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Anxiety over Air travel: Hold the airlines and manufacturers more accountable

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The air passengers are in a state of shock and anxiety after the recent plane crash that took place in Ahmedabad.

It was a London-bound flight that met with a mishap and the crash resulted in death of nearly 270 persons.

Enough of repeated assurances that air travel is safest, the fact remains that there is a major mishap and it's time to deal with the concerns.

The Dreamliner had 242 people onboard and except one, none survived. This is one of the worst air crashes in recent years.

The Boeing plane hit a building and many others who were not onboard the plane, died on the ground also, taking the toll much higher.

But the fact is that Aviation industry has to take a serious look as to how the systems failed. From manufacturing of the plane to maintenance and the related Several incidents of crash have occurred in recent years and in the current year too, but this was among the worst in 2025.

People recalled the Mangalore crash when 158 passengers were



killed fifteen years ago. The Boeing flight from Dubai, met with a mishap while landing at the Mangalore airport.

The point is that either there is a technical fault at the runway or the manufacturing defect, any flaw in the engine or lack of maintenance, nothing can be overlooked and the Aviation industry must take a serious look. It's time for stricter cent percent accountability.

After the Boeing Dreamliner crash, there is once again the need to be vigilant about complaints and the information that is obtained from passengers as well as the whistleblowers.

It is known that often passengers and people within the industry raise concerns, but these are not taken seriously. Safety norms & security gaps can't be left unattended.

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Aviation industry can no longer afford to ignore whistle blowers. It must take all the complaints seriously & follow all the strict safety norms.

Israel targets Iran's nuclear facility, Iran retaliates, rains missiles on Israeli cities, both the countries suffer losses

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After years of proxy war, the Iran-Israel conflict took a serious turn and turned into a full-scale war.

While Gaza continues to face the onslaught, Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear facility, prompted Iran to respond.

The retaliation was robust and its missiles hit several Israeli cities and settlements. Meanwhile, Israel has said that it will continue its offensive, stating that it has been successful in its strikes and wouldn't let Iran continue its nuclear program. Israel hit at the Natanz enrichment site and also the missile manufacturing units apart from Shahran depot and other vital installations.



Several Iranian military commanders and scientists were killed in the attack. However, Iran soon attacked Israel with missiles and drones.

The Asian Tribune, Boston

Tel Aviv, Haifa, Bat Yam cities were hit by Iranian missiles. Israel expects US to take a more active part in the conflict and support Israel, however, within US, there is a strong view to avoid getting dragged into a war that could last long and affect American interests as well as its economy.

Nearly 24 people have been killed in Israel. More than 200 people have lost lives in Iran. While Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to cripple Iran's nuclear program, on the other hand Iran says that it will continue strikes.

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UNJUST: The removal of Urdu from school education system is a cause of concern



By Muhammad Nomaan Khan

The Asia Tribune

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Urdu, one of the most widely spoken languages and a symbol of India's rich pluralism, is facing a piquant situation.

On one hand, it remains a language that has rich literature and its couplets are quoted in Parliament, but on the other hand, it is losing its place in the educational system.

The schools that provide education in Urdu medium are not being opened in most North Indian state.

Though it is a democratic right and the children should be able to get education in their mother tongue.

In fact, the schools are getting closed. As third language too, it is not taught in most schools, though the option is available on papers.

Due to lack of any state with Urdu as sole official language, it is not a compulsory language in even one state.

Several factors are driving this crisis. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, while listing Urdu among the 22 scheduled languages, does not prioritize it or offer specific measures for its inclusion in education. This policy gap, combined with funding cuts and curriculum changes, has led to a steady drop in Urdu-medium schools.

For instance, Karnataka has seen the number of Urdu schools fall, substantially, over the past decade.

In many states, the three-language formula is being used in such a way that Urdu is denied its place. Rajasthan, for example, has mostly Sanskrit taught as third language in government schools, sparking debates about identity and inclusion. Such moves have led to fewer

Urdu teachers being recruited and fewer students opting for it as subject.

Fearing limited career prospects and social stigma Experts and community leaders feel that without active state support, Urdu's presence in textbooks, exams, and teacher recruitment will continue to shrink.

Students get discouraged from choosing Urdu due to these reasons, as often the subject is removed or teachers not available.

Else, books are printed late. In fact, the language's exclusion from official narratives weakens India's rich cultural mosaic.

Political rhetoric has sometimes linked Urdu with religious identity, further marginalizing the language and threatening India's secular and pluralistic ethos..

In Maharashtra, language policies have fluctuated, with some attempts to accommodate Urdu, but clarity and consistent support remain lacking.

The removal of Urdu is erasing a vital piece of India's cultural and intellectual heritage. Without urgent intervention, including policy reforms, community initiatives, and incentives for Urdu learning, the language that has a vast treasure of texts, will suffer.

Historically, Urdu united communities and contributed immensely to India's literature, cinema and music.

Inclusion of Urdu is about more than preserving words, it's about protecting a bridge that has long connected India's diverse communities. Without urgent intervention, we risk losing a vital piece of our collective identity.

[The writer is BITS, Pilani certified researcher]

Resilience: Raising issues, connect with citizens on the ground are reasons for strong presence as leader

In a state that once had a strong Muslim leadership, barely a few leaders remain who still have influence as well as popularity among masses.

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
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Asif Zaki has indeed been a straightforward and bold leader, known for taking up citizen's issues for over three decades. He started his political career long ago and as an active politician got popular quite early.

Zaki was known for his command over youngsters and students in campuses of different colleges under the Barkatullah University.

Over the years, he emerged as a strong voice in Bhopal, a city known for culture, literature, history and unique heritage.

In fact, top national leaders and ministers banked upon Zaki as they needed a strong leader in



Asif Zaki

Bhopal for support. His connect with people, his maturity and his Political acumen were reason that Zaki's image remained that of a leader with convincing ability and who was taken seriously as a leader, unlike run of the mill politicians.

Either it was the issue of displacement of residents or the grievances of citizens regarding civics issues, he remained in the forefront.

Interestingly, in a city that is almost seen as a capital with two distinct areas, Zaki managed to have his hold in both New Bhopal as well as Old Bhopal.

In view of his political experience and connect with citizens, he was

given charge of Bhopal district Congress and he became its president. His wife Shabista Zaki has also been an active leader who has always intervened and taken on administration over public causes.

In a city that has seen leaders like Saeedullah Khan Razmi, Abu Saeed Bazmi. Razmi, Khan Shakir Ali Khan, Gufran Azam, Arif Baig, Rasool Ahmad Siddiqui and Hasnat Siddiqui, Zaki emerged as leader of the new generation. Now, he is a seasoned politician.

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'No one is above the law', says Madras High Court judge as he orders police to arrest ADGP

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In an important move, the Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu police to take action against a top cop.

Justice P Velmurugan has asked the police to arrest Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) HM Jayaram to conduct a probe in connection with a case.

Jayaram has to be interrogated in connection with his alleged involvement in a case of abduction. The High Court judge has also asked a lawmaker [MLA] to cooperate with the investigating authorities.

Justice P Velmurugan directed the police to take action against the ADGP as per law.

The Madras High Court stressed on the fact that being a public servant, Jayaram was answerable to the public.

The Madras High Court judge further clarified that a strong message should go out to the citizens that no one was above the law. The complainant, Lakshmi, had alleged that her son was abducted. He was later dropped in an injured state in the official vehicle of ADG and the MLA was allegedly a conspirator.

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'Wind energy is at the centre of strategy for the renewable energy sector'

Wind Energy is the key and part of our plan for the renewable energy sector and in order to become a global manufacturing hub, India needs energy--be it solar energy, wind energy or any other form of energy.

"Our national goals are ambitious and clear: 50% of our power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, and a net-zero India by 2070. Wind energy is central to achieving these goals. Wind energy is not a component of our renewable energy strategy but it is at the heart of it and at the centre of self-reliant India," said Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi.

India's manufacturing capacity is increasing and it will continue to increase. We are focusing on the importance of renewable energy production, storage and usage, so that once India becomes a global manufacturing hub in near future, it should be able to fulfill the energy demands of the manufacturing sector through renewable energy sources, said the minister.

India has the huge potential in the renewable energy sector as it has globally the fourth largest wind power installed capacity and it is third largest renewable energy producer. "No one had thought that India would become the third largest manufacturer of renewable energy in 10 years, but today it is a reality, said the minister.

The minister underlined the 3 key issues for the Wind Energy sector saying that, 'First, we must combine wind with solar and storage (BESS) to deliver round-the-clock power and grid stability. Secondly, tariffs must be competitive. A rate of Rs 3.90 per unit is too high; we must work together to reduce costs.

Third, domestic manufacturing must become more efficient, not just to meet our own targets, but to boost exports."

Underlining the dedicated efforts from GoI to unleash the potential of renewable energy sector, Joshi said, "The Government is backing this sector with full seriousness. This year's renewable energy budget has gone up by 53%, to Rs 26,549 crore, with a large share directed to wind."

"The transition to renewables is inevitable. States must lead this transition. Land availability and transmission delays have to be overcome. This is not the time for hesitation, it is the time for execution," the minister added. The Minister said, "I am happy to note that India is manufacturing wind turbines ranging from 225 kW to 5.2 MW, with 33 models being produced by 14 companies. These turbines meet our domestic needs and are also cost-competitive globally."

The Minister further added that to fully unlock national wind potential, we need a coordinated national push. That is why we are focusing on 5 priorities:

Expanding into new states like Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha. Launching the offshore sector with 4 GW of leasing areas identified in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and tenders being readied. Integrating wind into round-the-clock and firm green power strategies, through storage-linked business models.

Modernising the grid, investing in AI-based forecasting to manage variable renewable energy.

Boosting local manufacturing across the entire wind value chain Union Minister Joshi also released reports on Wind Energy Roadmap and



Manufacturing Roadmap at the event. He said that the documents will serve as guiding frameworks for our journey ahead and reflect our collective ambition, strategic thinking, and commitment to building a strong and self-reliant wind energy ecosystem in India.

Best performing States in terms of Wind Capacity addition were also felicitated at the event. Karnataka was first with a wind capacity addition of 1331.48 MW followed by Tamil Nadu (1136.37 MW) and Gujarat (954.76 MW).

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