



Women in the workforce—no role for public policy

The International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) Indian Labour Market Update of July 2017 puts the Indian labour force at 472 million. The World Bank estimates the number to be a little over 520 million as of 2017. That is about 40% of the population. In the US, the labour force is about 50% of the population. There is scope for expansion of the labour force in India. But if people join the labour force and are willing to work, they should also be qualified and able to work, and find work too, and those jobs should pay well. There are big gaps in all these areas in India.

End contract system: BJP

The Sikkim unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday demanded the abolition of the labour contract system within one month, terming it "discriminatory, inhuman and biased". In a memorandum submitted to the secretary of the state labour department, the BJP insisted that the labour contract system must be abolished within a month. "The labour contract system prevalent in Sikkim is highly discriminatory, inhumane and biased which needs to be abolished at the earliest...We, therefore, give an ultimatum of one month to the labour department to end this cruel system," said D. B. Chauhan, the BJP state unit president, in a memorandum submitted to the secretary of the state labour department.

Skill India and Make In India: Making the most of India's structural change

The April 2018 World Economic Outlook (WEO) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discusses the trends in manufacturing jobs and their implications. Chapter 3, by Bertrand

Gruss and Natalija Novta, concludes that the decline in manufacturing jobs is not necessarily a cause of concern. The belief that a smaller manufacturing sector implies slower economic growth and a scarcity of well-paying jobs for low- and middle-skilled workers—therefore contributing to worsening inequality—might not hold true. The authors, in fact, provide evidence that the declining share of manufacturing jobs need not hurt growth or raise inequality, provided the right policies are in place.

India only major economy with talent surplus by 2030: Study

As increasing global talent crisis is likely to cost different countries \$8.5 trillion by 2030. India is the only major world economy with a potential for talent surplus, as per a study by a global executive search firm. India may even challenge America's position in technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) sector, said the 'Global Talent Crunch' study by Korn Ferry International Inc. "Left unchecked, the financial impact of this talent shortage amounts to \$8.5 trillion in unrealised annual revenue globally over the next 12 years," it pointed out. "Interestingly, the country that's at the other end of the spectrum is India. The world's sixth largest economy is the only one in the study which will have a talent surplus by 2030, with 245 million more workers in the next 12 years," it said.

Tribal youths spark a housing revolution

In a rare instance of true tribal empowerment in action, a tribal housing construction society formed by around 50 enterprising tribal youths at Muttill is on the way, albeit in baby steps, to become a construction major and is rewriting the way in which tribal housing projects are being implemented in Wayanad. The Muttill Tribal Welfare Society formed by tribal youths— most of whom victims of cheating by benami contractors who had made it a practice of abandoning construction of houses midway after duping the tribal beneficiaries of the sanctioned funds — now has their order books full. They have become the builder of choice for Muttill and Kaniyambetta panchayats along with government agencies in the district.

All traditional skills should be formally recognised: Pradhan

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said all traditional skills should be formally recognised and proper training needs to be imparted, which can translate into further economic growth of Odisha. Addressing a conclave in Odisha, the Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister said the state has abundant natural resources and a large coastline. According to him, Odisha has emerged as the most preferred destination for overseas investors, owing to its natural wealth, which includes production of one fifth of India's coal, a quarter of its iron ore, a third of its bauxite reserves and most of the chromite. "Skill development is a national dialogue and there have been isolated efforts to promote skill development in the State thus far; but it is our endeavour now to join the dots and have a concrete, comprehensive and collective effort with respect to skill development," Pradhan said, according to an official statement.

Revival package ignites Kerala cashew workers' hopes

To breathe life into the ailing cashew industry, which provides livelihood to nearly 3 lakh women belonging to the marginalised sections of society, the Kerala State Planning Board is currently finalising a workable business model. The proposal, submitted by the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI), includes recommendations to reduce processing cost, restructure existing loans of processing units, provide fresh loans to reopen them and provide government support for mechanisation.

Apparel package led to additional investments, job creation: Survey

The Rs 6,000-crore special package announced in 2016 for the textiles and apparel sector generated extra investment of around Rs 2,500 crore and additional employment of around 1 lakh in the first twelve months of its rollout, a report said today. The findings of the survey conducted by the Apparel Export Promotin Council (AEPC) also suggested that Remission of State Levies (RoSL) had a positive impact on the garment industry. "After the implementation of the RoSL in September, 2016, India's readymade garment (RMG) exports increased by 2.7 per cent in value terms and grown by 6.4 per cent in volume terms,"AEPC said. "The Special Package for textiles has not only boosted exports but has also helped in increasing the investments," it added.

How many factory workers in India have lost their jobs to robots?

The number of robots deployed by Indian firms has witnessed a 200-fold increase since the turn of the 21st century. Yet, the stock of industrial robots in India in 2016 at 16,026 accounts for barely 0.1% of India's industrial workforce. These are the striking findings of a first-of-its-kind study on the use of industrial robots in India by Sunil Mani, professor and director at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram. Mani's analysis based on the latest data from the International Federation of Robotics (IFR) and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) shows that the density of robots per 10,000 manufacturing workers has increased from less than 1 in 2000 to almost 10 in 2016.

HeroMotocorp sacks around 30 employees for ethics code violation

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp has removed around 30 employees for violation of the company's code of conduct, according to sources. The executives were found fudging travel expense bills, accepting personal favours, gifts and other benefits from some of vendors, suppliers and dealers in violation of the company's internal 'code of conduct', the sources said. The executives were given marching orders after "thorough investigations" into the allegations against them, the sources added. When contacted, a Hero MotoCorp official confirmed the development and told PTI: "All due legal procedures were followed before taking the final action. Third-party independent investigators were appointed to look into these cases once the anomalies were detected in the activity record of these executives." Hero MotoCorp's management was unanimous in its view that the concerned employees could not continue in the company, once it was established that they had violated the code of conduct, the official said.

