

Workers connect...

Looking Back at 2017

2017 was not like any other year with its ups and downs. 2017 has been a year of relentless attack against working people. The year began with the economy and all citizens reeling under the impact of demonetization. Growth in GDP fell to 5.7% after 4 months of demonetization (March-June 2017). The process of demonetization cost India around 128 billion rupees (CMIE). Demonetisation hit 80% of small businesses - the growth rate of micro industry dropped as low as 1%. The liquidity crunch resulting from demonetisation basically ended up disrupting domestic production supply chains. During April-August, manufacturing growth has averaged just 1.6%. Compared to this, the country's overall imports for the same period had surged 27.5% year-on-year. Rebuilding broken domestic supply chains will involve either the SMEs adjusting to the new tax regime or the formal sector filling in the space ceded by informal manufacturers. Both these will take time. Until then, imports are inevitable. According to the quarterly report on employment scenario in select sectors by the Labour Bureau, there was a reduction of 1.52 lakh jobs in the casual worker category in eight sectors, including IT, transport, manufacturing, as on 1 January 2017, compared to 1 October 2016. With the note ban announced at the time of harvest and subsequently sowing, given the cash based nature of most agricultural transactions, the cash crunch broke the supply chain and commodity prices plummeted. Farmers destroyed their own crops, dumped these on the roadside. Demonetisation led to the value of farm produce traded in mandis across India collapse by nearly 15 per cent within a week of the decision, with these losses averaging 7 per cent even at the end of 90 days (IGIDR). The widespread farmer protests across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan after the rabi harvest give us reason to believe that this had a lasting impact.

Along with this came the persistent effort of the central government and the state governments to change the laws that protect working people and their livelihoods. The BJP ruled states took

the lead in implementing these amendments which effectively has created conditions that take us back a century in terms of workplace protection and safety. The number of deaths at work, including the tragic incident in Unchahar, has phenomenally increased. The effort to absolve employers from all liabilities has started showing results.

Here are a few highlights of the year we survived despite the attack and how we survived.

Policies destabilising the Economy

Ban on Cow Slaughter: In April, the Uttar Pradesh government banned cow slaughter thereby directly affecting the livelihood of 3.5 million workers. Of the 72 government-approved abattoirs across the country, 38 are in UP most of which cater to export. UP accounts for nearly 50 per cent of India's total meat exports and a ban on meat exports would mean a loss of at least Rs. 113.5 billion of export earnings. The meat industry is also dominated mostly by muslims and dalits. The ban will further alienate and pauperise the muslim and the dalit working poor which will have a much wider and long term impact.

GST – One Nation One Tax: The launch of a new nationwide Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July transformed India's 29 states into one market with one tax rate. In light of the growing discontent and protests, in November, the GST Council slashed rates across the board, including for a range of daily items of consumption, relaxed penalties and tweaked rules to make it easier for businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to comply.

Centre pushes for Dilution of Labour Laws

Code on Social Security and Welfare: In March, the Ministry of Labour prepared a draft of the Code on Social Security and Welfare amalgamating the existing 15 labour welfare laws including EPF, ESIC and Maternity Benefit Act. The Code puts the onus of monetary contribution and proof of employment on the workers, and relieves employers from their

responsibility of contribution towards workers' social security.

Code on Wages: In August, the Labour Code on Wages Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha. This Bill amalgamates the Payment of Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act, Minimum Wages Act and Equal Remuneration Act.

Amendment to Contract Labour Act, 1970: In September, the Ministry of Labour proposed draft amendments to the Contract Labour Act. The proposed draft exempts principal employers from their liability towards the workers contracted by them.

Workplaces turn into Death-traps for Irregular workers

Construction: Nearly 40,000 workers die in India due to occupational accidents, of which the construction sector contributes 24.20 per cent of the fatalities, according to the ILO.

Safai: 58 Safai worker's deaths were reported across the country between March–September, 2017 while cleaning manholes due to asphyxiation. 10 Safai workers were reported dead within 35 days in the National Capital Region.

Manufacturing: 32 workers lost their life in a boiler blast in the NTPC plant in Unchahar, Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers Rise in Protest

In December 2016, angry farmers in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district took to crushing their tomato produce under truck wheels to make a statement.

Farmers from Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli districts began protesting at Jantar Mantar, Delhi seeking a drought relief fund of Rs 40,000 crore, better support for their produce, and a loan waiver.

In June, 2017 Madhya Pradesh open fired on protesting farmers leading to 5 deaths. Following this, farmers from Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana joined in solidarity actions. The protests also spread to other states like Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

A nationwide farmer protest was observed on 21 June 2017 on International Yoga Day, when the farmers lay in Shavasana - the position of death in Yoga.

Sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh wrote

letters to Prime Minister and the Chief Minister seeking their assent for committing suicide as they remained unpaid for over a year.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh farmers burnt their chilli produce to protest the instability of prices.

Thousands of farmers, representing 184 farmers' organisations from across the country, protested in Delhi on 21 November demanding better prices for their crops and relief from high debts.

Unions keep up the Fight....

Contract Work: 2700 contract Safai workers of BruhanMumbai Municipal Corporation, under the banner of Kachra Vahatuk Shramik Sangh were awarded permanency by the Supreme Court following a legal battle of over ten years declaring BMC contracts 'sham and bogus'.

Honorarium Workers: Anganwadi workers across the country have protested round the year from Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka demanding regularization as government employees. In most states they have been able to raise the honorarium but the battle for regularisation continues.

Patna High Court ordered equal wages and benefits to temporary and contractual teachers as the permanent teachers employed by the Bihar State government. The legal victory directly affects 3.5 lakh temporary teachers employed by the state. Bihar state government has decided to move to Supreme Court against the High Court order.

Maruti verdict: 117 Maruti workers who were falsely framed under the charges of riot and murder by the management for trying to form a union were acquitted by the Gurugram Session Court in the infamous Maruti Suzuki case of 2012. However, 31 workers are still in jail and an appeal for their acquittal is pending before the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

Right to Form Unions: The Forum for IT Employees (FITE), a trade union of IT employees, was finally given registration as a trade union in Tamil Nadu.

10 Central Trade Unions jointly called for a three day mass protest against the anti-worker policies of the government on 9-11 November

2017. During the **Mahapadav** or mass sit-in as the protest was called, over 1 lakh workers flooded the Parliament Street at Delhi demanding control on inflation, end of labour contracting system, strengthening of public distribution system, curbing job losses, and a stop on govt. policies of privatization, inviting of foreign capital and welfare cuts.

Policy News

Draft Model Contract Farming Act 2018 released

29 December 2017: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released a Model State/ Union Territory Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018. The Model Act seeks to: (i) provide for improved production and marketing of agriculture produce through contract farming, (ii) facilitate contracting parties, and (iii) create a regulatory and policy framework for contract farming. Based on this Model Act, legislatures of states and union territories can enact a law on contract farming.

The model act aims to integrate farmers with food processing units for better price realisation and reducing post-harvest losses. According to the draft act, contract farming arrangements will benefit growers with access to better inputs, scientific practices and credit facilities that may be provided by the buyer (company).

A draft of the act is available on the agriculture ministry's website for public comments, following which rules under the act will be framed.

Lok Sabha passes the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017

28 December 2017: The Lok Sabha passed the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017 on 27 December 2017. The Bill amends the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 and replaces the Ordinance promulgated in September 2017 to increase the cess on motor vehicles, including large cars and sports utility vehicles, from 15 per cent to 25 per cent.

Lok Sabha passes The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017

29 December 2017: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was

passed by Lok Sabha. It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated in November 2017. The Code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency of companies and individuals. The bill seeks to replace the ordinance promulgated in November.

The ineligible persons or entities will include undischarged insolvent, wilful defaulter and those whose accounts have been classified as non-performing asset. These persons, however, can become "eligible to submit a resolution plan" if they clear all the overdue amounts with interest and other charges relating to their NPA accounts.

The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 tabled in Parliament

19 December 2017: The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha. It seeks to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The Act applies to any establishment, factory, mine, oilfield, plantation, port, railway, company, or shop employing 10 or more workers. The Act requires employees to be paid gratuity if they have had more than five years of service.

Key features of the bill:

Gratuity amount: Under the Act, the amount of gratuity paid to an employee is capped at Rs. 10 lakh. The Bill removes the cap and allows the central government to notify the ceiling.

Maximum Maternity Leave: The maximum maternity leave, for the purpose of calculating continuous service under the 1972 Act, was based on the maternity leave provided under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. The Bill removes the cap and allows the central government to notify the maximum maternity leave. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 enhanced the maximum maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks earlier.

With the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission, the ceiling of gratuity amount for central government employees has been increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

Government introduces fixed-term employment in Leather, Footwear and Accessories industry

16 December, 2017: The government has approved a package for implementation of the Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme with an approved

expenditure of Rs. 2600 Crore over the three financial years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The package contains provision for amendment of Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946 in the Leather, Footwear and Accessories industries allowing employers to hire workers on fixed-term contracts (FTC). The amendment will exempt the employers from providing a notice to a FTC worker on non-renewal or expiry of the contract. In the name of promoting trade, this move will allow industries to hire and fire at will.

The package also includes provision for amendment of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act which provides tax rebate towards the wages paid to additional workers hired by an Indian company in for more than 240 days in a year. The amendment will lower this limit to 150 days thereby allowing more tax benefits for the employers.

Tripura government announces 24-month maternity leave

12 December 2017: The Tripura government has announced 24 months of maternity leave for its women employees for the first two children. The women employees can take the leave in one go or intermittently till the child turns 18.

Age for joining the National Pension System increased to 65 years

1 December 2017: The Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority increased the upper age limit for joining the National Pension System (NPS) from 60 to 65 years. A subscriber joining the NPS after the age of 60 years will be eligible to continue in the system till the age of 70 years. Such subscribers will enjoy the same investment choices as available to those joining before 60 years.

Cabinet appoints the 15th Finance Commission

1 December 2017: Former Revenue Secretary and Member of Parliament of the BJP from Bihar, N.K. Singh has been appointed the chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission. The other members of the commission, are former economic affairs secretary Shaktikanta Das; former chief economic adviser and chairman of the Bandhan Bank Ashok Lahiri; Niti Aayog member Prof. Ramesh Chand and Georgetown University Prof. Anoop Singh.

The commission will review the current status of the finance, deficit, debt levels, cash balances and

fiscal discipline efforts of the union and the states. It will also recommend a fiscal consolidation road map for fiscal management. As per Article 280 of the Constitution, the commission is required to make recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the centre and the states. As per the terms of reference, the panel will also study the impact of the GST and will examine progress made in promoting ease of doing business.

The 15th Finance Commission has been asked to submit its report by 30 October 2019 as its recommendations will come into effect for the five years starting 1 April 2020.

Collective Bargaining

Bridgestone takes back suspended workers after two years

24 December 2017: The Management of Bridgestone India Automotive Products plant in Manesar, Haryana through the intervention of the labour department has finally agreed to reinstate 46 workers who were terminated in 2015 on disciplinary grounds. The workers were targeted for trying to register a union of their choice. The plant still does not have a registered union.

The workers went on a sit-in demonstration on 17 September 2015 demanding reinstatement of 25 workers who were terminated for their leading role in organising the union. In retaliation, the management initially terminated 18 workers, followed by 400 others. The terminated workers and their families continued the struggle at the factory gate. On 18 October, Haryana police and local goons physically attacked the protestors. The dispute was raised with the labour department where the management refused to negotiate with the union. The dispute was moved to the labour court and at subsequently to the High Court. The high court ruled against the terminated workers but they once again approached the labour department where the reinstatement was negotiated.

Sanitation workers strike for wage increase

23 December 2017: Sanitation workers in Andhra Pradesh went on an indefinite strike under the banner of the A.P. Municipal Workers and Employees Federation on 18 December 2017, demanding better wages and the repeal of controversial Government Order 279. GO 279 allows the government to contract out safai work

in its entirety to contractors, which the workers fear would lead to joblessness of the existing contract workers who have direct contract with the government.

The indefinite strike came to an end after four days when the government acceded to raising the minimum wages of the workers. The minimum wage for unskilled workers has been increased to Rs. 12000 from Rs. 8000. However, the controversial GO 279 has not yet been repealed.

National Health Mission (NHM) Workers win pay hike in Haryana

15 December 2017: Contractual NHM workers, including doctors, medical officers, pharmacists, lab technicians, clerks, data entry operators and auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM), went on a 10 day strike led by the NHM workers union on 4 December 2017 demanding regularisation by the state government. The total number of irregular employees employed under NHM in Haryana is more than 12,500.

On 9 December, the state health department terminated the contracts of 500 striking contractual employees.

Following the strike, the government agreed to implement service bylaws for the contract workers effective from 1 January 2018. Government also assured the union that their disciplinary action taken against the striking workers would be reversed.

Discrimination

Bihar orders termination of service of 80,000 Striking Contract Health Workers

7 December, 2017: The Bihar government on Wednesday ordered to start the process of terminating the services of around 80,000 striking Health workers, who were hired on contracts and are now demanding equal pay for equal work. State government has also threatened workers of criminal cases if they don't return to work immediately.

These workers include nursing staff, accountants, lab technicians and health managers who were hired on contracts under National Health Mission.

IT companies force workers to resign in a bid to restructure

Verizon: Verizon Data Services (VDS) India, a

wholly-owned subsidiary of US based Verizon, aims to terminate 993 employees across the country as a rationalisation exercise of the company by eliminating job roles which according to Verizon do not have a future. In Chennai, 200 employees were escorted out of their office by security guards on 12 December. VDS India has around 7,000 employees spread across Chennai and Hyderabad. It was set up in 2011 to support Verizon's domestic and wireless business in the US alongside its global enterprise solutions business.

One Verizon worker working as software tester was forced to resign by the company when she was 3 months pregnant. The worker has filed a writ petition with the Telangana State Labour, Employment, Training and Factories department against her illegal termination.

Cognizant: 50 employees of Cognizant, some with an experience of 10 years, approached the labour commissioner on charges of forced resignation. The workers have alleged that they were asked to resign on grounds of failure to perform when they denied transfer to Qess, a business service provider company with which Cognizant has a vendor relationship.

The workers also allege that they were being offered a fixed term contract of four months with Qess, implying that they might be jobless after the lapse of that contract.

Legal News

Parliament passes the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017

19 December 2017: The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed by Parliament. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha in July 2017. The legislation aims to simplify procedures and make compliance easy for Companies.

The Bill amends the Companies Act, 2013 to change provisions related to structuring, disclosure and compliance requirements for companies. The Standing Committee on Finance had examined the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and submitted its report in December 2016.

Key features of the Bill as passed by Parliament include:

Independent Directors: Under the Act, independent directors of a company should not have monetary (pecuniary) relationship with

the company. The new act allows independent directors to have pecuniary interest up to 10% of their income.

Managerial remuneration: Under the Act, if managerial remuneration exceeds prescribed limits, approval of the central government and shareholders must be obtained. The new act omits this approval requirement from the central government.

Workplace Safety Watch

Sanitation Work: Two sanitation workers, Deepak (26) and Armaan (17) died and three others took seriously ill while cleaning sewerage lines at a private hotel on Dugri Road in Ludhiana on 9 December. Five workers had been hired privately by the Hotel Grand Marian through a contractor.

2 contract sanitation workers, Deepak Solanki (29) and Mohit Sodha (26), died of suffocation when they entered a manhole to clean in Thangadh municipality, Gujarat on 13 December. The workers were not provided with any safety equipment. Police has booked the chief officer of Thangadh municipality, B C Chauhan, for causing death due to negligence.

A sanitation worker, Vikas Kumar (20) died from inhaling poisonous gas on 13 December after he got into a septic tank for cleaning work at Dayalbagh in **Agra**. Kumar's family alleged that the two workers were not provided any safety equipment by their contractor.

2 daily wage workers, Alladi Ramarao and his nephew, Alladi Seetharam succumbed to death after inhaling poisonous gases while cleaning a manhole. They were hired by Biochemical & Synthetic Products Private Ltd at Zimkalwada in **Hyderabad**.

R. Gowrishankar (20), R. Ezhumalai (23) and P. Suriyakumar (27), all three worked as security and housekeeping staff at another jewellery-making unit, lost their lives at a gold smith workshop at Father Randy Street in R.S. Puram, Coimbatore on 24 December 2017 due to asphyxiation while cleaning a tank that stored wastewater and chemicals. The owner of the jewellery-making unit had engaged them to clean the tank for Rs. 7,000.

Construction work: A makeshift lift, used for construction of the facade of a highrise building, snapped and fell from the 17th floor of a building in Sector 72 of Gurgaon, killing Tanjum Ahemad (20) a migrant worker from West Bengal and injuring three others, Liyakat Ansari, Rakesh and

Hussain, who were perched on it at the time. An FIR has been registered against the construction company, Advance India Project Limited.

A construction worker, Kuppaiyah (45), died on the spot when an under construction wall fell on him on 16 December at the M.S. Building near Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. A complaint was registered against the contractor for criminal negligence.

In two separate cases on 18 December, in Andheri and Borivali areas of **Mumbai**, two construction workers, Hardan Das (26) and Shaikh (35), died after they slipped from the under construction buildings, where they were employed.

Manufacturing: 12 workers succumbed to death on 18 December due to asphyxiation resulting from an overnight fire in a wholesale snacks shop and snacks manufacturing unit, Bhanu Farsan, in Sakinaka, Mumbai where they were sleeping. Most of the workers were migrants from Uttar Pradesh. Municipal authorities said that the shop did not have all the required permissions to operate. It was missing clearances, among others, from the health, fire, and food and drug administration departments. However, it had obtained its Shops and Establishment Act registration.

Services: Rajesh (28), a Tasmac bar worker, who worked as a waiter was killed by three customers in a quarrel in a Tasmac bar at Anuppapalayam in Thirupur on 15 December.

Mining and Energy: After four days of search and rescue operations, the body of heavy machine operator, Manoj Naik (42), was recovered from Vedanta's mine at **Codli, Goa** on 5 December. Naik got buried under mounds of earth along with the ripper machine he was operating when the mining pit collapsed on 2 December.

Arun Biswas, a worker of the electrical department, was electrocuted to death on 20 December while working on a transformer at New bazaar in **Silchar, Assam**. The death was due to the lapse in duties of the electrical department.

Health and Safety

Occupational accidents claim 48,000 lives every year in India

13 December 2017: According to a report by the British Safety Council, nearly 48,000 workers dies in India due to occupational accidents, of

which the construction sector contributes 24.20 per cent of the fatalities. The workplace deaths in India is 20 times higher than in Britain. With a workforce of 465 million only 20 per cent of the Indian workforce is covered under the existing health and safety legal framework.

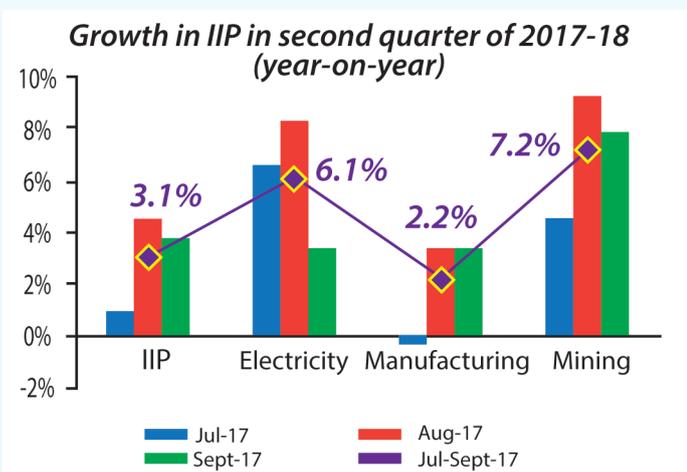
Brazil: Supreme Court Bans Asbestos

1 December 2017: By a vote of 7 to 2 on 29 November, the Brazilian Supreme Federal Court (STF) banned the production, commercialization and use of asbestos in Brazil. The substance is currently used in the production of roofing tiles and water tanks, but health organizations point to its risk of being a carcinogen. Their interpretation is that there are no safe levels for the use of asbestos, and therefore, it should be banned.

The asbestos industry had argued that the type of Asbestos that is produced in Brazil has a high level of embedded safety. More than 100,000 people die every year from asbestos-related diseases.

In and around

Industrial production grew by 3% in the second quarter of 2017-18; Manufacturing growth at 2.2%



The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 3.1% in the second quarter (July-September 2017) as compared to the same period in 2016. This has been triggered by mining with the highest increase of 7.2% followed by an increase of 6.1% in electricity. Manufacturing in this period has only grown by 2.2%.

Government calls central trade unions for Budget consultation for one hour

5 December 2017: On 5 December, the government called the 12 central trade union organisations for a pre-Budget consultation.

The time allotted for the meeting was one hour which means 5 minutes for each union.

The trade unions have already agreed to prepare for an indefinite country-wide strike later in the year. In the first week of January, district-level conventions will be held and in the last week of January, trade union activists across the country will court arrest.

News from around the world

EU: Uber to face stricter EU regulation after ECJ rules it is transport firm

21 December 2017: European Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that Uber is a transport services company, and imposed regulation and licensing norms at par with other taxi operators within the EU.

The decision in Luxembourg, after a challenge brought by taxi drivers in Barcelona, will apply across the whole of the EU, including the UK. There are no provisions for Uber to appeal against this decision.

Workers sue Amazon, Facebook over age targeted job advertisements

21 December 2017: The Communication Workers of America along with three workers, in the age group between 45 to 67 have filed a class action lawsuit against 13 companies accusing them of using Facebook's ad targeting tools to exclude older Americans from job opportunities.

Under US law, companies are prohibited from discriminating based on age in employment advertising, recruiting, and hiring, and it is also unlawful to publish a job ad that indicates a preference related to age.

Spain: Government agrees to raise minimum wage

20 December 2017: Trade unions signed a tripartite agreement on 20 December 2017 to raise the country's minimum wage by 28.4 euros a month to 736 euros in 2018. By 2019, the minimum wage will theoretically be raised to 773 euros, a 5 percent increase, and in 2020 it will be raised to 850 euros a month, which equates to a 10 percent rise.

The measure will cover only about half a million workers, which is only 3.5% of the 15.2 million workers. This increase will be implemented only if the country experiences a real GDP growth of more than 2.5 percent and the average amount

of people affiliated to the social security system surpasses 450,000 people.

Greece: General strike demanding end to Austerity

14 December 2017: The country's largest public sector union, ADEDY, called for a general strike on 14 December against the bailout-linked austerity policies, as the government launched talks with its international rescue creditors. The union joined by other private sector unions is protesting against pension and salary cuts, and to demand pay rises and public sector hiring. This protest was triggered by a government plan to toughen strike rules in a draft legislation submitted to parliament and swiftly withdrawn.

The strike brought transport services including airlines to a halt, closed state schools, and left public hospitals accepting only emergency cases. Thousands of people gathered in Athens for anti-government protests, while demonstrations were planned in more than 50 cities and towns across the country.

New trade union law undermines freedom of association in Egypt

5 December 2017: The Egyptian parliament approved a draft trade union law on 5 December 2017 that aims at furthering strict government control over independent trade unions. The draft law was prepared by the Egypt's Labor Ministry in 2016 as an alternative to the Trade Union law No. 35 of 1976.

According to the second and third articles of the new law, the trade unions formed by and affiliated with the Egyptian government will remain in place, while forcing the independent unions to dissolve and settle their status within 60 days after the law comes into force. The independent unions would need to submit their documents afresh to the Ministry of Manpower to be approved as per the conditions set by the new law.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) issued a statement calling on the Egyptian government to withdraw the draft, considering it a flagrant violation of ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association.

Corporate Watch

All is not well with Indian Start-ups

Prime Minister launched the start-up India scheme amid much grandeur during the

Republic Day celebrations in 2016 and wished for every village, every district to have its own start-up. He also announced a Rs.10,000 Crore fund to aid start-ups. A start-up hub was established under the Ministry of Commerce earlier this year In June. A start-up in India is allowed a) self-certification and compliance under 9 environmental and labour laws; b) upto 80% rebate in patent applications and fast track of patent applications; c) permission for closure within 90 days under Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016; d) exemption on income tax for 3 years. A registration with the Start-up Hub also opens gates for Rs.2000 crore credit and other tax exemptions on capital gains and investments.

Amid tax benefits and exemptions from strict compliance to labour laws the start-ups in India have been reporting losses. Even big players such as Flipkart, Snapdeal, Paytm and Ola have not been able to break even since their inception. A look at the rise in the unemployment in the country reflects that the start-ups have done little in terms of job creation.

Following is the list of start-ups which shut shop last year.

Company	Established In	Funding Raised (in Rs. Crores)
InksEdge	2014	0.96
Roomstonite	2015	0.96
Turant Delivery	2015	0.99
Cardback	2012	1.90
Overcart	2012	1.92
Yumist	2014	1.92
Kaaryah	2014	3.20
Prophesee	2014	3.30
Roder	2014	3.52
Taskbob	2015	3.64
Cube 26	2012	4.92
FabFurnish	2011	19.20
Stayzilla	2005	21.44
Shopo	2015	640
Eatonomist	2014	Undisclosed
Finomena	2015	Undisclosed
Hotels Around You	2013	Undisclosed
Splitkart	2015	Undisclosed