences between regions" and these differences were attempted to mediate via secular ideas.

The Islamist/conservative Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its almost uncontested leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, came to power in the November 2002 elections with 32.56 percent of total votes and have remained in power since then. Likewise, The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India got 31.34 percent of the total votes polled in the General Elections of 2014 (Election Commission of India, 2014) and got majority in the Lower House of the Parliament to form a Government nominating Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister. In both the cases, the right-wing advancement has been heavily buttressed by different bourgeoisie fractions. Departing from the statement, this paper is proposed to shed light on the state-bourgeoisie relations in Turkey and in India in the recent past in a comparative perspective. This study draws on the primary and secondary data sources, including official bulletins, official gazette, newspaper reports, statistics and interviews with relevant actors. We strive to see the impact of this relation on the political and economic landscape. More importantly, we propose to highlight the state-bourgeoisie relations, which have been refashioned in the era of AKP and BJP and their impacts on labour at large. The contribution of this paper lies in the comparative perspective that throws some light on the prospective developments in India and Turkey based on present tendencies in the cultural political and economic landscape.