

India has lost demographic dividend: Mohandas Pai

Agency
Hyderabad, Jun 18

India no longer enjoys the advantage of demographic dividend as it's saddled with crores of youngsters with low skills unsuited to the economy, claimed a human resources and education expert. The Chairman of Manipal Global Education, T V Mohandas Pai claimed that the country already has ten crore people in the 21-35 age-group with bad skills, unsuited for the economy. "There is no demographic dividend," he told Agency. "Because of the failure of the UPA era (2004-2014), we will add another ten crore by 2025...total 20 crore in the 21-45 age group with low skills, low education." An information technology industry veteran who had served as Head of Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer at software major Infosys Ltd, Pai lamented "lack of educational reforms" during the 10-year UPA regime.

It takes time for educational reforms to impact, he said. "Reform now will take ten years to impact by which (time) this (the current) generation will be lost. The key is: How to ensure they do not (lose out)."

Pai was sharing his thoughts on a recent report by the research wing of the country's largest lender SBI.

This report said India has only one decade to change its status into a developed country and will need to focus on education, failing which the much-hailed 'demographic dividend' will turn into a disadvantage. If India is not able to get its act together, it will never be able to go into the developed group of nations, it said.

The report said, "India has perhaps now only a limited window of a decade to get into the developed country tag, or stay perpetually in emerging group of economies," group of Secretary General of the industry body

ASSOCHAM, D S Rawat said India must invest a lot in education, health and child nutrition so that the human resource is qualitatively superior. Both the Centre and the States, Rawat said, need to "jack up" their budget on health and education. "While both the private and public sectors have to contribute in the endeavour, the public investment along with a lot of emphasis on quality education and health in the government schools, colleges and state-run hospitals and primary health care centres must be given," he told Agency.

Pai, meanwhile, said there is a need to improve quality of education, stopping controlling education, and opening up of the sector with transparent norms and enforcing quality standards in higher education. "India should focus on creating a good future. The political discourse by Leftists is the biggest disaster for us as they create a wrong narrative," he added.

CM's of 4 States, in Delhi for NITI Aayog Meeting, Visit Vajpayee in Hospital

Agency
New Delhi, June 18

Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand— Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Raman Singh and Raghubar Das — were among senior political leaders who visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Sunday where former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is undergoing treatment, hospital sources said. The four chief ministers are here to attend a meeting of the NITI Aayog which will be

presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also went to visit the ailing leader at AIIMS. According to AIIMS sources, 93-year-old Vajpayee's condition is improving even though he continues to be in the Intensive Care Unit of the Cardio-Thoracic Centre at the hospital. "Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is stable. He continues to show improvement and is being monitored by the team of doctors," the AIIMS said in a statement on Sunday.

Vajpayee was admitted to the premier hospital on June 11 with a kidney tract infection, chest congestion and the urine output on the lower side. He was immediately evaluated by a team of doctors and put on injectable antibiotics. Vajpayee, a diabetic, has one functional kidney. He had suffered a stroke in 2009 that had weakened his cognitive abilities. Subsequently, he had developed dementia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, former prime ministers

Manmohan Singh and H D Deve Gowda, Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and Congress president Rahul Gandhi have visited the AIIMS since the BJP stalwart was admitted there. Vajpayee was thrice elected the prime minister between 1996 and 1999. He is the only non-Congress prime minister to have completed the full term of five years, from 1999 to 2004. As his health deteriorated, he slowly withdrew himself from public life and has remained confined to his residence here for years now.

Punjab police bust syndicate that used courier service to smuggle drugs

Agency
Chandigarh, June 18

Punjab Police have busted an international drug racket by arresting four people, including a Canadian citizen. The syndicate used to send the drugs abroad through a courier service. Investigators found that an international drugs ring controlled the module which was involved in smuggling opium and the potent date rape drug ketamine.

Police seized 4.75 kg of ketamine and 6 kg opium that was packed in double-layered seven big woks, used for preparations of langar in gurdwaras. Assistant Inspector General of Counter Intelligence, HKPS Khakh, who is also the investigating officer, had been chasing 68-year-old Canadian citizen, Davinder Dev, for quite some time. Dev was currently living in Ludhiana. Khakh said the racket was found to be masterminded by Toronto-

based Kamaljit Singh Chauhan, who originally hails from village Nagar in Phillaur. The smuggling channel was operational abroad in Dubai and Canada, as well as in different states of India, including Maharashtra, Goa and Rajasthan. Earlier, around 5 quintals of Ketamine through containers had been smuggled from Jaipur to Canada through Kandarpur in Gujarat. Giving further details of the arrests, Khakh said, "The joint

teams, acting on a tip-off, carried out a special operation. The use of private couriers or postal services is a new modus operandi used by global drug smugglers," Khakh said. Other accused have been identified as Ajit Singh (45), Tarlochan Singh (42) and Gurbax Singh (50). Five people, including the main Canadian organiser, have been booked under the provisions of the NDPS Act, along with 420,465,467,468,471 of the IPC.

Two militants killed in encounter

Agency
Srinagar, June 18

Two militants were killed in a gunbattle with security forces in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir today, the Army said. The operation comes a day after the Centre announced its decision not to extend the ceasefire in the state. An Army official said that security forces launched an anti-militancy operation in

Bandipora district this morning following information about presence of militants in the area. He said two militants have been killed so far even as the operation continues to be in progress. The identity and group affiliation of the slain militants was not immediately known. Security forces have adopted a proactive approach setting up check barriers at various

places across the valley including the summer capital of the state. Police and other security agencies were carrying out random checks of vehicles entering the city at various places. The intensification in the area domination operations and checking of vehicles comes in the wake of significant rise in number of attacks on security forces in the city during the month of Ramzan.

Ceasefire ends, ops against J&K militants to resume

Agency
New Delhi, June 18

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that the government has decided not to extend the suspension of operations (SoO) in Jammu and Kashmir and that operations against terrorists would resume.

The SoO was announced on May 16, when the month of Ramzan started. The prime reason for the decision was the enhanced threat to the Amarnath yatra that commences on June 28, a senior government official said.

Hurriyat blamed
The official said that by ignoring the government's initiative, the Hurriyat Conference had failed to seize the opportunity. "Operations against terrorists to resume. The government commends the security forces for having shown exemplary restraint during Ramzan, despite grave provocations," Mr. Singh said. He said the government was committed to creating an environment free of terror and violence in the State. "It is important that all those who

have the interests of the people of J&K, and especially the youth in mind, isolate the terrorists and work towards bringing back the misguided youth to the right path... On the other hand, terrorists indulge in wanton killing of innocent civilians and attacks on security forces," Mr. Singh said.

Interestingly, the government had made up its mind not to extend the SoO last week itself when it reviewed the security preparedness for the yatra. The assassination of *Rising Kashmir* Editor Shujaat Bukhari only firmed up the decision. "There were multiple incidents reported in the month of

Ramzan. It would have reflected badly on the government if taking advantage of the SoO militants attack the Amarnath yatra," said the official. Last year, eight persons were killed when a bus carrying pilgrims from Gujarat was attacked by Lashkar-e-Taiba militants.

Toddler mauled to death by stray dogs in Chandigarh

Agency
Chandigarh, Jun 18

A pack of stray dogs mauled a one-and-a-half-year-old boy to death in a park here, police said today. The incident occurred yesterday when the victim's mother, who works as a domestic help, had left her four children in the park, while she went to a house to clean utensils. Ayush, a resident of Palsora, was playing along with three other children when the dogs

attacked them. Too small to run for safety, the boy was surrounded and attacked by the dogs, even as other children managed to run from the spot. Later, a police control room vehicle took him to Government Multi-specialty Hospital, Sector 16, where he was declared as brought dead, police said. Residents of the area gathered at the spot and accused civic authorities of doing little to curb the stray dog menace. Residents living in central and

southern parts of Chandigarh have often complained that a growing number of stray dogs in parks and gardens had made it difficult for people and children to use them. There have been several cases of dog bites here in the past, they said. "We fear sending our children to play outside. The parks near our home are full of stray dogs and we cannot allow children to go out without an adult accompanying them," Baldev Chand, a resident of Sector 49 here, said.

Days after Modi-Xi meet, Chinese ambassador suggests trilateral between India, China, Pakistan

Agency
New Delhi, June 18

Just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Qingdao, Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui on Monday said a trilateral between India, Pakistan and China should be considered. Speaking at a seminar, he said "some Indian friends" had suggested the same. "Some Indian friends suggested that India, China and Pakistan may have some kind of trilateral summit on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO). So, if China, Russia and Mongolia can have a trilateral summit, then why not India, China and Pakistan?" Zhaohui said. The ambassador added that relations between China and India had gone beyond the bilateral scope. He said the countries had broad converging interests and faced common challenges in Asia and beyond. "We need to enhance coordination and cooperation in SCO, BRICS, G20 and join hands to tackle global challenges," he said. Zhaohui said there was an urgent need to enhance cooperation and

the border issue must find a "mutually acceptable solution" through the respective special representatives. For long, India has been wary of the growing bonhomie between China and Pakistan, including Xi's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan has asked India to review its approach to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and stop criticising it. China has also previously said it is ready to hold talks with India to resolve differences over the contentious \$50 billion project that passes through Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

Three Killed, five injured in Gang War in Delhi's Burari

Agency
New Delhi, June 18

Three people were killed and five injured after a gang war broke out between members of the Gogi and Tillu gangs in north Delhi's Burari area on Monday. Police said two passers-by and one gang member were killed. Further details are awaited.

3 dead as quake hits Japan's Osaka; Violent shaking, strongest in record

Agency
Osaka, June 18

Three people were confirmed dead and almost 100 injured after a strong earthquake hit Osaka on Monday morning, rattling one of Japan's industrial heartlands and halting trains and factories across the region. The earthquake struck at 7:58 a.m. local time, with an initial magnitude of 5.9 that was later

revised upwards to 6.1. At 13 kilometers (8.1 miles) it was relatively shallow, and caused heavy shaking that registered a lower 6 on the Japanese scale of 7. It was the strongest shaking registered in Osaka under records which date back to 1923. As the quake was centered inland, there was no fear of a tsunami. All trains and subways across Osaka city were halted, and the bullet train that links Osaka to Tokyo was stopped. Power was

quickly restored to more than 170,000 homes that had earlier been cut off, regional utility Kansai Electric Power Co. said. There were no reports of abnormalities at its nuclear plants in the region. Three people were confirmed dead, including a nine-year-old girl, who was reported to have died after a school wall fell on her. Close to 100 people suffered injuries, according to the government's emergency and disaster task force.

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Social activists write to PM warning serious consequences to the creation of Naga Territorial Council or alike

And yet the reverse is not true as no Meiteilon speaking people can settle in the hill areas of Manipur which is practically reserved for those groups of people enlisted in the list of scheduled tribe of the Indian Constitution. "Now any move to appease a Naga Territorial Council or the like will be met with fierce opposition from the other sections of the people of Manipur Rajiv Gandhi was

able to carve out the State of Mizoram in 1986 because there were no opposition from any quarter but around the same time his idea of gifting Chandigarh to Punjab had failed because of opposition from other quarters", the memorandum stated. It further says, any move to appease the NSCN(I-M) along communal fault lines will be strictly opposed to and see the birth of an ethnic war or a civil war as there may be many

others who do not believe in a negotiated settlement to the problems thus caused. It may also be borne in mind that in June 2001 the state went up in flames when the then Government of India had added the term "without territorial limits" to the ceasefire agreement between the Government India and the NSCN(I-M). The Government of India had to drop the questionable addition to the ceasefire agreement later on.