

EFI - CII Daily News

Tuesday | June 5, 2018



A welfare scheme for 500 mn Indians: Is this Modi's big plan for 2019?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to extend a welfare program to India's 500 million workers as he bids for re-election in 2019, but he has limited time and resources to implement the ambitious plan. PM Modi aims to initially provide three programs — old age pension, life insurance and maternity benefits, while leaving out unemployment, child support and other benefits — to most working citizens, government officials said, asking not to be identified as discussions are private. While it could translate into significant political gains to offset the challenges he faces in the lead up to the national poll, it is likely to add pressure on India's fiscal deficit, already one of the widest in Asia.

Maiyas' employees protest before labour commissioner

Around 80 employees of Maiyas Food and Beverages held a demonstration before the Labour Commissioner's office in Bengaluru on Monday demanding intervention to ensure their salaries are paid. The employees have not been paid for the past three months. The six-year-old company employs around 350 people in its factory alone.

2 Maoists arrested in US Nagar for 'fanning labour unrest'

Udham Singh Nagar police late on Sunday arrested two members of the 'underground squad' affiliated with the CPI (Marxist-Leninist New Democracy) party and seized prohibited Maoist literature, books and pamphlets from them. Police said that they were allegedly trying to stoke labour unrest in the area. One of them, a member of the Uttarakhand zonal committee of the banned outfit, was carrying a reward of Rs 10,000 on his head.

Poland's biggest builder calls on government to address labour shortage

Poland's construction industry needs an extra 100,000 workers to handle a surge in public sector projects and save more companies from bankruptcy, the head of the country's biggest builder told Reuters. Dariusz Blocher, chief executive of Budimex, which is owned by Spain's Ferrovial, called on the Polish government to increase visas for construction workers from non-EU countries in eastern Europe, such as Ukraine or Georgia, to 3 years, from just 6-9 months at present. Poland has started more public infrastructure projects in the past two years to build roads and railways in particular, as it uses up funds received from the European Union under the current EU budget which ends in 2020. Blocher said construction companies are struggling to take advantage of the new business as they can't hire enough workers. Together with rising material costs, that is pressuring profits and could see a repeat of problems seen in 2011 when many construction firms in Poland ran into trouble as a series of contracts linked to the Euro 2012 soccer tournament went sour due to a surge in costs.

AITUC accuses Modi of running 'anti-worker' govt; threatens 40-day campaign

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of running an "anti-worker government", leading trade union body AITUC today said it will launch a 40-day nationwide campaign to amass people support to vote out the BJP in the next Lok Sabha elections. Speaking to reporters here, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) leader Amarjeet Kaur also alleged that "Modi has put the nation on sale" and his government does not believe in any dialogue with the unions.

Employees' Union spurns overture; vows to continue stir at Kerala Synthite plant

The ongoing labour strike at the Synthite Industries' plant at Kadayiruppu here took a turn for the worse on Monday with the CITU-affiliated Synthite Industries Employees' Union barring some 400 employees from entering the factory premises. Consequently, the entire functioning of the plant came to a grinding halt. Now, though, all eyes are on the July 7 conciliatory talks convened by the Labour Commissioner in Thiruvananthapuram. According to the company spokesperson, the Employees' Union (CITU) blocked the employees from entering the factory. The employees later staged a sit-in at the Kadayiruppu Junction against the actions of the Left trade union.

International Labour Organization chief calls for urgent action against plastic

Plastic has become the workhorse of the modern economy and provides significant benefits but the current use has many drawbacks, International Labour Organization (ILO) Director General Guy Ryder has said. He said in a statement, released before World Environment Day: "More than 32 per cent of plastic packaging escapes collection systems. Most of it ends up in landfills, dumps or simply in the environment -- in cities, in the oceans or farmlands", Xinhua reported. The ILO head on Monday said that the challenge is to transform the "make-use-dispose" plastics' economy into a circular economy, based on recycling. "We also need to reduce our consumption of single-use or disposable plastic," he said.

Women Workers in Garment Factories of Walmart, Other Brands Face Violence Daily: Report

Women working in factories in Asia (including India) that manufacture garments for global brands — retail giant Walmart and fast-fashion brands H&M and Gap — face gender-based violence on a **daily** basis, says new research by the Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA). The three separate factory-level research reports by the AFWA, in collaboration with other workers' rights organisations, document the routine violence — from verbal abuse to sexual harassment and physical violence — faced by women workers in the garment supply chains of three firms. Garment supplier factories in Asia are disproportionately staffed by poor women engaged in short-term, low-skill and low-wage employment under appalling working conditions. Most of them are in subordinate positions as operators of machines, checkers and helpers. Rarely do the women hold managerial or supervisory positions in these factories, says the research.

Wide Gender Pay Gap For Similarly Qualified Indian Women And Men

Women in India earn less than men even if they have the same educational qualifications, data from a recent government report show. In urban areas, a woman with a graduate degree gets paid Rs 690.68 per day in the transport and storage sector while a man gets 30% more at Rs 902.45. In agriculture, an illiterate woman worker in rural India receives Rs 88.2 per day while an illiterate man receives Rs 128.52, which is 45% more. However, there are some sectors in which women get paid more than men, although by smaller margins. In the construction sector in rural areas, for instance, women (irrespective of the level of education) are paid Rs 322 on average per day while men are paid Rs 279.15, which is Rs 43 or 13% less. In urban areas, in the transport and storage sector, women are paid Rs 455 on average per day, irrespective of the level of education, while men are paid Rs 443 per day—Rs 12 or 2.7% less.

