



India ranks low in human development index: Why far behind, positioned at 130?



The Asian Tribune
www.asiantribune.net

HDI gives an idea about countries' education, health & standard of life.

Even though India has a fast growing economy, there are certain aspects that are puzzling and cause worries for the policy makers.

The fact that the country ranks low on UN's Human Development Index (HDI) is a serious issue and needs to be pondered.

If the world's most populous country that ranks ahead of China and US in population size, ranks so low on HDI, it is a cause of worry for the policy makers as well as leaders, bureaucrats, social scientists and citizens.

HDI is an index that measures a country's overall economic health, through education, citizens' health and standard of life. The answer lies in the fault—growth is at the top and

and those at the top are known for owning maximum wealth. This is a huge imbalance.

If the top owns a majority of the country's wealth, it won't help in improvement of overall indices that take into account all the sections of the society.

In India, health infrastructure is not getting enough funding. The health expenditure is barely over 2%.

Hence, NFHS 5 shows 35.5% children are stunted, 19.3% wasted and 57% women in the age group 15-49 are anaemic. Malnutrition is, thus, a huge problem in India. Cost of treatment is high in private hospitals and families get into poverty after one or two major treatments or surgeries.

As far as education is concerned, India has taken steps to provide school education to tens of millions of children, but the systematic issues like lack of teachers and bad infrastructure, affect the quality of education that is imparted in these schools.

It is quite common to find a lone teacher taking too many classes. There are also schools that have barely one or two teachers.

The Annual Status of Education Report suggests that even children in fifth standard, are often unable to read books meant for the second standard.

However, one of the most important aspects that affects HDI rating is the financial inequality among people.

Standard of living is much better in Southern states like Kerala but worse in North India. UP and Bihar have living standards

Gender parity, work participation rate, nutrition and political exclusion or other discriminations on the basis of caste or communities, too need to be figured out.

Female education needs priority. The mean years of schooling for women is 4.8 years, but it is 8.2 for men.

Caste and tribes are backward due to several historic reasons.

Though a nuclear power and a space power, India that is known for IT exports and large number of consumers, hasn't invested enough in primary health and education.

June 1, 2026 Monday

Terrorist attack on the Islamic Center in San Diego is due to online hate & radicalism



Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
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The San Diego shooting was a terror attack at the Islamic Centre of San Diego (ICSD), which is the largest mosque in San Diego, California. It is one of the most horrific such incidents in recent times. The suspected terrorists were identified as teenaged, Cain Lee Clark and Caleb Liam Vazquez. They fatally shot a security personnel and two other community members at the mosque before they escaped. They also shot at a landscaper before committing suicide. The duo had even recorded live video of the shooting and a racist manifesto was found during investigation. They had written this manifesto that had been referenced from Christchurch mosque shootings. Amin Abdullah, Nader Awad and Mansour Kaziha were the three persons who were killed in this attack. The San Diego police official said that it was being investigated as a hate crime.

The violent attack took place at around 11.43. One of the terror suspect's mother had told police that her son had run away with her firearms and car. She had also informed the authorities that her son was dressed in camouflage. Later, the police found the attackers dead, due to self-inflicted wounds in a vehicle. Dozens of guns, in fact, around 30 guns and crossbow were recovered when the suspects' homes were searched. BBC reported that the attackers were dressed in military clothing, bedecked with Nazi symbols and armed with rifle, shotgun and pistol. The police officials and the FBI investigated the crime and they found that the attackers had a written a lot against the marginalized communities, groups, especially, the religious minorities. The hate and radicalization was clearly visible in these writings that were later recovered.

More 140 schoolchildren were incident the centre when the attack took place. Amin Abdullah, 51, was the security guard who lost his life in this attack. Mansour Kaziha, 78, was a founding member and was also among the caretakers of the mosque. The incident sent shockwaves across the city and the country. The residents of the town were shell-shocked as teenaged youths turned hateful and committed an act of terror. In the last two decades, multiple cases have occurred when right-wing extremists who were either radicalized online or got the nasty ideas through anti-immigrant or xenophobes and fanatics, took to committing hate crimes and even attacking the minorities in what could be termed as terror attacks, though media mostly avoids using the term terror strike in such cases when the attackers are right-wing supremacists.

There is a long list of such incidents that have occurred across the globe. From United States to Canada, New Zealand to United Kingdom, the media has mostly paid less attention towards such acts. The hate speeches and trend of anti-immigrant rhetoric that has become more common due to politicians who use this sentiment to gather support of conservatives, is one of the major reasons for this dangerous radicalization. On social media platforms, the hate against immigrants and 'others' has consistently gone up and this has made the situation even more worrying. It's high time that the authorities, the politicians and administrators take a serious view of such tendency and supremacists who harbor ill feelings against immigrants are kept under watch.

Demolition & Destruction: Selective action against citizens, yet another form of 'injustice'

GARIB NAGAR, BANDRA

BULLDOZERS OR DISPLACEMENT?



500
HOMES
DEMOLISHED



2
MOSQUES
DEMOLISHED



16
PEOPLE
ARRESTED



₹600
CRORE LAND
CLEARED

LAW FOR WHOM?
JUSTICE FOR WHOM?



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Once the 'welfare state' served citizens. Now it's a despotic, destructive & harsh rule.

The bulldozers continue to roll in India. One after the other, residential areas and settlements are being demolished.

From North Indian states like Delhi, UP and Uttarakhand to West Bengal in one corner and Maharashtra in the other, it has become a common feature.

Muslim dominated localities are often the target. The latest is the incident in Mumbai, which caused outrage. In this incident, the action was taken just when Iduzzuha was

round the corner. The defence is always the same—these are encroachments.

The fact is that settlements are often on government lands but at the same time, hundreds of colonies that are illegal, are regularized just before polls.

But if a settlement is termed as illegal, it becomes easy to target and demolish it, because in the government's—official vocab, it becomes illegal and the residents are seen as encroachers.

Mass evictions take place in the harsh seasons and the action is

sudden, without even giving the residents any option to approach the higher courts.

Besides, when entire settlement is razed, people don't even get the opportunity to explain that they had legally purchased the land or house and that any of the government department claimed that it was illegal, much later, and as one of the wings made a claim, it was 'accepted' and media starts parroting the same line.

The term 'encroachers' gives the media and officials a narrative that these people are 'outsiders'

who can be evicted. Families lose their belongings and even old mosques get razed.

Children and women sit under the harsh sun in such extreme weather, without any respite and having no hope. Such harsh measures have become common.

Even when cases are pending and when all documents are not even checked, the action is quickly undertaken. However, when it comes to many other illegal colonies, they are easily 'regularized'. Selective action is shameful and condemnable.

The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.



The cruel math of dual moral policing in the times of mob violence: What to do when your own betray you?

By Huneza Khan

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India Muslims woke up to disturbing videos from Bhopal on a particular day last month, wherein self-styled vigilantes associated with the right-wing Hindu extremist group Bajrang Dal barged into a private hotel room occupied by a young interfaith couple. The footage that followed was brutal.

A 27-year-old Muslim man, Mohammad Arif, was publicly assaulted, stripped half-naked, humiliated, forced to consume cow dung, and made to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' in police presence. His offence was not violence or coercion but a consensual relationship with a Hindu woman.

Reports suggest that Arif and his partner were consenting adults who had been together for several years. None of that really mattered to the vigilantes, invoking the now-familiar 'Love Jihad' conspiracy theory. Arif's Muslim identity alone was enough to convert a private relationship into a public spectacle of punishment. The assailants violated the young man's dignity and also made derogatory remarks about his God, Allah. The developments after the assault should unsettle—sicken us all. The usually calmer city of Bhopal reacted.

Public outrage emerged as protestors gathered in larger numbers, visibly angry. Yet the Muslim mobilization appeared not to be centred around the assault on Mohammad Arif, but the blasphemous remarks made against Allah during the attack. Every community has the right to protest speech or conduct it considers offensive to its faith. Numerous others responded accordingly as their religious

sentiments were wounded. A citizen had been assaulted, degraded, and targeted because he was Muslim, and this central issue slipped away somewhere amidst the outrage. Community members during the protests distanced themselves from him because his relationship was viewed as religiously impermissible.

The victim's personal morality complicated solidarity with him; that's where the red buzzer alarms. Wrong about what exactly needs to be asked plainly: *On what parameter was he wrong* in the world where courts have repeatedly affirmed that two consenting adults have the right to live together with dignity. Mohammad Arif was not assaulted because vigilantes conducted a theological inquiry into whether he was a practising Muslim.

They did not ask whether he prayed five times a day, observed religious obligations, or lived according to Islamic principles. He was assaulted because he was identified as Muslim, which was sufficient to make him a target. Unfortunately, sections of his own community appeared more willing to judge him than defend him.

In doing so, they inadvertently legitimized the same dangerous logic that sustains vigilante politics:

that empathy and solidarity must depend on the perceived morality of the victim. The Indian Constitution does not authorize mobs to punish consenting adults for their personal relationships. It does not permit vigilante groups to invade private spaces,



publicly humiliate citizens, or enforce majoritarian morality through violence.

Whether one personally approves of live-in relationships or interfaith relationships is legally irrelevant. The question before society is not whether Arif's relationship satisfied someone's moral standards. The question is whether constitutional rights can survive if mobs are allowed to decide which relationships are acceptable. The distinction matters. How does piety become the benchmark of whether an individual, a victim, deserves protection from assault?

Constitutional protections begin to weaken for everyone once violence becomes morally negotiable. The danger of vigilantism lies precisely in its ability to shift public attention away from legality and towards the personal conduct of the victim.

The mob has already succeeded in reframing the debate, the moment society begins asking whether the victim was 'right' before condemning the brutality against him.

This pattern is no longer an

exception in India's communal climate, where victims are frequently subjected to post-facto moral scrutiny. Citizens assaulted over allegations of cattle smuggling, interfaith relationships, or religious suspicion are rarely granted immediate human sympathy without conditions attached. Their private lives, beliefs, and choices are placed on trial even before the violence against them is fully acknowledged.

When Akhlaq was lynched in Dadri over cow slaughter allegations, and Tabrez Ansari was beaten to death in Jharkhand over theft allegations, did the community verify their prayer schedule before mourning them and demanding justice?

Of course not, because it would be absurd. The violence didn't come because they failed some test of Islamic piety. It came because they were Muslim. The mob doesn't care about faith credentials. It sees identity. Rights do not exist only for those who satisfy social or religious expectations.