

# World Press Freedom Index: India ranked at 142 among 180 countries

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 AffairsCloud



New Delhi: India is termed as ‘one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly’.

PM Modi and Hindutva activists have created an environment of intimidation for journalists in India as witnessed in case of Karan Thapar who has exposed mass violence which took place against Muslims of Jammu during Partition. Due to Indian suppressive and biased policies towards journalists, World Press Freedom Index 2021 ranked India 142 among 180 countries

The World Press Freedom Index, published by the international profit organisation Reports Without Borders (RSF) 20 April, released its rankings. Like last year, India was ranked 142 in the list of 180 countries.

Seeing a steady decline in its press freedom ranking since 2016, India continues to be counted among the countries classified “bad” for journalism and is termed as “one of the most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their jobs properly”, the report said.

“The situation is still very worrying in Kashmir, where reporters are often harassed by police and paramilitaries and must cope with utterly Orwellian content regulations, and where media outlets are liable to be closed, as was the case with the valley’s leading daily, the Kashmir Times,” the report notes. Web Desk

# 1994-2021: Over 200 kg uranium theft in India poses nuclear terrorism threats

September 6, 2021



Islamabad: The theft of over 200 kilograms of nuclear material over the last two decades in India poses a serious threat of nuclear terrorism, necessitating action by the global powers to address poor safety standards in the country.

China and Pakistan, the countries neighbouring India, have been calling for strengthening regulations following repeated incidents of theft of nuclear material in India.

Such incidents have raised concerns about India, which has emerged as a potential hotspot in the illegal trade of nuclear technology and materials vital for a malicious nuclear supply chain for state and non-state actors.

According to a timeline issued by The South Asia Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI), 18 nuclear material's theft and lost incidents were reported in India from 1994 to 2021 involving over 200 kg of nuclear material.

In the late 1980s, the CIA had concluded that India was trying to develop a sophisticated Hydrogen bomb. In 1994, on a tip-off, a shipment of beryllium was caught in Vilnius, worth US \$ 24 million.

“The material could fall into the hands of extremists and terrorists in India with disastrous consequences. The out-of-control material could also be a cause of concern due to the proliferation reasons. It is also the responsibility of global organizations and India's partners to raise the standard of nuclear safety and security in the country and investigate shortcomings for maintaining tight controls on nuclear and radioactive materials,” said Sarman Ali, an Islamabad-based defence analyst.  
APP

# Indian propaganda to malign Pakistan again exposed



New Delhi: Several Indian news channels including India Today, Republic TV, Times Now, Navbharat, and Zee News ran footage of what they claimed to be visuals of Pakistan army's support for the Taliban in Panjshir in Afghanistan in their nefarious attempt to malign Pakistan,.

Republic TV aired 'exclusive' footage from 'Hasti TV' of airstrikes, claiming that the "Pakistani air force has attacked Panjshir valley" and that "resistance forces spokesperson has been killed".

Following Republic TV's footsteps were Hindi news channels Times Now Navbharat and Zee Hindustan who also ran the same footage and claimed the video shows "Pakistani airstrikes in Panjshir" and "Pakistan bombing Panjshir valley".

According to Boom, a fact-checking website, the footage was first run by ‘Hasti TV’, which claims to be an Afghan TV channel in the UK. They shared the video with the caption, “A video that we just received from Panjshir shows that a Pakistani military airplane is flying over Panjshir. Until now, the official sources have not approved this video.”

The video, however, is actually from a video game called ‘ARMA 3’.

India Today, meanwhile, played an old video of an American F-15 jet flying in Wales, calling it the “first visuals of a fighter jet, allegedly belonging to Pakistan, hovering over Panjshir Valley in Afghanistan”. The anchor even went on to claim that it was evidence of a “full fledged Pakistani invasion” of Afghanistan”.

India Today also ran an old picture, which captured a US F-16 Fighting Falcon crashing down during a routine training exercise in Arizona, United States, claiming it to be an image of a Pakistani fighter jet after being shot down by resistance fighters in Panjshir, Afghanistan. The channel further said the image was tweeted by Ahmad Massoud, the leader of Afghanistan’s National Resistance Front (NRF). Web Desk

## **Nawab Jahangir appeals PM Imran to become envoy of Junagarh**



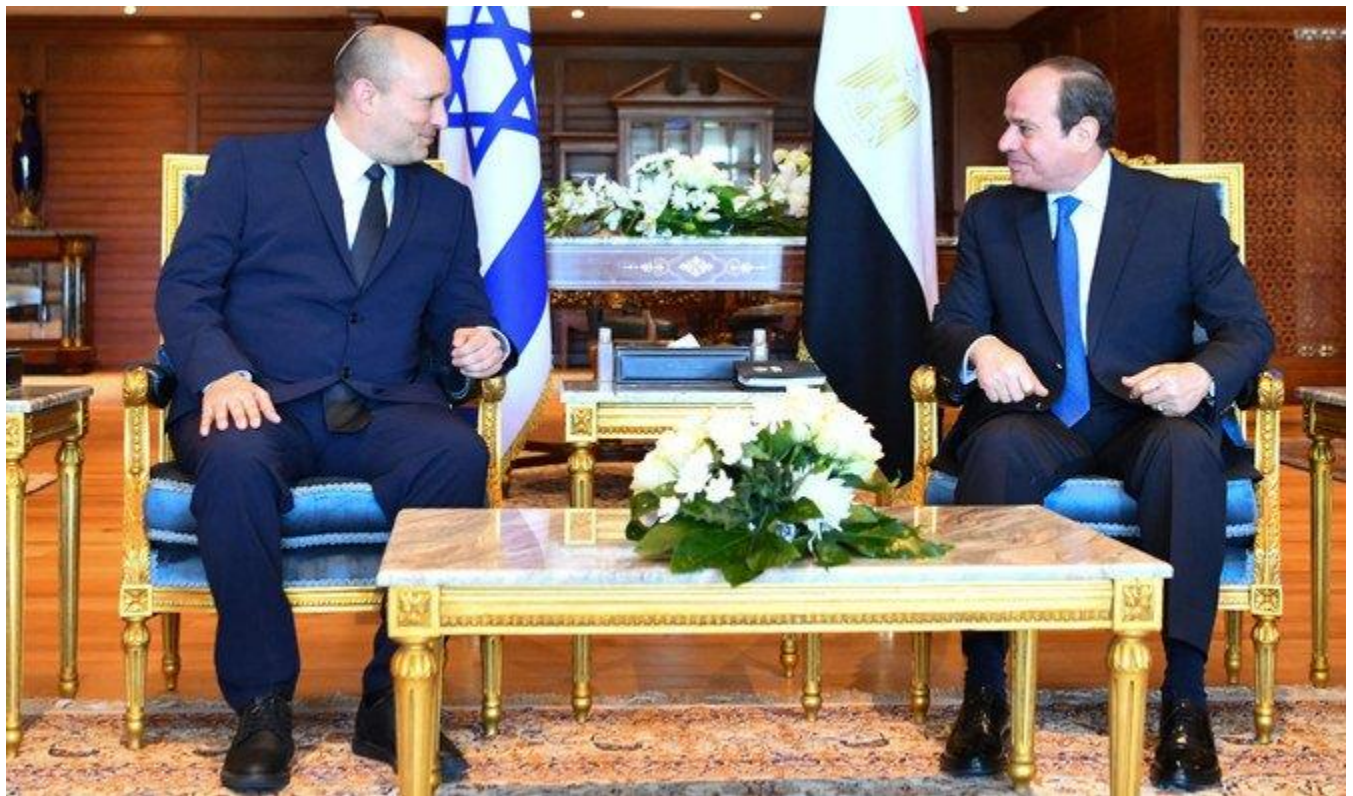
Islamabad: Present Nawab of Junagarh Mohammad Jahangir Khanji appealed to Prime Minister Imran Khan to become an ambassador of Junagarh as he did in the case of Kashmir and highlight the issue of liberation of the state from Indian occupation, at all international forums.

In a statement, the Nawab said India and Pakistan should discuss the issue and settle it peacefully through dialogue. The Nawab of Junagarh also desired that the longstanding issue needed to be settled during his lifetime as he had spent his entire life to keep the Junagarh issue alive.

The government of Pakistan should also actively pursue the Junagarh on the same footing as Kashmir issue and work for its settlement.

“Junagarh is Pakistan” is not only a slogan of Junagarh State but also a dream seen by the ancestors of both Quaid-i-Azam and Nawab of Junagarh Nawab Mahabat Khan. They also worked to achieve this dream through accession with Pakistan. Now it is time for Pakistan to highlight the serious concern to world community regarding Indian forces occupation of Junagarh as this was against the international law and norms. Web Desk

## Palestinian peace hopes rise after Egypt talks



Cairo: Hopes rose of progress in the Palestinian peace process after landmark new talks between the leaders of Egypt and Israel.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh for discussions that focused on Palestinian-Israeli relations. It was the first official visit to Egypt by an Israeli head of government for a decade.

The two leaders discussed “efforts to revive the peace process” between the Palestinians and Israelis, presidential spokesman Bassam Radi said. El-Sisi “affirmed Egypt’s support for all efforts to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East, according to the two-state solution,” he said.

Bennett said the talks also covered diplomacy, security and the economy. “We created a foundation for a deep connection going forward,” he said.

Bennett and El-Sisi also discussed regional issues, including Iran’s influence in the Middle East and the crisis in Lebanon, diplomats and security sources said.

The meeting followed a proposal by Israel’s Foreign Minister Yair Lapid to improve living conditions in Gaza and build new infrastructure in exchange for a period of calm from Hamas, aiming to solve the “never-ending rounds of violence.” Arab News

## UN says it is hopeful about dialogue between India & Pakistan



New York: The United Nations has said that it was hopeful about a dialogue between India and Pakistan despite the “tone and content” of the two countries remarks about each other at the UN General Assembly, NDTV reported.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, made the comments in response to questions about whether the global body was concerned about both the countries criticising each other. He was also asked if Guterres planned to speak to the leaders of India and Pakistan.

“We heard the remarks and I think despite the tone and content of the remarks we always remain hopeful that dialogue can happen maybe in a place that is not under the spotlight,” Dujarric said.

On September 25, India had told the United Nations General Assembly that Pakistan plays the “victim of terrorism” but instead fosters terrorists in its backyard.

“This is the country which is an arsonist disguising itself as a fire-fighter,” Sneha Dubey, first secretary at India’s UN mission, had said.

Dubey’s was responding to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan’s demand on September 24 that India should stop “human rights violations and demographic changes” in Kashmir. Khan, in a recorded video address to the UN General Assembly, also said that India should reverse its “unilateral and illegal measures” taken since 2019. Scroll. In

## **Syria constitution talks to resume Oct 18 in Geneva: UN**



United Nations: Talks on drafting a constitution for Syria will reconvene next month in Geneva, the UN special envoy for the war-ravaged nation told the Security Council as he welcomed headway following years of inertia.

“It has now been exactly two years” since the committee was created to draft the new constitution as agreed by the government in Damascus and the Syrian Negotiations Commission, but “regrettably, the committee has not yet begun to make steady progress on its mandate,” Geir Pedersen said.

After a tour of the region and 18 months of intensive negotiations with the parties, “I am pleased to announce that agreement is in place on methodology,” Pedersen said, adding that the drafting committee “will convene in Geneva as of 18 October.”



“We should all now expect the Constitutional Committee to begin to work seriously on a process of drafting — not just preparing — a constitutional reform,” he said.

Building trust among participants, which include the government, opposition groups, and civil society organizations, will be crucial towards creating a “credible constitutional process,” Pedersen added.

The envoy also expressed hope that a Wednesday summit between the presidents of Russia and Turkey would help “promote calm” within Syria, particularly the northwestern region of Idlib, which is home to the last major jihadist and rebel stronghold.

Syria’s war has killed around half a million people since starting in 2011 with a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests, spiraling into a complex battlefield involving foreign armies, militias and jihadists. AFP