



Employers violating labour rules in Delhi face fines, jail terms as Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to AAP govt to amend Minimum Wages Act

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Delhi government's Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act under which employers violating labour rules in the city will now face a fine ranging from Rs 20,000-50,000 and jail term between one to three years. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the amended law will act as a "strong deterrent" against the employers who do not pay full minimum wages. The Department of Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs of the Delhi government has issued a notification, making it mandatory for employers to pay remuneration either electronically or through cheques, except in some special circumstances.

Accolade for Labour Department

Expressing satisfaction over the extension of benefits to the labourers by the Labour Department and for adopting various measures for the welfare of labourers, newly formed Co-ordinating Committee of All Manipur Tailoring Training Center under the Labour Board/Department said that the State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, has proved that the age old Labour Department is still working for the benefits of the people and hope that the department will continue to dole out new scheme for the well being of the labourers. Speaking to the media in a press meet held at Press Club today, Th Hemajit, Co-ordinator of Co-ordinating Committee of All Manipur Tailoring Training Center, said that in the last 20 years people hardly knew that a Labour Department exists in the State. However, under the new Govt, with the appointment of a new Chairperson of Labour Board, all the labourers have started enjoying the benefits that were not known in the time of previous Govts.

Government misusing funds meant for construction labour, Dalit welfare: BJP

ACB registers case into 'scam' in Delhi Labour Department

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday attempted to corner the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the wake of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to get to the bottom of an alleged scam in the Delhi Labour Department.

'Fake registration'

Terming it the "construction labour fund scam," the Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari at a press conference here alleged that in the FIR lodged by the ACB revealed that the Arvind Kejriwal government had first enrolled its party workers as construction labourers following which it got a "Fake Labour Board" registered in their names.

Traffickers recruit child labour as Indian schools break for summer, campaigners warn

As schools break for summer, human traffickers across India are convincing impoverished parents to send their children to work over the holidays in factories and farms, campaigners said. Anti-trafficking groups are urging the government to crack down on child labour during the two-month break, warning that many children never return to school once they start working. "In this season, playgrounds and neighbourhood shops become hunting grounds for traffickers," said Kuralamuthan Thandavarayan of the International Justice Mission, an anti-trafficking charity. "They track children from poor families and convince parents that it is a waste of time to allow their children to play or stay home when they can earn instead." There are an estimated 10.1 million workers

between the ages of 5 and 14 in India, according to the International Labour Organization.

Formation of wages panel: labour unions decide to approach court

Trade unions in **Maharashtra** will be approaching the Bombay High Court as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has failed to form the Minimum Wages Advisory Committee (MWAC) after it assumed power in October 2014. This has resulted in no increase of minimum wages for workers of 32 industries. Sources in the labour department told *The Hindu* that the file regarding appointments to the MWAC has been pending with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) for the last six months. "We had written a letter seeking the government's response on non-formation of the MWAC. The government neither responded to us nor issued a statement about the development. The formation of the committee is mandated under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and therefore we have decided to seek the High Court's intervention," D.L. Karad, national vice-president and state president of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), said.

'Privacy is a human right': Microsoft's Satya Nadella

Declaring privacy as a human right, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has asserted that the tech giant would ensure that the user is "always in control" of their data and its use. Nadella's comments assumes significance amid the storm over Cambridge Analytica's links with the 2016 Trump campaign and the way the British political consulting firm illegally harvested data on millions of Facebook users. In his keynote address to the annual Microsoft Build 2018 conference here attended by thousands of software developers, including several from India, Nadella said computing is now getting embedded in every person, place and thing. "The world is becoming a computer. Computing is getting embedded in every person, place and thing" and all are being transformed, the 50-year-old Indian-origin CEO said yesterday. At the same time, Nadella called for greater integration of ethical values and principles that protects individuals' privacy, human values and democracy. He said one has to develop a set of principles that "guide the choices we make, because the choices we make is what's going to define the future".

Our focus is largely on getting local talent closer to the clients, says Cognizant's Debashis Chatterjee

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Nasdaq-listed IT services firm, Cognizant, which has a large employee base in India, performed well in the January-March quarter and provided a full-year guidance which is better than industry estimates. Debashis Chatterjee, president, global delivery, Cognizant, tells FE's Pradeesh Chandran that the company is also looking at localisation of its talent.

A digital platform to address unemployability

It is not the lack of opportunities but how one applies the mind to address a challenge that paves way for a career. The launch of an app, D4EClub (Digitally for Engineers), on Tuesday was a platform to address the issue of unemployability and ways to improve engineering education in the country. Speakers unanimously advocated the idea of entrepreneurship that would not only provide jobs but also help sustain the small and medium enterprises. Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who launched the app, said with technology evolving continuously there were plenty of opportunities to launch new ventures. "Don't be disheartened. There is future. India has a large ecosystem of start-ups that depends on small and medium enterprises for sustenance," he said.

