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Employment declines at sharpest pace in South Korea in May since late 2008 - Nikkei South Korea Manufacturing PMI

The health of the South Korean manufacturing sector deteriorated in May, according to latest survey data. New order receipts from both domestic and foreign clients declined, leading to a fall in production. Consequently, absent demand pressures motivated firms to cut staff numbers. In line with the decline in operating conditions, business confidence eased to a seven-month low. Nonetheless, firms increased selling charges at the fastest rate in four months amid greater input costs, particularly for oil and labour. The headline Nikkei South Korea Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index™, a composite single figure indicator of manufacturing performance derived from five key survey indices, recorded 48.9 in May, up from 48.4 in April, to signal a third successive month of deteriorating business conditions in the South Korean manufacturing sector. Although the latest decline was softer than that seen in the previous month, it was the second-greatest in 14 months.

Modi government anti-labour, says CITU

All India CITU president Hemalatha blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for changing Labour Acts in favour of corporates at CITU 48th Foundation Day celebration held at Cherlapally industrial area on Thursday. Hemalatha unveiled the CITU flag and administered pledge to the workers. She recalled the history of the trade union; its formation; its achievements in 48 years; rise in membership from six lakh to 68 lakh and trade union's role in protecting workers rights. The president announced nationwide Jagaran programme on August 14 and Chalo Delhi programme on September 5 to protect workers' rights from the anti-labour policies of the Modi government.

Strike cripples banking sector on day 2

Almost 83% of employees at nationalised banks participated in the 48-hour bank strike that ends at 6 am on Friday morning, according to data provided by bank managements to the Labour Ministry.

The strike was called by the United Forum of Bank Unions, an umbrella body of nine unions, after a failure in wage negotiations. Unions claim that the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) -- which represents bank managements -- was only willing to offer a two

per cent hike in salaries, citing a poor financial scenario for banks. Negotiations are likely to resume within a fortnight, they said. "The strike was total. Ten lakh employees participated from 21 public sector banks, 12 private sector banks, as well as clerical staff from foreign banks. More than 80,000 bank branches were forced to keep their shutters down on Thursday," said S. Nagarajan, general secretary of the All India Bank Officers Association. He added that digital transactions had also taken a hit. "NEFT and RTGS are impossible without centralised banking solutions employees who are needed to do the decoding," he said.

Physically demanding jobs may shorten men's lives

Despite much evidence that getting lots of physical activity bodes well for long-term health, when it comes to physical labour on the job, the opposite might be true. Researchers found that men whose jobs involve a lot of physical labour are 18 per cent more likely to die prematurely than workers who sit at desks most of the day. The analysis looked at data from 17 previous studies examining the link between longevity and activity levels at work, including a total of 193,696 adults followed for an average of almost 20 years. Overall, 29,639 people, or 19 per cent, died during the study period. "We've known for a while already that physically demanding work can be bad for you," said lead study author Pieter Coenen, an occupational health researcher at VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam. But the idea that it might drive people to an early grave is relatively new, Coenen said. While the study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to prove how activity levels at work might directly affect longevity, the results suggest there's something inherently different about manual labour and leisure-time exercise, Coenen added.

ITI pass-outs to be treated at par with 10 plus two in Bihar

Students passing out of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) in Bihar will henceforth be treated as at par with those having cleared their plus two exams, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said today. The decision was taken at a meeting of the state labour department here, which was attended among others by labour minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and the department's Principal Secretary Deepak Kumar Singh, among others. "Those who get enrolled at ITIs, often are unable to pursue further education. The state government would, therefore, treat certificates issued to them as being at par with 10 plus two", Sushil was quoted as saying in a release. Speaking about the state government's skill development measures, the Deputy CM said a number of ITI students were being provided training through computers and webcasting.

BMRCL employees threaten to hold strike on Monday

BMRCL Employees' Union has threatened to hold indefinite strike on Monday (June 4), after the reconciliation meeting between the employees and the management failed to resolve issues. The meeting was chaired by Ganapathi Bhat, regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in Yeshwanthpur. The union put forth six demands including wage hike and night-duty allowance, recognition to the union as sole collective bargaining agent and abolition of contract labour system in BMRCL among others.

The BMRCL has stuck to his stand that it would not be able to increase wages due to its poor financial strength. "We have been incurring losses. As per the 2016-17 audit, BMRCL has incurred net loss of Rs 457.88 crore. The utility is required to repay senior debt and sub-ordinate debt. Adding any recurring burden will not be in the interest of the organisation and the people who it serves," official response from BMRCL said.

