



The impact of Covid–19 on Jobs in India

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The Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing nationwide lockdown has exposed some alarming red flags across various sectors of the economy. While manufacturing activities across the textiles and clothing sector struggle to keep themselves afloat with payments deferred and movement of goods restricted, the food processing industry is dealing with structural problems of its own that have been aggravated by the stalling of economic activities. To worsen the situation, the migrant workforce, across the country, is in frenzy due to the lockdown. In a post-Covid scenario, a systematic and structural approach to these critical challenges will be crucial for building a resilient workforce and economy. The first edition of the ONW on “The impact of Covid–19 on Jobs in India” explores these emerging issues and recommends multi-pronged strategies for immediate, short and long term mitigation.

Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>What a workforce database could do for self-reliance <i>By Pradeep S. Mehta</i> Livemint May 21, 2020</p>	<p>While preparing for a post-lockdown recovery, our Union and state governments must realize that respect for our workforce and its resilience form a necessary precondition for the economy to attain self-reliance. More than seven weeks after the first lockdown and topsy-turvy waves of migration up and down the country, the Union government has finally arrived at a solution through a National Migrant Information System, which will allow such persons to be tracked so that their health can be checked and skills matched with job vacancies.</p>
<p>After Lockdown, Task of Marrying Industrial Operations and Social Distancing Begins <i>By Pradeep S Mehta, Sarthak Shukla and Trinayani Sen</i> The Wire May 10, 2020</p>	<p>As per estimates by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), around 400 million informal workers are at a risk of falling into deeper poverty levels in India. In such a situation, how does India ensure that the drivers of its economy do not become collateral damage of a pandemic? With the imposition of a sudden lockdown, there has been no effort by the state for the safe and smooth transit of migrant workers from their workplaces to their homes.</p>

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<p>Reclaiming lost glory: Systemic solutions are the need of the hour for modern Indian textile industry</p> <p><i>By Pradeep Mehta and Sarthak Shukla</i></p> <p>The Economic Times</p> <p>May 06, 2020</p>	<p>With factories shut, shipments stranded and payments delayed, due to Covid-19, the textile and clothing sector is going through dark times indeed. Is there a way out? According to estimates by Clothing and Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), the textile sector is looking at a potential job loss of one crore. However, this is not the first time that this sector has been going through rough patches.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Crisis Offers an Urgent and Much Needed Reset Point for India's Food Processing Industry</p> <p><i>By Pradeep Mehta and Sarthak Shukla</i></p> <p>The Wire</p> <p>April 06, 2020</p>	<p>The ministry of food processing recently announced the setting up of a task force to address some of the pressing concerns faced by the units. A closer look at some of these challenges highlights the need to understand the structural nature of the issues affecting the sector. These issues, although exposed and magnified by the lockdown, have much deeper roots. Before looking at the structural problems, it is important to note that the food processing sector is recognised as a sunrise sector in India. The \$600 billion industry currently employs close to 70 lakh workers, including around 15 lakh women.</p>
