

India Surpasses Pakistan in Nuke Weapons: SIPRI Report

RNS: A recent assessment by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reveals that India currently possesses more nuclear weapons than Pakistan. The report highlights a notable expansion in China's nuclear arsenal, which increased from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024. According to SIPRI, India had 172 deployed warheads as of January 2024, surpassing Pakistan's count of 170. The report also indicates that all nine nuclear-armed states—the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel—continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals throughout 2023. This modernization includes the deployment of new



nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems. As of January 2024, there were approximately 9,585 warheads in military stockpiles worldwide, ready for potential use out of an estimated total inventory of 12,121. About 3,904 of these warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft, an increase of 60 from January 2023. The remaining warheads are held in central storage, with around 2,100 of the deployed warheads maintained on high operational alert for ballistic missiles. The report highlights that Russia and the United States hold the vast majority of nuclear warheads, together accounting for over 90% of the global total. Despite the overall stability in their stockpile sizes in 2023, Russia deployed approximately 36 more warheads with active forces compared to January 2023. For the first time, China is also believed to be keeping some warheads

on high operational alert. The study raises concerns about decreased transparency regarding nuclear forces in both Russia and the United States following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This event has also sparked debates about nuclear-sharing arrangements. Hans M. Kristensen, Associate Senior Fellow with SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme and Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) said "China is expanding its nuclear arsenal faster than any other country." "However, nearly all of the nuclear-armed states have plans or significant initiatives to increase their nuclear forces," he added.

Anuradha Singh becomes new Principal of DAV Public School Sector-6



RNS I Bokaro: Anuradha Singh assumed the role of Principal at DAV Public School Sector-6 in Bokaro Steel City on Saturday. A Havan Yagya ceremony was organized to mark the occasion, which was attended by the newly appointed principal. The event was graced by A.R.O of Jharkhand Zone-G, Mr. Vipin Rai, Vice President of School Management Committee B.S. Jaiswal, and Member of School Management Committee Brahmadev Prasad. Having served at DAV Public School Hehal for 14 years, Anuradha Singh is known for her discipline,

hard work, dynamism, and experience. She expressed her expectation of cooperation from all the teachers for the school's advancement under her guidance. Anuradha Singh holds an MA and B.Ed degree from the Economics Department. Before assuming her new role, she familiarized herself with all the departments and emphasized the need for better organization of activities through a comprehensive action plan. All the teachers of the school were present at the event, reflecting a positive outlook towards the school's future progress under her leadership.

NTA Paper Leak Row: Centre Removes NTA Chief Subodh Kumar Singh



RNS I New Delhi: The Centre has dismissed Subodh Kumar Singh, the chief of the National Testing Agency (NTA), amid a massive controversy over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG and UGC-NET examinations. Singh has been placed on "compulsory wait" in the Department of Personnel and Training, while retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Pradeep Singh Kharola has been appointed as the new Director General of the NTA. The NTA is responsible for conducting the NEET, UGC-NET, CUET, and JEE (Main) exams. Kharola, a 1985 batch IAS officer, has previously served as the Civil Aviation Secretary. This appointment comes amid widespread protests after it was revealed that the NEET question paper had been leaked in some states on the eve of the exam. The NEET-PG 2024 exam, scheduled for June 23, has also been postponed. The NEET-UG results faced scrutiny after 67 candidates attained perfect scores of 720/720. Further controversy arose over the awarding of grace marks to more than 1,500 students, leading to widespread protests and legal actions. The Supreme Court has strongly criticised the NTA's handling of the situation. Earlier this week, the NTA cancelled the UGC-NET exam, citing its "compromised integrity" after the question paper, taken by 900,000 candidates across 317 cities on June 18, was found to have been leaked on the dark web.

Surya Mandir Hosts Bhajan Sandhya on Jyestha Purnima and World Music Day

RNS I Bokaro: Surya Mandir in Sector 4F, in Bokaro Steel City hosted a Bhajan Sandhya event in observance of Jyestha Purnima, World Yoga Day, and World Music Day on Friday evening. Senior musicians Shyam Kumar, Ramendra Narayan Dubey, A Pandit, Arun Pathak, and Sunita Srivastava performed devotional songs, filling the atmosphere with a sense of reverence and devotion. The event also featured Pt Shiv Poojan Mishra and Manoj Kumar Pandey accompanying on tabla, enhancing the musical experience. Prior to the bhajan evening, a worship ceremony for Lord Satyanarayan was conducted. Among the attendees were CB Mishra of Bhaskar Sevak Samiti, priest Nishant Kumar Mishra, Shankar Pandey, and Bipin Bihari Srivastava, among others.



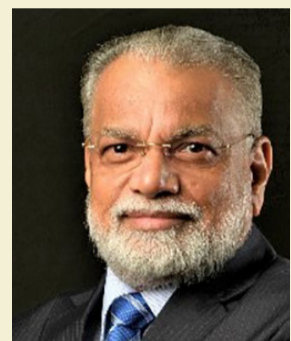
DPS Chas Hosts Felicitation Ceremony for Class X, XII Board Toppers

Bokaro: DPS Chas honored the hard work and dedication of the All India Secondary School Examination (SSE) and All India Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE) Board (2023-24) toppers by hosting a felicitation ceremony for 129 achievers from 43 schools under the Dr. Radhakrishnan Sahodaya School Complex. Rajnish Kumar (IFS), Divisional Forest Officer, Bokaro, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by President of Sahodaya and Principal of DPS, Bokaro, Dr. A.S. Gangwar; Vice-president Anil Kumar Gupta from Crescent Public School; Vice-president S. Chakraborty Guru from Govind Singh Public School; and General Secretary Biswajit Patra from A.R.S. Public School. Other dignitaries present included DSMS Secretary Suresh Kumar Agarwal and Headmistress Sudeshna Sinha. The event commenced with a Rajasthani folk song, "Padhaaro Maare Desh," followed by the school song. This was followed by a mesmerizing cultural performance, including a dance offering to Lord Ganesha, symbolizing a bright future for the achievers. The program proceeded to the felicitation of the achievers, acknowledging their hard work and dedication. In his address, the Chief Guest appreciated the students' and teachers' hard work, encouraging them to care for nature, respect their parents' and teachers' sacrifices, and stay focused on their goals. He concluded with best wishes for their future endeavors. Dr. Hemlata S Mohan, Chief Mentor of DPS Chas, wished the students success, emphasizing the importance of hard work and divine blessings in achieving their goals. Officiating Principal Deepali Bhuskute congratulated the achievers, urging them to explore new interests and envision their future goals.



Former ISRO Chief Appointed to Lead Reforms for National Testing Agency

RNS I New Delhi: A high-level expert committee was formed by the Ministry of Education in response to ongoing concerns over the management of India's premier competitive exams, UGC-NET and NEET-UG on Saturday. This move aims to ensure that the National Testing Agency's (NTA) examinations are transparent, straightforward, and fair. The seven-member committee will be led by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, former ISRO chief, as stated by the Ministry of Education. This decision follows the cancellation of the UGC-NET exam after its question paper was discovered on the dark web, raising substantial debate about the examination process. Additionally, reports of irregularities in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical school admissions have intensified scrutiny on the NTA. The primary responsibilities of the high-level committee include reforming the examination procedure, enhancing data security standards, and improving the NTA's organization and operations.



The committee, expected to deliver its findings in approximately two months, comprises notable experts: Dr. Randeep Guleria, Former Director of AIIMS Delhi; Professor B. J. Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Hyderabad; Professor Ramamurthy K., Emeritus Professor in the Civil Engineering Department of IIT Madras; Pankaj Bansal, Board Member and Co-founder of PeopleStrong; Aditya Mittal, Faculty Member of IIT Delhi and Dean of Students; Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, serving as Member Secretary. The committee's main objective is to propose reforms to the testing procedures. This includes a comprehensive

review of the entire examination process and recommendations to improve system efficiency and security. Additionally, the committee will conduct a thorough analysis of the NTA's protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs), suggesting enhancements and developing stringent compliance monitoring systems. A key focus will be on evaluating and improving the NTA's current data security measures, aiming to fortify the system's resilience and protect against breaches. This involves a detailed assessment of existing security mechanisms governing paper-setting and other examination processes. Furthermore, the committee will review the NTA's management and organizational structure to identify areas for improvement. This initiative marks a significant step toward ensuring the integrity and reliability of India's competitive examinations, with the expert committee poised to deliver crucial recommendations for systemic improvement.

Chandrapura Officers Club Marks International Yoga Day with Celebrations



Bokaro: On International Yoga Day, the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) Officers Club at Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) hosted a comprehensive event featuring yoga, discussions, meditation, and singing, which concluded late Friday evening at Bokaro. Senior General Manager and Project Head, Manoj Kumar Thakur, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of yoga for leading a prosperous life. "Yoga, discussions, meditation, and music allow us to connect with the vast creation," he stated, praising yoga instructor Deepak Kumar Mahato and vocalists Pramod Kumar and Anurag Giri. He highlighted that such programs contribute to psychological fitness and enhance the ability to perform daily tasks. Thakur urged attendees to incorporate regular yoga practice into their routines to benefit their families, society, and institutions by maintaining physical and mental well-being. His mother, Shailya Thakur, captivated the audience with her religious singing during the event. Additionally, his wife, Smt. Bhavya Thakur, spoke about the benefits of yoga and encouraged daily practice. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Senior General Manager of Human Resources DC Pandey, General Manager Avijit Ghosh, Deputy General Manager Sanjeev Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Mahavir Thakur.

Bangali Kalyan Samiti Delegation Congratulates Dhullu Mahato, Newly Elected Dhanbad MP



RNS: Today, a delegation from the social organization Bangali Kalyan Samiti of Dhanbad visited the residence of the newly elected MP of Dhanbad, Shri Dhullu Mahato in Chitahi, to extend their congratulations and best wishes. The delegation congratulated him with a bouquet and a garland. During the meeting, the MP expressed his gratitude to the committee and assured them of his support on all occasions. Despite his busy schedule, the MP welcomed the committee delegation, which was appreciated.

Woman Jumps to Death Off 4th Floor Terrace in Gaya

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: A 35-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide on Saturday afternoon by jumping from the fourth floor of a Brinda apartment, flat no. 403, in the Gawalbhiga locality. The reasons behind her extreme step remain unknown, but it was revealed that the deceased had been living with depression for the past year at her flat, along with her family, including her husband and 4-year-old son, said Inspector Ravi Kumar of Rampur Police Station. Rampur police have registered a case and initiated investigations into the matter. Inspector Ravi Kumar stated that the deceased was identified as Richa Seth, 35, a resident of the Gawalbhiga area within the Rampur police station limits in Gaya. According to reports, near the Gawalbhiga turn of the Rampur police station area, Richa Seth, the wife of hardware businessman Rajan Seth, committed suicide by jumping from the fourth floor of the apartment. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police reached the scene and sent the body for post-mortem. Rajan Seth informed that his wife had spoken to him in the morning and he had asked her to make tea. She went to the kitchen to make tea, and suddenly there was a loud noise of something falling outside. Upon looking out of the window, he saw his wife's body on the ground. He revealed that his wife had been suffering from depression for a year and had attempted suicide four times before. Before committing suicide, she had cut the vein of her hand in the kitchen, which he discovered after the incident. Rajan Seth also has a four-year-old son. The police are investigating the entire matter, and the family members are inconsolable after the incident.

Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud Meets Odisha Chief Minister

Gua: BJD MLA from Champua, Sanatan Mahakud, visited Bhubaneswar to extend congratulations to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on the formation of the BJP government in Odisha and for being elected as Chief Minister of the state. During his meeting with the Chief Minister, Sanatan Mahakud presented a five-page list of demands outlining the collective aspirations of the district. The demands included the selection of a special site for a Unitary University, construction of new and adequate buildings, opening of PG courses in remaining subjects, and regular appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff.



Ways to protect yourself from Dengue

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Bangladesh PM's Visit To India Underlines Our Close Ties: S Jaishankar

PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday during which both sides are likely to firm up a raft of agreements providing for cooperation in several sectors.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina will hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday to give a new momentum to the bilateral ties. Hours after Hasina began a two-day state visit to India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met her and discussed various bilateral issues. "Delighted to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh this evening. Her State visit to India underlines our close and abiding ties.



Appreciate her guidance on the further development of our special partnership," he said on X. Bangladesh is a key partner and trusted neighbour of India and PM Hasina's visit will give a major boost to the "celebrated bilateral partnership", external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. It is the first incoming bilateral state visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new government in India following the Lok

Sabha elections. Bangladesh prime minister was received at the airport by Minister of State in the external affairs ministry Kirti Vardhan Singh. PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina are scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks on Saturday during which both sides are likely to firm up a raft of agreements providing for cooperation in several sectors. Hasina was among seven top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean

region who attended the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the Union council of ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9. Apart from holding bilateral consultations with Modi, the visiting leader is scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The talks between the two prime ministers are expected to focus on taking the bilateral ties to new heights, said a source. The overall strategic ties between India and Bangladesh have been on an upswing in the last few years.

Bangladesh is an important partner for India under its "Neighbourhood First" policy and the cooperation extends to areas of security, trade, commerce, energy, connectivity, science and technology, defence and maritime affairs among others. The achievements in the connectivity sector included the inauguration of the Maitri Setu bridge over river Feni in Tripura and the rollout of the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link.

NCP (SP) won't settle for less in assembly seat-sharing, Sharad Pawar hints at party meet

PUNE: The NCP (SP) agreed to contest fewer seats than its Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies during the Lok Sabha elections but the situation would be different in the assembly polls, a party leader has quoted its supremo Sharad Pawar as saying. Pawar held two meetings here on Friday, one with the party's functionaries from Pune city and district, and another with its MLAs and newly-elected MPs. City NCP (SP) chief Prashant Jagtap, who attended the first meeting, said Pawar told the gathering that the party contested fewer seats in the Lok Sabha polls just to ensure that the alliance with the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress remained intact.

"He indicated that the picture in the assembly polls will be different," said Jagtap. The NCP (SP) chief also reviewed the situation in assembly segments within the Pune, Baramati, Maval and Shirur Lok Sabha

constituencies, he said. A party leader who attended the second meeting said Pawar exhorted the MPs and MLAs to be prepared for the assembly elections. Meanwhile, state NCP (SP) chief Jayant Patil told reporters that the party had not yet decided how many seats it would seek during the MVA seat-sharing talks. As to the candidate for the Baramati assembly seat, currently represented by Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, the head of the rival NCP, Patil said Pawar senior would take the decision. Anil Deshmukh, another senior NCP (SP) leader, said to a question that there was no "elder brother and younger brother" in the MVA. "All are equal," he said. There was a lot of nervousness among the MLAs who are with the Ajit Pawar-led faction post the Lok Sabha results, and some of them were calling Patil and other NCP (SP) leaders, Deshmukh claimed.

"Picture Will Be Different In Assembly Polls": Sharad Pawar On Seat-Sharing

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"Let's see what is to be done with them," he added. While the NCP (SP) won eight Lok Sabha seats out of the 10 it contested, the Ajit Pawar-led faction won only one of the four seats it fought.

As 2 engineers and a clerk are suspended over NEET 'leak', Tejashwi says probe agencies free to question my PA

Patna: As Bihar government suspended two engineers and a clerk on Thursday for allotting a room in NHA guest house to an accused in NEET paper leak case allegedly on the request of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's Personal Assistant, the former Deputy CM on Friday said that the BJP was "politicising" the issue and that the investigators were free to question his PA. Tejashwi accused the BJP of "politicising" the matter, adding that the Economic Offences Unit (EOU), which is probing the NEET case, had not talked about questioning his personal assistant. On Thursday, Bihar Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha told reporters: "We have suspended superintending engineer Umesh Rai, junior engineer Dharmendra Kumar Dharmkant, and clerk Pradeep Kumar for allotting a room in the name of Sikander P Yadvendu for May 4, a day before NEET-UG examination... Call details show that



Yadvendu had first called up Tejashwi's Personal Assistant Pritam Kumar on May 1. On May 4, Pritam called up clerk Pradeep Kumar who allotted a room to Sikander after informing the two engineers." Pritam, a Bihar Public Service Commission

officer, was appointed as personal assistant to Tejashwi in August 2022 when he was the Deputy CM and continues to be in the same position when the RJD leader is now Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly. Tejashwi, who reacted for the first time following allegations against his personal assistant, told reporters: "They (NDA) have the government at the Centre and in Bihar. Investigation agencies are under them. They are free to speak to his PA. But BJP is trying to politicise the matter as EOU has not said anything like that." RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta said, "Rather than making insinuations against our party, BJP should answer how a dubious character like Sikander Yadavendu got the job of junior engineer during NDA regime in 2012 and how he was transferred to urban development and housing department in 2021 when NDA was in power."

Delhi HC blocks Kejriwal's release on ED plea against bail order

NEW DELHI: Delhi high court on Friday granted interim stay on a trial court order giving bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal in an alleged scam in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. ED had filed an appeal on Friday morning, calling the trial court order "perverse" and claiming that it did not get a fair hearing.



The court also issued notice to Kejriwal on ED's petition challenging the trial court's order and listed the matter for July 10. A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain reserved its order, saying the bail order would remain stayed till the bench pronounced its verdict. Meanwhile, counsel from both sides can file written submissions by June 24. Additional solicitor general (ASG) S V Raju appeared for ED while Kejriwal was represented by senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhri.

The ASG told the bench that he was not given adequate opportunity by the trial court to oppose the bail plea. "The court does not hear us, does not look at the documents given by us, saying it's voluminous. The court says bulky documents have been filed. There can't be any more perverse order than this... Without going through

documents filed by both sides, without giving us an opportunity, the matter is decided. It is the duty of a court to pass order in accordance with law. Without going through documents, how can you say it's relevant or not relevant?" said the ASG.

In its petition, ED said the trial court judge did not grant "full and complete opportunity" to the agency to muster up all its arguments and told the ASG to cut short his arguments and only indicate the page numbers that ED wished to rely upon. The judge also asked the ASG to restrict his arguments to the points argued by the bail applicant, ED claimed. "The learned ASG on more than one occasion submitted that the bail applicant's counsel has not argued the case on merits and, therefore, it was incumbent on ED to demonstrate the prosecution case," said ED's petition, but the court stuck to its stance that the arguments should be cut short.

Amit Shah inaugurates 'Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme' at Delhi IGI airport: What it means

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme' (FTI-TTP) at Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Friday. This initiative aims to revolutionize the travel experience for Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders by making it faster, easier, and more secure. The program is a step towards modernizing India's immigration system and improving travel efficiency for Indian citizens and OCI cardholders. Key details of the program 'Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme': Objective: The FTI-TTP aims to streamline the immigration process for pre-verified Indian nationals and OCI

cardholders, enhancing travel convenience and security. Eligibility: The program is open to Indian nationals and OCI cardholders who meet the specified criteria. Application process: Applicants must apply online, submit biometrics (fingerprints and facial image), and pay a non-refundable processing fee of Rs 2,000 for adults, Rs 1,000 for minors, or \$100 for OCI cardholders. Biometric registration: Biometric data can be submitted at designated international airports in India or the nearest FRRO office, following a scheduled appointment. Membership validity: Membership is valid for a maximum of five years or until the passport's validity expires,

whichever comes first. Passport requirement: Applicants must possess a passport with a minimum validity of six months. Information verification: Providing a current residential address is mandatory to avoid application rejection, and false information or failure to capture biometrics can result in disqualification. Document submission: Applicants need to upload a passport-sized photograph and scanned copies of relevant documents, including the passport's first and last pages and proof of address. Processing fees: The processing fees are Rs 2,000 for adult Indian nationals, Rs 1,000 for minors, and \$100 for OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cardholders.



Need to shun the 'bad apple' theory

LAST year's crash involving three trains in Balasore, Odisha — which left 296 people dead and more than 1,000 injured — was attributed to human error. It was expected that this accident would make the Railways review its systems of operation and maintenance for enhancing safety, and specifically for minimising the possibility of accidents resulting from human error. That hope seems to have been belied. On the morning of June 17, a goods train hit the stationary Kanchenjunga Express in West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri, leaving 10 dead and around 40 injured. Among those killed were the driver of the goods train and the guard of the express train. This accident, too, is being blamed on human error. Even as the Commissioner of Railway Safety's statutory inquiry is in progress, we can try to piece together what happened from the information available in the public domain. It is now known that automatic signalling between Rangapani and Chatterhat stations failed at 5.50 am on June 17 due to lightning; this failure was communicated to the Signal Department at 6.05 am. As the snag was likely to be prolonged, the department, as per General and Subsidiary Rules, should have declared it as such, which would have changed the mode of working from the automatic block system to the absolute block system and perhaps avoided the accident. It is not known yet why this was not done. Consequently, the section continued to work as per automatic signal rules, which authorise drivers to pass defective signals. Since automatic territory rules were in force, the drivers were required to follow the protocol for moving at a speed not exceeding 15 kmph after stopping for a minute at every red signal. Six trains followed this protocol, including the Kanchenjunga Express, but the container goods train did not do so, which led to the mishap. If the goods train driver had followed this instruction, he would have avoided the collision. Clearly, the speed of the goods train was well above 15 kmph. Loco drivers' spokespersons are suggesting that the 'paper line clear' (a ticket issued to the loco pilot) may have been unnecessary as drivers are allowed to cross red signals, whether defective or not, at cautious speeds as the whole purpose of automatic signalling is to squeeze as many trains as close to each other as possible. According to them, the 'paper line clear', if given, would have implied a situation where the driver need not have followed the normal protocol and proceeded at a normal speed. Apparently, there is ambiguity in the working rules of the new system of signalling (the automatic system, opposed to the absolute block system which permits only one train between two stations). Inadequate understanding of these rules among different categories of staffers could also have been a factor.

Why is it so difficult to curb accidents attributable to human error? Despite the efforts of the Railways to bring in new technologies for reducing human intervention, like the indigenously developed automatic train protection system Kavach — which prevents an accident resulting from the human error of passing a signal 'at danger' — the proportion of accidents linked to human lapses continues to hover around 50 per cent. If Kavach had been installed on the section concerned, it would have prevented the collision but could not have stopped the driver from making a mistake. The reason why it is so difficult to eliminate human error is because this is not the basic cause of the failure but a symptom of a deeper problem plaguing the system. This is something that the Railways has yet to recognise. It looks at human error through the prism of the 'bad apple' theory — it believes that the system is basically safe but for those few unreliable people in it who should be identified and made an example of. Getting rid of these people does not remove the problem because it is systemic, and there are always others to step into the shoes of the 'bad apple'. To reduce accidents put down to human error, the railway top brass needs to recognise that identifying those responsible for the accident should not be the conclusion of the investigation but its starting point. The management should ask itself what factors led the employee to make the trade-off between safety and other goals. And how much of this could be the outcome of its own decisions. After all, all levels of the organisation have to negotiate multiple system goals, some of which may put undue pressure on those directly involved in running the train.

Inequality, joblessness a drag on India's economic growth

It is the right time to recognise the gravity of problems such as unemployment, inequality of income and wealth, and environmental degradation.

CONSTRAINTS on India's growth trajectory are not allowing its economic potential to be fully realised. Consequently, the economy has been recording growth rates much below the potential rate for a period spanning more than a decade since 2011-12, excluding the Covid years (2020-21 and 2021-22).

In the first half of the 20th century, the gross domestic product (GDP) of India grew at a rate of around 1 per cent, which was matched by the growth rate of the population, keeping the per capita income constant and very low. For three decades (1950-51 to 1980-81), the GDP grew at an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent, while the population grew at an annual rate of 2 per cent or more, marking slow growth in the per capita income. But the 1980s observed a jump in the annual GDP growth rate from 3.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, recording a period of accelerated growth rate. The 1990s brought a breakthrough in the form of economic reforms that unlocked the growth potential. The economy recorded a growth rate of 8 per cent or above for nearly eight years between 2003-04 and 2010-11.

The high growth trajectory prompted several economists to work out the potential growth rate of the economy. Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian (2004) projected a potential growth rate of above 7 per cent up to 2025. Tushar Poddar and Eva Yi (2007) predicted a potential growth rate of above 8 per cent until 2020. C Rangarajan and DK Srivastava (2017) estimated it to be 8 per cent to 8.1 per cent up to 2029-30. These estimates indicate that the Indian economy has the potential to grow by around 8 per cent for the medium and the long period. But this potential growth rate could be achieved for only eight years between 2003 and 2010-11. Although the government claims that India can become a \$25-trillion economy by 2047, it seems to ignore the fact that the economy continues to perform below its potential level. This is why efforts have not been made to identify the reasons behind the trend. This needs to be understood so that India is able to march towards becoming a developed country. The post-2010-11 period has thrown enough statistical evidence about the constraints that the economy is facing in achieving the potential growth rate. The most formidable challenge is created by the burgeoning unemployment in the country. The recent periodic labour force surveys have brought out that the country had the highest unemployment rate in the last 40 years in 2022 at 6.4 per cent, excluding the Covid years. This is due to the fact

that country had jobless growth during 2003-04 and job-loss growth after 2012-13. The workforce being released from agriculture because of mechanisation is not being absorbed in industrial or service sectors. The quality of employment has also deteriorated with the replacement of regular jobs with contractual ones.

This has contributed to making the agrarian crisis serious, and, consequently, rural unrest in India has grown. Agriculture, which employs more than 44 per cent of the total workforce, is facing a crisis of survival for 84 per

cent of the peasants. Unfortunately, the country has no employment policy in place. The youth unemployment is alarming at 22.84 per cent at the country level, but in certain states like Punjab and Kerala, it was nearing 30 per cent in 2022. This is why the youth of this country are racing to immigrate, even to conflict zones like eastern Europe and West Asia. Without providing employment to youth, the country cannot take advantage of the demographic dividend of the young population.



Another constraint has been created by the fast-widening income and wealth inequality. Less than 1 per cent of the individuals are able to corner more than 40 per cent of the national income while 50 per cent of the population has just 13.1 per cent of income. The wealth distribution is even more skewed than income distribution. The 50 per cent low-income population has only 5.9 per cent share in the national wealth, while the top 1 per cent of the population has a 40.5 per cent share. The middle class,

home. Along with burgeoning unemployment and widening income and wealth inequality, the problems related to climate change have been fast emerging on the scene. Unseasonal rainfalls and floods have been common. This is accompanied by a rise in the temperature amid a heatwave with an acute shortage of water, both for drinking and irrigation. No one is serious enough to prepare a roadmap to deal with pollution and water scarcity. This can create a crisis with ramifications for agriculture production activities in the severely affected areas. It is the right time to recognise the gravity of problems such as unemployment (especially among the youth), inequality of income and wealth, and environmental degradation. The lack of proper attention to these issues would result in major constraints on the growth of the economy, and the projected targets would prove to be a mere mirage for the country.

The Nijjar factor

Canada pursuing a perilous course

THE Hardeep Singh Nijjar case continues to define and undermine India-Canada relations, with the Canadian Parliament marking the first anniversary of his murder with a moment of silence in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The bilateral relationship has been in freefall ever since Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dropped a bombshell in September last year, claiming that the alleged role of Indian government agents in the Nijjar case was being probed. The radical Sikh leader, who had been designated a terrorist by India's National Investigation Agency, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18 last year. New Delhi has been pressing Ottawa to furnish concrete evidence of an 'Indian hand', even as the Canadian police have arrested four Indian nationals in connection with the killing. In a sharp response to the commemoration of Nijjar's death, India's Consulate General in Vancouver



evoked memories of the June 23, 1985, Kanishka bombing, while asserting that India stood at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and was working

also put a question mark over the Maple Country's commitment to fighting terrorism and extremism. closely with all nations to tackle this global threat. The message to Canada was crystal clear: don't give pro-Khalistan elements a platform to target India. After his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Italy, Trudeau said that there was an 'alignment' between the two nations on several 'big issues' and he saw an opportunity to engage with the new Indian government. This was seen as a significant step forward. However, the Canadian PM has taken two steps backwards by letting domestic political considerations worsen his country's relationship with an old ally. This is a perilous course being pursued by the Canadian government. The relentless appeasement of radicals will not only do irreparable damage to India-Canada ties but

The misplaced fixation with Israeli belligerence

India must separate the wheat from the chaff and seek guidance from its own winning ways of ending societal disaffection.

FOR many hawks in India, extreme right-wing Israel has been the role model of a decisive and aspirational religio-nationalist state. For them, the simplistic framework of 'my enemy's enemy is my friend' works subliminally in the spirit of majoritarianism.

Founding fathers of the 'Idea of India' were deeply sympathetic to the suffering of Jews but were simultaneously opposed to the forcible usurpation of Arab lands, especially as Arabs were not responsible for Jewish woes. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Palestine belongs to the Arab in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French. It is wrong and inhuman to impose Jews on the Arabs. What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct." Even foundationally, India was partitioned between a nation based on religion (Pakistan) and the other based on secularism and inclusivity; hence, India could not make common cause with yet another nation created in the name of religion (Israel). Zionism's aggressive ethno-nationalism fascinated the Hindu Mahasabha, as both sides possibly perceived a common enemy in the largest minority denomination. This fascination overrode the inherent contradiction of many Hindutva ideologues valourising Hitler's Nazis, a pathological anathema to Jews or any right-thinking individual. But today, when the legacy of the Mahatma itself is getting contested in India and the alternative persuasion is dominating, the reverence for the 'Israeli way' is understandable. This captivation extends to the Israeli handling of the insurgency in Palestine. There is a perceived 'emulation worthiness' of the 'Israeli way' when contextualised to any societal strife or disaffection in the Indian context. Hotspots such as Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir seemingly need to be handled with Israeli methods (a euphemism for the 'scorched earth' approach). However, history is instructive — the Israeli style has been an unparalleled disaster in handling societal discontent. Only countries like India (in states like Mizoram and Punjab) or the UK

(in Ireland) were able to end secessionist movements with means that were decidedly 'un-Israeli' in approach. India and the UK had deployed militaristic steel in the conflict region but had in parallel invested in the spirit of political accommodation and inclusivity, allaying concerns of disgruntled citizens. These countries had signed accords (Punjab Accord, 1985; Mizoram Peace Accord, 1986; Good Friday Agreement, 1998) and patiently agreed to honour genuine grievances. It wasn't an immediate return to normalcy, but the sincerity of outreach, socio-economic redressal and persistent engagement (despite many violent disruptions and missteps) finally won the day for India and the UK.

The Palestine-Israel violence has been continuing for decades. On October 7 last year, Hamas carried out a brutal terror attack, killing over 1,400 Israelis, and then the Israelis retaliated disproportionately by butchering over 36,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian death count is increasing by the day. Beyond the unending blame game, the truth is that Israel has failed to guarantee security and peace despite its fabled 'Israeli way' — both sides have not been more polarised, hate-filled and vengeful in 78 years.

Perception of the hyper-muscular Israeli methods is flawed, as Israeli history has witnessed many ideological differences. The principal Israeli party (Labour) once ruled the roost, with all Prime Ministers

till 1977 owing allegiance to its movement, albeit under different names. Labour is predicated on an approach based on Israel-Palestine peace talks, pragmatism in foreign policy, welfare statism, and even relative

moderation — whereas the ruling Likud party is aggressive to the point of being predatory, proudly anti-peace, against a two-state solution and exclusivist/majoritarian in instinct. PM Benjamin Netanyahu personifies Likud and the 'Israeli way' phenomenon by insisting that Israel is "not a state of all its citizens", implicitly denying dignity to native Arab Palestinians, with whom the Oslo Peace Agreements were signed in 1993 and 1995. The agreements were

signed during the rule of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party. Rabin was later assassinated by a radicalised Jew. The dovish Rabin was formerly a decorated General of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), which had won wars and conducted daring operations, yet he represented a moderate, restorative and statesmanlike face of Israeli politics. The principal Opposition leader now is Benny Gantz, yet another retired General of the IDF and no longer part of the National Unity Government (formed after the October 7 attack). He, too, personally and politically, eschews and disavows the failed 'Israeli way' of Netanyahu. Though Israel is still in the war mode and angry at the Hamas attack, there is a huge groundswell about the failed policies and consequences of Netanyahu's counterproductive belligerence that created a tinderbox-like situation and led to endless bloodshed. Israel was at its most peaceful (relatively speaking) after the signing of the Oslo Accords.

Seeds of the Israeli template were sown by the hawkish and warmongering Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, initially from Likud (he later formed the Kadima party), who earned notoriety as the 'Butcher of Beirut'. The Human Rights Watch recognises him as a war criminal; Netanyahu has only worsened that construct of 'muscular' politics that seems very impressive in the beginning but comes at a very heavy price in the long run. India must separate the wheat from the chaff and seek guidance from its own winning ways of ending societal disaffection, as opposed to getting galvanised by failed and vacuous muscularity of the 'Israeli way', as there is no bravery, morality or constitutionality involved in it.



Mouni Roy left her fans gasping for breath with her latest fashion choices.



Mouni Roy

Looks Sizzling In A Tube Top As She Steps Out For Date Night, Hot Video Goes Viral

Mouni Roy needs no introduction. She has become one of the highest-paid Hindi television actresses after appearing in the supernatural thriller series Naagin and its sequel, Naagin. Apart from her outstanding acting skills, she is also known as a fashion icon. She never misses a single chance to embrace her distinctive sense of style and surprise her fans. Not only that, even the paps' social feeds are often peppered with candid pictures and moments. Maintaining that trajectory, Mouni Roy set the internet on fire once again after they dropped a sizzling video of the actress with her husband. Mouni Roy recently stepped out for a date night with her husband, Suraj Nambiar. She looked ravishing as she flaunted her curves in a white tube-style top and black pants. Watch here: Mouni Roy has come a long way ever since she made her television debut with Ekta Kapoor's Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi. She became a popular name after she starred in Naagin. Mouni made her Bollywood debut with Akshay Kumar's Gold in 2018. Last year, Mouni was seen in Ayan Mukerji's magnum opus, Brahmastra. Recently, she was also seen in a music video titled 'Dotara' along with Jubin Nautiyal. Mouni Roy was also seen in the web-series Sultan of Delhi. She was last seen in Emraan Hashmi-starrer Showtime. In a recent interview, Mouni shared that it is projects like Sultan of Delhi and Brahmastra which changed people's perception of her as an actor. "Brahmastra was absolutely different. When you see Gold, RAW and Made In China, I had played very Indianised characters. Maybe after Naagin and Sati, people could only see me as a 'saree-clad Indian character'. So, for Milan sir to think of me as this cabaret dancer Nayantara, at a time when Brahmastra had not even released. I think it is an exciting time to be an actor where makers can visualise you in different roles. Such great parts are being written. I really feel fortunate to be offered these parts and be able to play them on screen," she told Indian Express.



Shahid Kapoor's Wife Mira Rajput Has This To Say About Her 'Puppy' Comment



Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput recently embarked on her entrepreneurial journey and launched a skincare brand named Akind. Well, this is not the only reason she is grabbing headlines for. Back in 2017, Mira had questioned working mothers for not spending time with their babies and leaving them at home for work. She had even compared babies with 'puppies' in a statement. Now, the content creator has reacted to her past comment in an interview with Film Champion. Mira Rajput clarified her stance about the misconceptions people have regarding her statement. She even expressed "regret" over her past comments. Mira said that she felt being "pushed into a corner" for taking a "conventional, conservative approach" during her pregnancy. Calling this line of thought "unfair," the entrepreneur added that she wanted to give time to her children. Mira Rajput shared, "While I was pushed in that corner for seeming very regressive, I think I probably acted out by saying things... I don't think I agree with them right now. I think I have come a long way from that." Mira Rajput added that she now understands why her comments didn't go down well with the audience. "I can understand why it wasn't taken well. I think I was in a vulnerable, emotional space. I think I was just trying to defend myself that my choices are also valid," added the star wife. Mira Rajput was trying to advocate for equal recognition of mothers and fathers who stay at home when she made the viral comment. The popular influencer said that her daughter Misha was not a puppy whom she could leave at home for work and called out women for prioritising their work. The comment did not go down well, receiving flak from audiences. In the same interaction, Mira Rajput also came in support of Hrithik Roshan's beau Saba Azad. FYI: Saba recently criticised the "patriarchal mindset". The actress revealed that she missed out on various voice-over job opportunities because of her relationship with Hrithik. Supporting Saba Azad, Mira Rajput said that one's identity shouldn't be solely based on their associations.

Singer Eshani On Darshan's Arrest: 'Must Face Punishment If Wrong'



Popular actor Darshan was recently arrested in connection with the Renuka Swamy murder case. The actor along with 17 other people was arrested on June 11. The court ordered 9 days of judicial custody which ends today, June 20. Since the actor's arrest, several stars from the film industry reacted to the development. Bigg Boss Kannada 10 fame singer Eshani Shekr posted a message along with some pictures with Darshan on her Instagram handle. In the post, Eshani mentioned that everyone should abide by the law and if the actor has done anything wrong he should be punished accordingly. She wrote, "This is truly shocking news! It is very hard to believe that Darshan Sir, whom I saw as a brother, is involved in such an act. Although his actions seemed right as he tried to save the dignity of a woman, taking the law into one's own hands is not at all acceptable under the Constitution of India. If Darshan Sir has done wrong, he must face the punishment, but spreading baseless rumours and tarnishing his image until then is not right," when translated to English. 33-year-old Renuka Swamy, who was reportedly an autorickshaw driver, was allegedly kidnapped from the Chitradurga district of Karnataka on June 8. He reportedly sent some derogatory messages to actress Pavithra Gowda. According to the statement by the Police department, Renuka Swamy blamed the actress for souring Darshan's relationship with his wife. This allegedly angered the actor, who then reportedly hired some members of one of his fan clubs to kidnap the man. The gang allegedly kidnapped and murdered him as per the instructions of Darshan. His dead body was later found on June 9 near a flyover in Bengaluru. In another development, the Kannada Bigg Boss winner Pratham recently filed a comment after receiving death threats from Darshan's fans. He reportedly made certain comments that angered some fans of Darshan.

Swara Bhasker

Says Producers Think She's 'Untouchable': 'My Twitter Account Cost Me My Career'

Actress Swara Bhasker's performance was appreciated in films like Tanu Weds Manu, Raanjhanaa and Anarkali of Aarah among others. However, despite much critical acclaim, the actress did not appear in many mainstream movies. Known for never mincing her words, Swara recently said that voicing her opinions on social media cost her her career. Speaking to Connect Cine, Swara said, "If there was anything in the world that was most expensive for me, it was my Twitter account because it cost me my career, in a sense... For a lot of producers, I am untouchable in the industry and these are not my words, these are the words of my well-wishers, producer, director friends who have called me up and told me. People tell me that we wanted to cast you but the studio heard your name and said no."



Swara said that casting directors are asked to look for "an actress like Swara Bhasker" but wouldn't cast her. She said, "They are like 'no, controversies happen'. I don't know what is the fear but there is a fear."

There are a lot of people who keep saying that 'You have done the wrong thing, you destroyed your career, why did you do this? It was very foolish of you', including often your own team. People who love you, and they are coming from a place of concern. They are your well-wishers so they are feeling bad looking at you. Like my brother, he is my

biggest supporter and he gets the most angry too that an actor of your calibre shot herself in the foot," she said. In the same conversation, Swara also said that it was a conscious decision for her to make her opinions heard. She said, "I don't want to act like I am a victim. I chose this path. I decided that I will be vocal and put forth my opinion on issues. I could've chosen to stay silent. There was no need for me to write an open letter expressing my discontent on the Johar scene in Padmaavat. Mujhe koi zarurat nahin thi (There was no need for me to do it)."

