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# Hindus least educated religious group in world, but excel in West: Pew study

## '41% Of Them **Have Never** Been To School'

indus continue to have the lowest level of educational attainment among all the major religions of the world despite having made strides in the sector, a Pew study said on Wednesday.

Hindus have made substantial educational gains in recent decades. Hindu adults (ages 25 and older) in the youngest generation analysed in the study, for example, have an average of 3.4 more years of schooling than those in the oldest generation," Pew said.

However, Hindus still have the lowest level of educational attainment of any major religious group in this study, which is topped by Jews.

Globally, the average is 5.6 years of schooling, and 41% of Hindus have had no formal

the Asia-Pacific region, they are often are the most educated group. In the US, Hindus have 15.7 years of schooling, on average, a full year

**In countries outside** 

education of any kind. One in ten have post-secondary degrees, the report said.

more than the Jews.

next most educated

**US religious group** 

At the same time, despite large gains by Hindu women across generations, Hindus still have the largest educational gender gap of any religious group, said the report titled 'Religion and Education Around the World Large' released by Pew Research Center.

In its report, running into 160 pages, Pew said Jews are more highly educated than any other major religious group lims and Hindus tend to have the fewest years of formal

Drawing on census and survey data from 151 countries, the study also finds large gender gaps in educational attainment within some major world religions. "For example, Muslim women around the globe have an average of 4.9 years of schooling, compared with 6.4 years among Muslim men. And formal education is especially low among Hindu women, who have 4.2 years of schooling on average, compared with 6.9 years among

Hindu men," the report said. "On average, Hindu men have 2.7 more years of schooling than Hindu women, and over half of Hindu women (53%) have had no formal schooling, compared with 29% of Hindu

men," the report said. Even in the youngest generation of adults in the study, the report said Hindu women were considerably more likely than Hindu men to have received no

The vast majority of the world's Hindus live in India

(94%) or in the bordering countries of Nepal (2.3%) and Bangladesh (1.2%).

"In these three countries, Hindus tend to have low levels of education. Hindus had average 5.5 years of schooling in India, while it was 3.9 years in Nepal and 4.6 years in Bangladesh," Pew said.

"However, in countries outside the Asia-Pacific region, where Hindus are a small religious minority, they are more educated — and often are the most highly educated religious group in a particular country,' the report noted.

For instance, Hindus in the US have 15.7 years of schooling, on average — a full year more than the next most highly educated US religious group (Jews), and nearly three years more than the average American adult (12.9 years). Hindus in Europe also are highly educated, averaging 13.9 years of schooling, Pew said. PTI

## Owners of halls showing soft porn in a fix over 'Jana gana...'

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Bareilly: A fortnight after the Supreme Court ruled that the national anthem must be played in all cinema halls before a film is screened, owners of cinema theatres in small towns of Uttar Pradesh known for showing soft porn are wondering if they too have to follow the order.

Ajit Kumar, manager of Hind Talkies in Bareilly city, said, "In our cinema hall, we mostly run B-grade adult and horror films. Considering what kind of gentry comes in to watch these films, I don't think playing national anthem here would be a good idea. If anyone among the audience doesn't show respect, which is quite likely, we wouldn't be able to force

him to do it. We have not been able to make up our mind, nor have we received any intimation from higher

authorities asking us to enforce it. Dheeraj Kumar, marketing manager of a film distribution company, told over the phone, "We are sending movies along with national anthem to every cinema hall. If any lapse has been

found, we will rectify it immediately.'

Regulars at these theatres, however gave mixed reactions. A 20-year-old student, who did not wish to be identified, said anthem shouldn't be played before soft porn movies as most of the viewers are in a different state of mind with nationalism being the last thing on their mind. His friend, Nazim, however, said, "I will stand for the national anthem no matter where or when it is played.'

## **AAI** plans improved facilities at its airports

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New Delhi: Tired of being seen just as the "poor parent" of glitzy PPP (private-public partnership) airports in metros like Delhi and Mumbai, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to work towards improving passenger experience at its airports.

In a first, the state-run airport operator will enter service-level agreements (SLAs) with airlines that will have well-defined parameters for providing services to flyers, and hopefully, improve passenger experience at airports

'Why should passengers be required to report several hours before flight time? We are going to address this issue soon at airports across India,' AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra told TOI.

So how will that happen? "There are airports where some airlines have historically had large number of counters but over time other carriers have got higher market share than them, leading to a demand-supply mismatch. The counters are being redistributed so that as airport operator we give airlines counters according to their traffic. This will cut down check-in time. A pilot project has begun in Kolkata," Mohapatra said.

'With focus on cutting check-in time through SLAs, the overall experience for passengers will be enhanced significantly," he added.

The SLAs, which will be finalised in consultation with airlines and after arriving at a consensus with them, will cover issues like on-time performance, customer services and aerobridge utilisation.

# **Govt fast-tracks permission** process to build homes

### 'Housing For All By 2022' **Gets Big Boost**

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New Delhi: Seeking to achieve a target of housing for all by 2022, the Centre has simplified the environmental clearance processes for building projects in the country. The move allows smaller projects to meet environment conditions through a 'selfdeclaration' process and spares the bigger projects the need of seeking prior green approvals before embarking

on construction activity. The changes were made through a gazette notification in the existing environment impact assessment rules last week which integrated environmental conditions in building bye-laws to fast-track the permission process for construction.

"Since the states are now required to bring changes in the respective building byelaws so that it won't be in conflict with the central notification, the implementation of the new rules will take nearly six to seven months," said Manoj Kumar Singh, joint secretary in the environment ministry.

Singh told TOI on Wednesday that the notified changes were in tune with what was being followed in many countries, including Japan and Singapore. "Idea is to make more buildings follow environmental norms. It integrates standard environmental conditions with the build-

#### **GREEN NORMS SIMPLIFIED** FOR BUILDING PROJECTS

Small building projects (5,000sq m to less than 20,000sq m):

➤ Brought within ambit of fulfilling 'environmental conditions' through selfdeclaration

➤ Qualified Building **Environment Authority** will audit for compliance after completion of construction

➤ Local body will

take action for non-

compliance Building projects of the size of 1,50,000sq m to less than 3,00,000sq m

> Prior green clearance

from the SEIAA ➤ Residential project will not require 'consent to establish and operate' under water/air pollution acts from State Pollution Control Board

➤ Commercial projects will have to take SPCB consent

ing permission to cut delays."

The notification brings building project of the size of 5.000sq metres to less than 20,000sq metres within the ambit of fulfilling "environmental conditions" through self-declaration and certification procedures. Local authorities will have the power to take a final call on compliance of green norms. This category of project was earlier under the exempt group. "The local authority may issue the building permission incorporating environmental norms in it and allow the project to start based on self-declaration and certification," it said.

Big building projects (20,000sq m to less than 1,50,000sq m)

Spared of 'prior' green clearance from Statelevel Environment Impact **Assessment Authority** 

Local authority to process simultaneous "building permission" and environmental" clearance"

Large building projects of more than 3,00,000sq m

Prior clearance will continue to be required from the central Environment Impact Assessment Authority



Projects of the size of 20,000sq metres to less than 1,50,000sq metres will be exempted from the existing procedure of 'prior environmental clearance' from the State-level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), which used to be a time consuming process.

This category of buildings will, however, not be spared of environment clearance. They are just not required any longer to go to state level environment assessment authorities. This category of building will now get simultaneous "building permission" and "environment clearance" from lo-

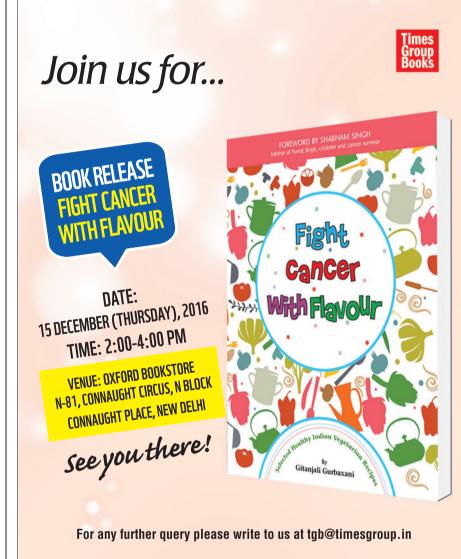
now also have an 'environment cell' for examining environmental parameters.

The cell will process the online applications and present it in the meeting of a committee of local bodies like development authorities and municipal corporations. The committee will appraise the project and stipulate the environmental conditions to be integrated in the building permissions. "After recommendations of the committee, the building permission and environmental clearance will be issued in an integrated format by the local authority", says the notification.

The move is aimed at "ensuring ease of doing responsible business" and streamlining the permission for construction sector which, the notification refers to as an important suggestion "for providing houses for all by 2022 with an objective of making available affordable housing to weaker sections in urban areas". Under the notification, only building projects of the size of 1.5 lakh sq metres to less than 3 lakh sq metres will have to go to the SEIAA for prior green clearance while the projects having more than 3 lakh sq metres will go to the environment ministry's central assessment authority.

It also has provisions of imposing penalties by state for non-compliance of the environmental conditions and parameters. Specific empanelled 'qualified building environment auditors' will assess and certify the projects. There are also provisions of financial penalty on the owner and blacklisting of the auditors in case of false declaration or certification.

#### NATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH CENTRE PUBLIC LECTURE 13<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION DAY Translating Neuroscience to serve India's public health needs: from hype to substance Vikram Patel FMedSci, DSc Co-Founder and former Director, Professor of International Mental Health and WellcomeTrust Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Global Mental Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK Co-Director, Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions, Public Health Foundation of India, Gurugram, India Co-Founder and Member of Managing Committee, Sangath, Goa, India India International Centre Multipurpose Hall 40, Max Muller Marg New Delhi -110003 Friday DECEMBER 16, 2016 6:00 –7:30 P.M. All are invited



**Property Update** 

# 'We aren't heroes... but drug addicts & cyber criminals'

**▶**Continued from P1

The hacker TOI spoke with answered questions selectively, ignoring some while typing back expansively for others. In the beginning, he emphasised their activities were purely for the "Lulz" — a term that means "just for kicks"—and that they were just cyber criminals and drug addicts. For a few minutes, he claimed to be "individually a group of people". However, he soon began to speak of a group of individuals, which Legion has earlier claimed to be numbering in the "higher single digits". The group has been working as "Legion" for just a few weeks, he said.

The hacker TOI interacted with claimed that they did not care for politics, and insisted he was "sick" of "this bulls\*\*t". However, when asked about results they expected from the leaks, he displayed a combative disinterest. "Do you think we care too much (about results)?" he asked, and later added, "We are not your heroes. We are drug addicts and cyber criminals. We love to spread disinfo-...create chaos, map all da

As for investigations by Delhi Police, the hacker said, "Good luck to them". He referred to the illegal procurement of call detail records of VIPs, in which Delhi Police officials along with some private individuals (ethical hackers) were arrested in November 2013. "Delhi Police should probably spend their time thinking of better passwords for their servers and not downloading backdoored CDR analysis software perhaps.'

Since November 30, the group has compromised email and Twitter accounts of Rahul Gandhi, Vijay Mallya, Ravish Kumar and Barkha Dutt. The group released personal data of Mallya and Dutt online. They earlier threatened to do the same on Gandhi, and former IPL chairman Lalit Modi. And now, they claim the deed is already done. "The targets we mentioned are already 0wn3d (owned). Lalit Modi is retarded enough to not see that yet, however,"the Legion member said.



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