



Fast strides: Muslims march ahead on literacy in Central India, other states and rural parts

Data is available but info about narrowing gap between communities' literacy & Muslim women racing ahead in rural India [a recent report], are ignored in media.



Census report has been available for long, but periodic survey reports in last few years, also corroborate. It's not just about the entire Central Indian region, which had 10 crore or 100 million population, then, & now has estimated population of 120 million or 12 cr, [close to population of Japan, more than that of Egypt, S Africa, Turkey & 190 other countries].

In other regions too, Muslim literacy rate has gone up. As old data & a particular way of analysis continues, narrowing difference between Hindu & Muslim literacy gets no attention. In search engines [internet], newspapers still make sweeping remarks like 'backwardness' or low literacy level, though data & surveys after Census2011, also show community's forward march.



Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

community has been leading and is better as far as literacy is concerned.

For years, there has been a claim about Muslims lagging behind a lot on indicators but data tells that it's half-truth & due to perception formed on the basis of casual look at the data, without serious analysis. India is a huge country and in the last few decades, Muslims have made fast strides.

The result is that the gap has narrowed between the two biggest communities in the country, and in many states, Muslims have done well. Also, pace of improvement has been high in recent years.

Official data, if seen properly and analysed, shows that Muslims are moving ahead and though even Census revealed it, the newspaper headings mostly missed the trend and the analyses were on the same old lines that present a different picture.

In media houses, apparently, the lack of proper data analysis & traditional views about communities, could be a reason. Else, how people could miss the trend, visible shift, the change & it's extent. Take for instance Madhya Pradesh, a huge state that has an area more than Italy and Britain. This state in the centre of India is among the

biggest states in the country and also has a population that's higher than UK, France and Spain.

In the last census, Hindu community had a literacy rate of 66% and nearly 49.5% for males & females in MP.

However, Muslims in MP had a **higher literacy rate of 69.11% and 57.26%** for males and females respectively.

Clearly, the figures suggest the pattern. However, even though the data has been in public for long now, was it discussed or even came out in media—print or electronic.

Chhattisgarh has literacy rate of 77.9% for Muslim males &

67.7% for Muslim females.

This is much higher than literacy rate of 68% and 50.6% for Hindu males and females respectively.

However, despite such a difference, this data is not generally known, published or talked about even in these states.

Census was conducted in 2011 & it is still official data, till next census. The data was in public domain. But on literacy & social sector, media reporting lacked depth. Rate of increase & percentage of change were not mentioned.

Hence, several aspects of literacy data & important indicators get missed. [shams.alavi@gmail.com]

Japan high on the index of world's best country to live

Switzerland tops the list, Japan is at second spot, but first in Asia & all continents other than Europe, as per ranking.

The Asian Tribune

Japan has been adjudged the best country in Asia and the second best in the entire world, in the US News & World Report. The country has gone up from sixth place and reached second place, after Switzerland.

The countries that are considered best to live, have Switzerland, Japan and United States in first, second

and third place. The ranking takes into account multiple factors and parameters that include infrastructure, education, innovation, skill, law and environment amongst others.

Almost ninety major countries are evaluated and the inputs are taken with the assistance of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The Best Countries Index ranks countries in multiple

categories also. For example, in quality of life, Denmark ranks highest.

The index highlights the prosperity, progress, power of different nations and perception about the country at the global level. The standard of living, governance, law-and-order, safety, are all part of the points that are considered. Japan's economy is strong, gets investment.

Tourism sector has shown potential and the immigrants seeking jobs, also prefer to come and work in the country. After Switzerland, Japan and USA, the next countries on the list are Canada and Australia at the 4th and 5th spot.

Australia, Sweden, Germany ranked 5th, 6th and 7th. UK, New Zealand and Denmark are at the 8th, 9th & 10th

rank.

Apart from top ten, the list has Norway at the 11th spot followed by France, Netherlands, Singapore, Italy, China, UAE, South Korea, Spain, Finland, Austria, Iceland, Belgium, Ireland and Qatar. Thailand is at 28th place, Turkey at 31 and India at 33. Two other Asian countries, Malaysia & Indonesia are also in first 50.

Iran launches Chamran-I satellite into space, using Revolutionary Guard's Qaem rocket, irks the Western powers

The satellite has been sent to the space in a rocket built by Revolutionary Guard.

The Asian Tribune

Iran has sent a satellite with a rocket, into the space. The Revolutionary Guard was part of this launch that was termed a success. Western countries have expressed worry over the space program, as they have apprehensions about Iran going ahead with a ballistic missile program. The launch was from Shahroud, 350 km eastwards from Tehran. US and several other Western nations remain wary of Iran, and its nuclear program too. The rocket Qaem-100 was used to send satellite to the Orbit. Iran says it is for peaceful purpose.

The Asian Tribune



As Gaza is witnessing deaths on a regular basis, the heightened tensions in the region and the recent killing of Ismail Haniyeh, have brought more spotlight on Iran.

As Iran is seen as a country that is against Israel, and a formidable adversary. The Western block is unhappy that Tehran is also going ahead with the Uranium enrichment plan.

Earlier this year, Iran had sent three satellites into the space in January.

It is not clear as to how much time, Iran needs to get the nuclear status, but there are speculations that it is close to the stage or might have reached the point where it could assemble a device or two.

The success in testing the ballistic missile is an indication that the country may go ahead with inter-continental ballistic missile.

Asia

Central Asia's ambitious gas supply project: Linking TAPI's Afghanistan section, finally starts,

The Asian Tribune

The construction has begun on the Afghanistan section of the TAPI project that is for supplying gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.



The Central Asian country, Turkmenistan, has huge natural gas reserves. Though the project was supposed to have been completed long ago, the security aspects led to delay of the project.

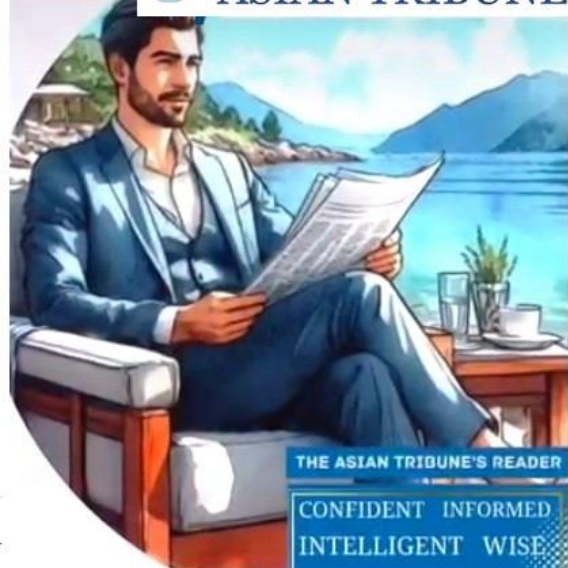
While Turkmenistan section has been complete, the 100 km pipeline section linking Turkmenistan to Herat, has now been inaugurated. It is surmised that nearly

33 billion cubic metre gas would be supplied through this pipeline every year. Among nations with gas reserves, Turkmenistan is part of the top five countries in the world.

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