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India ranked among 10 worst countries for working people: ITUC Global Rights Index 2020

2020 ITUC GLOBAL RIGHTS INDEX

Ten worst countries in the world for working people

 Bangladesh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence Mass dismissal Repressive laws 	 Honduras NEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murders and extreme violence Union busting and dismissals 	 The Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence and murder Arbitrary arrests Union busting practices
 Brazil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murder Threats and intimidation Brutal repression of strikes 	 India NEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brutal repression of strike Mass dismissals Repressive laws 	 Turkey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismissals and discrimination Arrests and prosecution of union leaders
 Colombia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murders and extreme violence Union busting and dismissals 	 Kazakhstan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State repression Severe obstacles to union registration Prosecution of union leaders 	 Zimbabwe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecution of union leaders Violence and threats
 Egypt NEW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe obstacles to union registration Arrests during strikes State repression 		

In accordance with the 7th edition of “**International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index 2020-The World’s Worst Countries for Workers**”, India became the new entrant

in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world, with a rating of 5 that states “No guarantee of rights”. The index ranked 144 countries on the basis of respect for workers’ rights.

- The other countries among the worst ten are- Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, , Kazakhstan, Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe along with Egypt & Honduras being the other two new entrants apart from India.
- On the region front, **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** is the worst region with 4.44 rating followed by Asia-Pacific with 4.09 in the world for working people for seven years (2014-2020).
- India’s ranking was based on three factors viz. Mass dismissals, Brutal repression of strikes, and Regressive laws.

Index perspective with respect to India

In 2020, the police in India used disproportionate violence against workers protesting to call for the payment of due wages and better working conditions citing incidents from Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Following are the companies mentioned in index that Violates Workers’ Rights in India

- Pricol in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), Tamil Nadu
- Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), Telangana
- Motherson Automotive Technologies & Engineering (MATE), Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Index perspective on global front

-85% of countries violated the right to strike and 80% of countries violated the right to collectively bargain.

-The number of countries that denied or constrained freedom of speech increased from 54 in 2019 to 56 in 2020.

-Workers were exposed to violence in 51 countries.

-Workers had no or restricted access to justice in 72% of countries.

-Workers experienced arbitrary arrests and detention in 61 countries.

The number of countries which impeded the registration of unions increased from 86 in 2019 to 89 countries in 2020.

Pakistan and China signed an EPC Agreement for 700 MW Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project in PoK



Pakistan and Gezhouba Group Company Limited of China signed an Engineer Procurement and Contract (EPC) agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan Hydel Power

Project on Jhelum River in the Sudhnoti District of Pakistan occupied Kashmir(PoK).

Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan witnessed the signing in a ceremony in Islamabad.

- This 1.5 billion USD project is a 2nd power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor(CPEC).
- The first project was signed on 23rd June 2020, for the 1100 MW Kohala project worth 2.3Billion USD, on the Jhelum river near Muzaffarabad.

Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project:

i. Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project is a run on the river scheme with a reservoir near the Muslimabad village located 7km upstream from the Azad Pattan bridge.

ii. The construction of the project was proposed in 2002, which will take 69 months for completion.

iii. The project developed on the **BOOT**(Build, Own, Operate, transfer) model will be commissioned by 2024 and transferred to the Pakistan Government after 30 years.

iv. The government of Pakistan through the **Private Power Infrastructure Board**, a single window facilitator created by the Pakistan government to promote private investment in power projects, cleared the project in June 2016.

v. **Power Universal Co. Ltd.**, of China Gezhouba Group, Chinese state owned multinational corporation, was nominated as the sponsor and initial shareholders by the Private Power infrastructure board.

Key Points:

- i. The Azad Pattan Project is one of the five hydropower schemes on the Jhelum River.
- ii. The Mahl, Kohala and Chakothi projects are located upstream from the Azad Pattan bridge and the Karot project is located downstream from the Azad Pattan.
- iii. The Kohala, Azad Pattan and Karot are developed under the framework of CPEC.
- iv. India protested the construction of dams and other infrastructure in the region of PoK and Gilgit Baltistan, which are claimed as a part of Jammu and Kashmir by India.

Kannan C S Warriar of IFGTB, receives 2019 National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry from ICFRE



Kannan CS Warriar, Senior Principal Scientist (Scientist F) at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) received the 2019 National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry from the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

ii. He received the National award for releasing three productive clones

of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, first of its kind in India that are suitable for salt affected (sodic) soils.

About Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE):

Director General– Arun Singh Rawat (appointed after the repatriation of the previous DG SC Gairola to his parent cadre of Maharashtra on March 16, 2020)
Location– Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg won 1st edition Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity



A 17 years old climate activist from Sweden namely Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg became the first recipient of the inaugural (1st edition) Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, awarded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

ii. The award in the amount 1 million euro (\$1.15 million) recognized her ability to mobilize younger generations for the cause of climate

change.

iii. The entire prize amount would be donated by Greta Thunberg to the project and organisations who are working to help people on the front lines affected by the climate crisis and ecological crisis.

About Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

President– Isabel Mota

Headquarter– Lisbon, Portugal

Roshni Nadar Becomes 1st Woman to Chair Listed Indian IT firm after taking over as HCL Tech Chairperson



Roshni Nadar Malhotra, India's richest woman becomes the **1st woman to head a listed Indian IT company** as she took over as the **Chairperson of HCL Technologies** from her father and billionaire Shiv Nadar (Founder & chairman).

Shiv Nadar will continue to be the Managing Director of the company with designation as Chief Strategy Officer. In addition to the post of Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra will also continue to be the CEO of HCL Corporation.

DRDO Test Fires 'Made in India' Anti Tank guided Nag Missile named "Dhruvastra"



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) test fired the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) named “**Dhruvastra**” (Formerly known as Helicopter launched Nag Missile, “HELINA”) without Helicopter at the Interim Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.

The flight trials were conducted in direct and top attack mode.

Dhruvastra:

Dhruvastra was developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme(IGMDP) of DRDO.It is a 3rd generation ‘fire and forget’ class ATGM system mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter(**ALH**).

Features:

- i.**The missile has an advanced passive homing guidance system, possessing high single shot hit or kill probability(SSKP) & designed with a capability to destroy heavy armoured vehicles and new age battle tanks.
- ii.**Eight missiles can be integrated with the helicopter with four twin launchers specially designed for the weapon.

Missile Specifications:

- i.**The 1.9 m long missile weighs 45 Kg with a diameter of 0.16 m.
- ii.**The missile travels at a speed of 240 meter per second.
- iii.**The missile can attack a target at a range of minimum 500m to 7 Km.
- iv.**The single shot hit or kill probability(SSKP) of the missile is higher than 80%.
- v.**HeliNa has an extended strike range of about 8 km whereas Nag missile has a maximum range of 4 km.

Indian Army Gets World’s Most Agile & Lightest Drone, “Bharat” for Accurate Surveillance developed by DRDO’s TBRL;Deployed in Indo-China Border



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) provides the drone named “Bharat” – indigenously developed by the Chandigarh based laboratory of DRDO, “Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)” to the Indian Army to monitor the high altitude areas and mountain

terrains along the line of actual control in the Easter Ladakh (China Border).

ii. The Bharat series drones are listed among World’s most agile and lightest surveillance drones

PM Modi addressed virtual India Ideas Summit 2020; India-US negotiating UAV co-development programme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the two days



long (July 21-22) virtual India Ideas Summit 2020 which was hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC) under the theme “Building a Better Future”. The year 2020 marked the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Council.

- During the summit the discussion were held on areas including India-US cooperation and future of the

relation between the two counties in a post pandemic world.

Key Points from PM Modi Address; Target of 50th spot in WB’s Ease of Doing Business ranking

-In October 2019, India jumped 14 places to rank 63rd among 190 nations in the World Bank’s (WB) Ease of Doing Business ranking. Now, the target of India is to reach at the **50th spot**.

-The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the global economy to contract by 4.9% in 2020 with India estimated to shrink by 4.5% during FY21 amid COVID-19. Still, India has attracted FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) of more than **\$20 billion** in the April-July, 2020 period while pledged investments from the US have already crossed \$40 billion this year.

-FDI inflow in India in 2019-20 was \$74 billion, an increase of 20% from 2018.

-PM Narendra Modi urged American investors to invest in India in sectors such as technology, healthcare, insurance, civil aviation, defence and infrastructure.
-The Indo-US Joint efforts can play an important role in helping the global economy to recover from the COVID-19.

India-US negotiating co-development programme for the air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)

The US and India are negotiating a co-development programme for the air-launched unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), between US Air Force research labs, Indian Air Force (IAF), India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and an Indian start-up company. US want to become India's **first choice** in defence solutions.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Project's Unit 3 in Gujarat: India's First 700 MWe unit to Achieve Criticality



The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) announced that, Unit-3 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-3), **India's First 700 MWe** (megawatt electric) and indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) in Surat, Gujarat achieved its **first**

criticality – initiation of controlled and sustained nuclear fission reaction on 22nd July 2020 (Wednesday).

Unit-3 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-3):

- i. KAPP-3 is India's 23rd nuclear power reactor that is completely designed and built by India.
- ii. The design and construction of the reactor is made with highest safety and quality standards in comparison to the best reactors in the world.
- iii. The reactor uses natural Uranium as the fuel and Heavy water as moderator.
- iv. The components and equipment of the reactor are manufactured by the industries in India and the construction was undertaken by multiple Indian contractors supporting the "Make In India" initiative.

Turkmenistan became 25th country with Observer Status in World Trade Organization



On July 22, 2020, Turkmenistan became the 25th country who was granted observer status in the World Trade Organization (WTO) enabling the nation to establish permanent residence at WTO headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland and monitor it's proceedings.

ii. Turkmenistan also became the last former Soviet republic to establish

formal ties with the trade body.

iii. This observer status was granted during the 5th virtual session of WTO General Council which was held from WTO headquarters and attended by representatives of its member-states.

Nicaragua becomes the 87th Country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement



The Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement, an initiative to promote sustainable energy, led by India.

E. Jaime Hermida Castillo,

Permanent Representative to the UN of the Republic of Nicaragua, signed the Agreement at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York.

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

i. On 30th November 2015 the initiative was jointly launched by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Francois Hollande, former French President at the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference held in Paris.

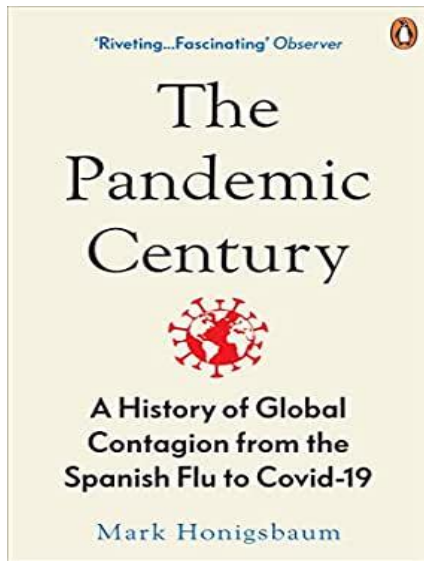
ii. The initiative aimed for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through development and deployment of solar energy.

iii. The Alliance became a treaty based intergovernmental body on 6th December 2017.

iv. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron hosted the founding Conference of ISA on 11th March 2018 in New Delhi.

v. The first assembly was inaugurated by Narendra Modi and António Guterres, Secretary General of UN on 3rd October 2018 in New Delhi.

The book titled “The Pandemic Century”, by British Medical Historian Mark Honigsbaum



“**The Pandemic Century**, A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19”, by the british medical historian **Mark Honigsbaum** covers 10 outbreaks in the past 100 years, dating from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the present day Coronavirus (2019). The book is published by **Penguin Publishers**.

About “The Pandemic Century”:

The book combines science history, medical sociology and front-line reportage in expressing the history of Global Contagion.

Other Outbreaks in the Book: Pneumonic plague, Parrot fever, SARS, Ebola, Zika. The book has won: A Financial times best book of the year.

National Broadcasting Day 2020 – July 23

23rd July of every year is observed as the National Broadcasting Day across India to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast aired in India on 23rd July 1927 from the Bombay Station of a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.

History of Indian Broadcasting:

- i.** Following the first broadcast in India in June 1923, by the Bombay Radio Club, the Calcutta Radio Club was established.
- ii.** Under the Department of Industries and Labour, the Indian State Broadcasting Service (**ISBS**) started the operations on an experimental basis in April 1930.
- iii.** The Indian State Broadcasting Service (**ISBS**) became the All India Radio (**AIR**) on 8th June 1936.