



In 2016 visit to Qatar, Modi interacted with Indian workers at a camp in Doha.

550 Indians stranded in Qatar

Over 550 Indians, including 25 from Kerala, are among the approximately 1,200 employees of the Doha-based HKH W.L.L. stranded in the peninsular Arab nation for some months. HKH W.L.L. is one of the largest construction companies in Qatar. "About 116 staff members have not received their salary since last September. The 1,100-odd personnel in the labour wing have not received their salary since January, and overtime since December. Assurances that the dues will be settled have not been honoured. We are like refugees," an HKH W.L.L. employee from Kerala told *The Hindu* over the phone on Monday. Of the stranded Indians, 526 fall under the category of labourers. "We are unaware of the reason for the crisis. All kinds of rumours are going about. Work on three sites has come to a standstill since March. Many workers have been thrown out of their homes after they could not pay the rent and they are sharing the rooms of those who have company quarters," he says.

Domestic workers may come under social security network soon

Social organisations in the state are planning to set up a domestic workers' welfare board at the national, state and district levels to bring all domestic workers under the social security network, and have approached the central and state governments for the same. They also want allocation of a proper budget for the unorganised sector. In Vizag alone, there are nearly 3,000 domestic workers, 95 per cent of whom are women in the 18-60 age group. This unorganised sector has absolutely no social security — such as life insurance, fixed or minimum wages, leaves, loan facilities, education of children, right against social discrimination, abuse, health or family welfare schemes, grievance redressal mechanism etc. They also face various kinds of other problems and abuse.

Social benefits for construction workers soon

Construction workers and their families across the country will soon be entitled to social benefits such as life and disability insurance, health insurance, housing and pension. These benefits form part of the model welfare scheme prepared by the Central government for construction workers and is loosely based on the draft domestic workers policy. "We want to treat every section of workers equally. Once a building and construction worker (BOC) is registered with the board, he or she would be eligible to all the social benefits that the model welfare scheme provides," a labour ministry official said. The Supreme Court, in March this year, had directed the Centre to form a committee and lay out policies of social welfare for BOC workers. It had also asked the Centre to use the cess in the welfare of the workers.

Is India moving towards Lewis Turning Point fast?

Most of the ongoing debates on job-creation are predominantly revolved around the reigning Modi government. This debate fuelled after two independent experts, who got access to Employees' Provident Fund's data and released their report on the payroll data of around 80 million workers earlier this year. They estimated in the report that 7 million jobs will be added in 2017-18. However, the report has been widely criticised on various grounds such as duplication of payroll member's accounts, inactive accounts and payrolls added due to companies moving above threshold of more than 20 employees. The government should conduct a national survey-based employment-underemployment data

than relying on fragmented data to determine critical economic indicator. Further, the Ministry of Labour has also released six monthly payroll additions for September, 2017 and February, 2018, saying that 3.1 million new jobs were created during the period. The government has claimed that revised data has removed duplicates by linking the accounts with Aadhar and deleted inactive accounts but threshold issue remains the same. So, the debate is once again alive – whether these new additions to payrolls are a reflection of formalisation of jobs, which may have already existed or a creation of new jobs. This needs to be comprehended by analysing the historical prospective from the obtainable facts and figures.

Bengaluru-Based Recruitment Platform Skillate Reduces Hiring Time By 50% Using NLP & Deep Learning

With a mission to disrupt the hiring process through intelligent interventions, Skillate, a Bengaluru-based startup, is aiming to create an ecosystem that expedites the recruitment undertaking. The company, which was founded in 2016, is facilitating an employment platform which uses natural language processing (NLP) and deep learning algorithms to increase the efficiency of the overall process. *Analytics India Magazine* interacted with Bipul Vaibhav, CEO of Skillate to understand how they use artificial intelligence and deep learning for the platform, their journey so far and the challenges they have faced.

NALCO signs MoU with the Ministry of Mines, sets target of 9,350 crore

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Mines, setting a target of generating revenues of Rs 9,350 crore from operations for FY 2018-19, which is 15% higher than last year. In terms of production target, the MoU aims to achieve alumina output of 2.1 million tonne with 100% capacity utilisation and an optimum aluminium production of 4.15 lakh tonne. It also sets a target of reduction in net carbon consumption as part of improvement in production efficiency, apart from giving thrust to commercialisation of new R&D products. The state-owned aluminium major has also set a capital expenditure (capex) target of Rs 1,100 crore for the year 2018-19. As per the MoU, the expenses will be on a number of projects including the one million tonne capacity 5th stream in its refinery, development of Utkal D & E coal blocks, wind power projects, joint venture projects and on modernization & upgradation of plant equipment. In another strategic move on the human resource front, target is also set for assessment of employees through People Capability Maturity Model (PCMM) and implementation of online human resource management system. The targets will enable the company to synchronize its workforce and skill set in line with the new corporate plan.

To make Indian engineers more employable, govt plans to train teachers

The central government has a new plan to deliver better quality graduates in engineering and other technical fields — by improving the standard of teachers. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which falls under the ministry of human resource development, has come up with a detailed policy for training teachers in engineering, management and pharmacy colleges. Industry surveys have in recent times pointed to the low employability rate of Indian engineers and management graduates. But so far, there was no training programme for technical teachers. Most of the faculty members who taught at technical institutions were postgraduates or PhDs in their respective domains, but were not trained to teach.

Three million new jobs by 2030 to offset employment loss due to rising heat: Report

Projected increase in temperature will lead to around 2,59,000 job losses in India by 2030, especially in carbon-and resource-intensive industries, but those are expected to be offset by creation of around 3 million jobs as the country moves towards adoption of sustainable practices, including changes in the energy mix, the projected growth in the use of electric vehicles and increase in energy efficiency in existing and future buildings, the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) World Employment and Social Outlook Report said. "The net increase of approximately 2.8 million jobs will be the result of the adoption of sustainable practices, including changes in the energy mix, the projected growth in the use of electric vehicles, and increases in energy efficiency in existing and future buildings," the report said. The projected increase in temperature, as per ILO, will result in heat stress and reduce the total number of working hours. "Estimates combining a global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the 21st century and labour force trends suggest that, by 2030, the percentage of total hours of work lost will rise to 5.3 per cent, a productivity loss equivalent to 30.8 million full-time jobs," the report said.

