

## EFI - CII Daily News

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### **Japan to open door for unskilled workers to meet labour crunch: Nikkei**

Japan plans to ease restrictions on unskilled foreign workers in five sectors hit hard by labour shortfalls, the Nikkei business daily said on Wednesday, as the country confronts the challenges of a shrinking and ageing population. The government hopes to attract more than 500,000 foreign labourers to nursing, shipbuilding, lodging as well as construction and agricultural industries by around 2025, the newspaper said. Prospective foreign workers in those sectors can acquire work permits for up to five years by passing occupational and Japanese language tests starting next April, in which they will be required to demonstrate they are capable of understanding slow conversations and conducting basic tasks, the paper said. A strengthening economy since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office in 2012, rebuilding after the 2011 tsunami, a construction boom ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a shrinking and ageing population have aggravated Japan's labour shortage. A ban on unskilled foreign workers has raised concerns the labour crunch would cap economic growth in the world's third-largest economy.

### **German jobless rate hits record low in May**

Germany's jobless numbers dropped more than expected in May, pushing down the unemployment rate to a record low, data showed on Wednesday, reflecting the robustness of a labour market that has become a key driver of a consumer-led upswing. The Federal Labour Office said the seasonally adjusted jobless total fell by 11,000 to 2.358 million. That compared with an expected drop of 10,000 forecast in a Reuters poll. The unemployment rate fell to 5.2 percent in May, the Office said. That was the lowest since German reunification in 1990. "Unemployment and underemployment have decreased again, employment within the scope of the social security system keeps rising and labour demand is still high," Labour Office head Detlef Scheele said in a statement. "The upward trend on the labour market is continuing, albeit at a slower pace than in the winter months," he added.

### **Over 3,000 Canadian Pacific Workers Go On Strike**

More than 3,000 employees at Canadian Pacific Railway staged a walk-out late Tuesday night, threatening various industries dependent on cargo shipments by the country's second-largest railroad operator. Talks between Teamsters Canada and Canadian Pacific are ongoing and the labour union is working with federal mediators to reach a negotiated agreement, Teamsters said on Tuesday, adding that commuter train services will not be affected. Industry bodies representing the mining, aluminium and fertilizer industries said the strike would hurt their operations. Fertilizer Canada asked the government to take steps to mitigate the impact of the strike in the middle of the spring planting season. Though the strike will not hurt commuter train schedules, it comes at a time of tighter rail capacity in Canada, with CP and rival Canadian National Railway facing strong demand for shipments of grain, potash and other commodities.



### **3 dead, 1 hurt as boiler of steel plant explodes in Wada**

Three labourers were killed and one injured when a boiler of their steel plant making rods out of scrap in Wada taluka of Palghar district exploded on Wednesday. The workers were engaged in manufacturing high strength reinforcement bars at the Messers Torna Ispat company at Abitghar village in Wada at around 3.30 pm. The boiler shot its boiling point and began leaking before it exploded. The dead have been identified as Nilesh Yadav (28), Sunny Verma (28) and Sanjay Gupta (27). The injured Dinesh Yadav (35) is under treatment. The Wada police said that the plant owners will be questioned. Officials from the Director of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH) visited the plant.

### **ESIC to open 'dispensary cum branch office' in every district**

The labour ministry today said the state insurer Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided to open Dispensary cum Branch Office in every district of the country to strengthen medical services. Besides this, some very important decisions were taken towards improvements in service delivery mechanism of the ESIC in its 174th meeting in New Delhi yesterday under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar, a labour ministry statement said. To strengthen medical services in all the districts of the country, the decision for opening of one ESIC Dispensary cum Branch Office (DCBO) in every district of the country was taken in the meeting, the statement said. DCBO will provide primary medical care, referrals for secondary medical care, scrutiny of bills of secondary care referrals, etc besides distribution of drugs to Modified Employer Utilisation Dispensary, IMPs (Insurance Medical Practitioners) in the district, payment of cash benefits, survey work for coverage in the district.

### **Analysing 101 Companies' Statements on Modern Slavery – Here's the Verdict**

Modern slavery includes human trafficking, servitude and forced labour, and tens of millions of people around the world are thought to be affected. It affects people in both developing countries and developed countries, including the UK. Businesses can play a major role in either facilitating modern slavery or eradicating it. Yet firms are addressing modern slavery in their supply chains in many different ways, and the ways in which they report on their activity is sometimes vague and not particularly helpful. That's the main finding from our new research into modern slavery business reporting in response to recent UK legislation. Awareness of the problem of modern slavery led to the passing of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015. The law requires businesses that supply goods or services with a turnover in excess of £36m to issue an annual slavery and human trafficking statement. This should outline the steps taken to ensure slavery is not occurring in any part of the business and, importantly, supply chain where it is harder to track if workers are trafficked or trapped into working in poor conditions. The emphasis on the supply chain raises the stakes for organisations substantially. Their statements have to be made publicly available and be approved by the organisation's leaders.

