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## **COVID-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Growth and Performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India: An Overview**

Tushar Kanti Das  
Assistant Professor in Commerce  
Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya

### **Introduction**

The outbreak of novel corona virus-COVID-19 was first reported at Wuhan city in the Hubei Province of China on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019. In India, it was identified on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Thrissur, Kerala. So, more than three years have passed since its inception. Lockdown as a consequence of covid-19 started in India on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The people of India faced four phases lockdown and several unlock/ semi lockdown phases. The unprecedented pandemic Covid-19 has impacted almost all the sectors of economy but the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) seems to be the worst affected. The large scale industries are highly rely on the supply made by the MSME sector and the MSME sector largely depends on the demand of the large scale industries .So they are interconnected and interdependent. MSMEs are playing an important role in overall economic and social development in India where millions of people are unemployed or underemployed and facing the problems of poverty. MSMEs are providing immediate large- scale employment with lower investment and proves to be a second largest manpower employer after agriculture. It provides employment to over 110 million people and accounts for one third of total manufacturing output and nearly 40% of Indian export. Due to COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown, the large scale industries as well as MSMEs have been severely affected. In this paper an attempt been made to study the impact of COVID -19 on MSMEs in India and the corrective measures taken by the Government to revive this sector.

### **What is MSMEs?**

The Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has been renamed as Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with the Introduction of MSMED Act 2006. This act provides the first ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of 'enterprise' – which comprises both manufacturing and service entities. It defines medium enterprises for the first time and integrating the three tiers of the enterprises namely, **micro small and medium**.

**Micro** enterprises are generally artisan- based, located mostly in rural and semi – urban areas. These enterprises use local skill and resources and sell their products locally. These