

The Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Make-In-India Initiative

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Abstract:

As India completes a momentous 75 years of her Independence from the cathartic British rule, it is important to reflect upon the words of Jawaharlal Nehru stating that, the midnight of 14-15 August 1947 unleashed-

‘a tryst with destiny...a moment...which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.’

That presently, India, being on the cusp of all-out transformation is again ‘stepping out from the old to the new’, with all of this happening in the backdrop of a devastating pandemic, it is pertinent to draw upon the drivers that seek to bring about these structural transformations. One such driver has been the ‘Make In India’ initiative launched by the Narendra Modi Government on 25 September 2014. The primary aim of the project is to spearhead the growth of manufacturing sector, skill enhancement and job creation by opening up the sector to foreign investments and incentivizing these investments into manufacturing.

*However, whether the project has been able to achieve its stated aims and objectives after nearly 7 years of its existence, especially amidst a raging pandemic, remains to be gauged. Therefore, the authors of this paper, titled “**Make-in-India project: Success or Failure?**” shall try to look into a major question of its efficacy: “**The socio-economic impact of ‘Make in India’ project in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic**”.*

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