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New Child Labour Law is a Mirage, Inimical: Supreme Court Judge Ranjan Gogoi

Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who is next in line to become the Chief Justice of India (CJI), has called the new Child Labour Act a “mirage”, pointing out that the 2016 law in fact allows child labour. “The law was inadequate to begin with, now, it is inimical too,” lamented the senior Supreme Court judge as he recently spoke at an event to inaugurate a new book by Nobel laureate and child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi. A copy of the ten-page speech delivered by Justice Gogoi has been accessed by CNN-News18, wherein the judge raised serious questions over the laws and governance as regards to protecting children. The judge cited the 2016 amendment to the Child Labour Act and minced no words in criticising its provision that allows child labour in “family or family enterprises”. Justice Gogoi underlined that on one hand, the Right To Education Act seeks to provide free and compulsory education to all children between 6 and 14 years, but on the other, a modification in the Child Labour Act “formalises employment of children between 0 and 14 years in family enterprises.” He wondered why the child labour law should not be considered a “disservice” to the objectives of the RTE Act, and added: “The 2016 amendment to the Child Labour Act, for example, is a mirage to say the least”.

Construction workers to march in protest

Construction workers will hold a protest march to press for their demands including the scrapping of the proposed Mid-Day meal scheme, disbursal of Rs 2 lakh as compensation to families of construction workers who die while on duty and a monthly pension of Rs 3,000. The protest will be held on June 5 from Bandra railway station to the Labour Commissioner’s office in Bandra (East). According to the Maharashtra Construction Workers Federation, there are over 350 families of deceased construction workers to whom Rs 2 lakh compensation hasn’t been paid. Their other demands include regular monthly payment of Rs 2,000 to these families and interest free loan of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 7 lakh for construction workers in urban and rural areas respectively, to build houses for themselves.

Asian shares rise as upbeat US jobs data offsets trade worries

Asian shares rose to their highest level in two-and-a-half-weeks on Monday as strong US jobs data offset worries that tariff wars between the United States and the rest of the world could drag on global economic growth. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 1.0 per cent to a high last seen on May 17, while Japan’s Nikkei rose 1.3 per cent. Tech names such as Tencent and Taiwan Semiconductor

Manufacturing were among the biggest gainers. On Wall Street on Friday, US tech shares soared, pushing up the Nasdaq Composite 1.51 per cent to 7,554, near its record closing high of 7,588 marked in March. In contrast, the S&P 500, which rose 1.08 per cent on Friday, was still about 140 points off its record peak of 2,872 set in January as concerns about trade frictions curtailed many other shares. Finance leaders of the closest US allies vented anger over the Trump administration's metal import tariffs on Saturday, setting up a heated fight at a G7 summit next week in Quebec. In a rare show of division among the normally harmonious club of wealthy nations, the six other G7 member countries issued a statement asking U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to convey their "unanimous concern and disappointment" about the tariffs to President Donald Trump.

Bengaluru Metro strike from tonight hinges on court verdict

While the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has gone all out to ensure smooth operations of trains on Monday with huge manpower and security support from the state government in the face of the indefinite strike threat, the Bangalore Metro Rail Employees Union was closeted all Sunday discussing on how to go about the proposed strike from 9.30 pm (of Monday). The strike call now fully depends on the high court verdict on the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA). The hearing is likely to take place around noon on Monday. The state government has already notified Metro as an Essential Service under the Karnataka ESMA Act 2013 and the Centre is also set to bring it under the Central ESMA shortly. The union has challenged the legality of invoking ESMA. In a similar hearing in the past, the court had asked them to hold many rounds of discussions to resolve the issue. Union vice president Suryanarayana Murthy said, "None of the 35 issues we raised have been solved by the management. If the court verdict is in our favour, we will go on an indefinite strike from the third shift on Monday."

CITU protest at Synthite Industries' plant turns violent in Kerala

The Synthite Industries' plant at Kadayiruppu witnessed dramatic events in the early hours of Sunday after a flash protest held by the Synthite Industries Employees' Union (affiliated to CITU), turned violent. The Synthite Industries spokesperson alleged the protesters blocked the employees from entering the factory and physically assaulted them. A supervisor was admitted to a private hospital after he was manhandled. Protesters are also accused of destroying the company ambulance and other vehicles parked in the vicinity of the factory. The Puthencruz police station registered a case based on the statements of the supervisor and the ambulance driver. The protesters' act of blocking the employees to enter the company has found its mention in the police report. Though the police have stationed a unit at the factory, the protesters continued with the sit-in outside the Synthite unit at Kadayiruppu.

What's holding Indians back? Parents' income and education levels

Indians are more constrained by the circumstances they are born into than the citizens of five other large developing countries—Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria—a World Bank report released in May 2018 said. The income of Indians is more dependent on their parents' income and educational levels, restricting their chances of rising above the socio-economic strata they are born in. The report, "Fair Progress: Economic Mobility across Generations Around the World", measured intergenerational mobility by comparing the income and education levels of one generation with those of their parents, and relative mobility by comparing the difference between generations across income and educational levels. "It is about fairness. Do you have a chance to get ahead in society regardless of where you are from?" said Ambar Narayan, the lead economist studying poverty and equity at the World Bank, and a co-author of the report, while explaining the basic query the report pursues. Mobility is important for the long-term growth of a country. "It is not an efficient society if you are not rewarded for your own ability and potential," he said.

