



THE DESERVING INDIA



25 TO 29

THE HINDU EDITORIAL

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25 TO 29

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UNBREAKABLE INDIA AND BHUTAN

HAVE FORGED CLOSER TIES AT A TIME OF REGIONAL CHALLENGES.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bhutan was largely symbolic, following a productive bilateral meeting between him and Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay in Delhi. Despite the redundancy of the visit due to prior discussions, Modi announced India's doubling of support for Bhutan's Five Year Plan to 10,000 crore, a significant move but one that could have been postponed. The highlight was Bhutan's King conferring Bhutan's highest civilian award on Modi, which had been announced earlier for India's support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Modi's visit, despite electoral constraints and adverse weather, emphasized India's commitment to Bhutan's development, particularly projects like the Gelephu Mindfulness City. It also underscored Bhutan's importance in India's infrastructure initiatives and its stance on China's increasing engagement with Bhutan, particularly regarding boundary talks. Reports suggest Bhutan may have asked India to delay border connectivity projects until boundary talks with China conclude, highlighting the delicate geopolitical situation. Modi's visit aimed to reinforce unity amidst regional changes, emphasizing the enduring ties between India and Bhutan amid internal and external challenges.

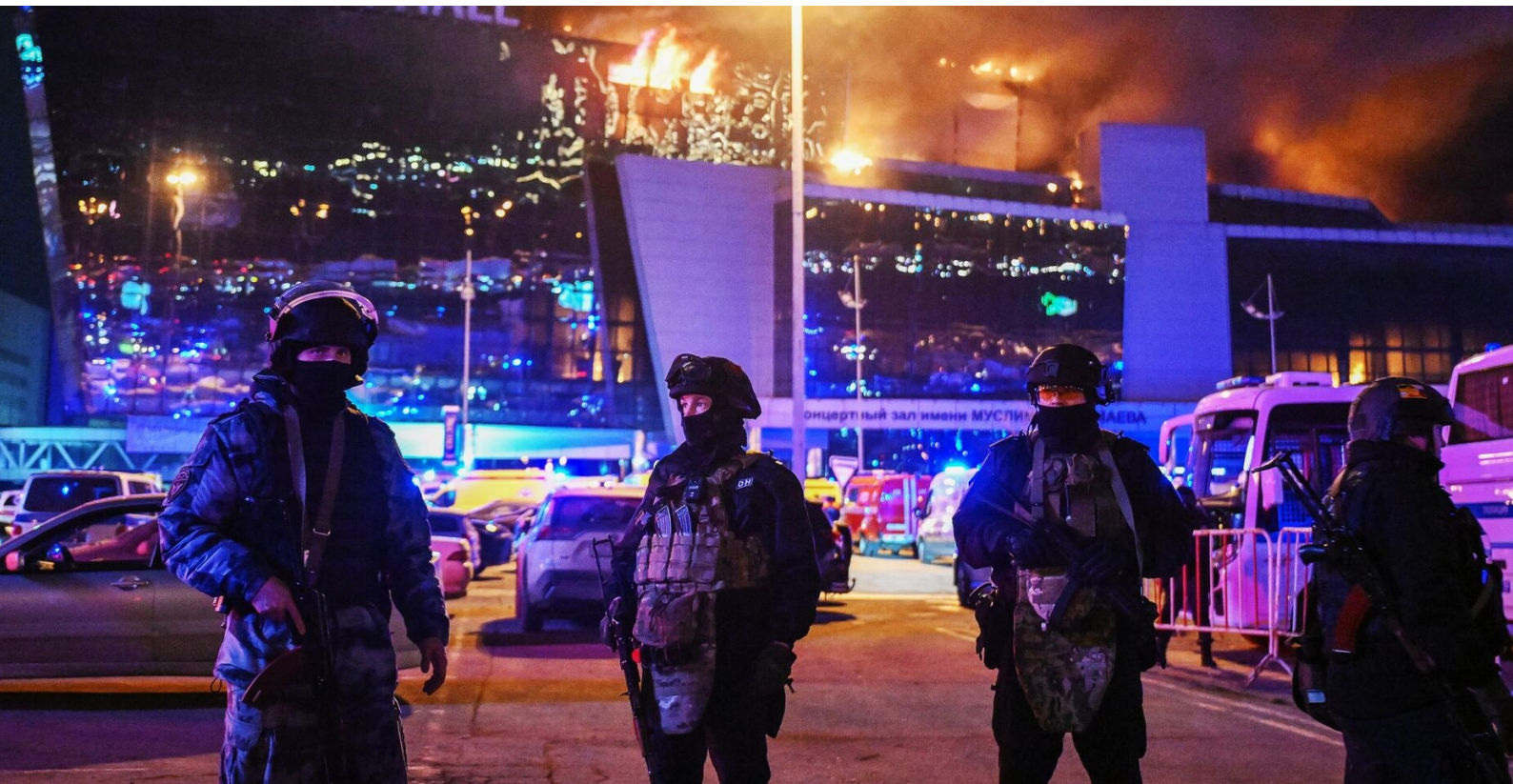


26/03/2024

TERROR IN MOSCOW

THE ISLAMIC STATE POSES SECURITY CHALLENGES FOR THE EURASIAN REGION.

The terror attack at Crocus City Hall near Moscow on March 22, claiming 137 lives, highlights concerns about the resurgence of the Islamic State (IS), despite its defeat in Syria and Iraq six years ago. Earlier in January, the IS-Khorasan (IS-K) branch in Afghanistan bombed a memorial event in Iran, killing 80 people. Subsequently, IS attacks have extended to Turkey, Syria, and Afghanistan, with the Moscow incident indicating its growing capability. Four Tajik nationals have been charged by Russian authorities. IS-K, comprising mainly Central Asian militants, gained prominence after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in August 2021. It targets Afghanistan's Shia minority and recruits radicalized youths from Central Asia and Afghanistan's Tajik and Uzbek minorities. Recent IS-K propaganda videos target Russia and President Vladimir Putin, citing grievances in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Syria. The IS-K, once a territorial power, now operates as a traditional terrorist group amid chaos, posing a significant security challenge to Eurasia, especially Russia. To counter IS, addressing geopolitical conditions fostering its regrowth, including Taliban rule in Afghanistan and instability in West Asia, is essential.



27/03/2024

STOP THE WAR ISRAEL

MUST HEED THE UNSC RESOLUTION
FOR A CEASEFIRE.



The UN Security Council (UNSC) has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, following five and a half months of conflict which has resulted in immense casualties and displacement. The resolution also demands the release of all hostages held by Hamas. Notably, the United States abstained from vetoing the resolution for the first time, signaling a shift in policy under the Biden administration. Other UNSC members, including previously hesitant countries like Britain, voted in favor. Israel, however, reacted angrily, canceling a planned visit to Washington and criticizing the resolution. Despite threats of further military action, particularly in Rafah, Israeli leaders are facing domestic challenges and international isolation. The conflict, sparked by a cross-border attack by Hamas, has seen disproportionate retaliation from Israel, exacerbating humanitarian crises and garnering global condemnation. Prime Minister Netanyahu's handling of the situation has come under scrutiny, with calls for immediate ceasefire and diplomatic engagement to address the ongoing crisis and prevent further escalation.



TIMELY RESTATEMENT SUPREME COURT

MAKES A CASE AGAINST PRE-TRIAL
RESTRAINT ON JOURNALISTIC CONTENT.

The Supreme Court recently issued a cautionary order reminding courts about the potential adverse effects of granting pre-trial injunctions against the media in defamation cases. The order emphasized the importance of protecting freedom of speech and the public's right to information. The Court overturned a lower court's directive to a news outlet to remove a supposedly defamatory article concerning Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. The order reiterated the standard three-fold test for granting interim injunctions and stressed the need for judicial officers to consider the constitutional mandate of safeguarding journalistic expression. It warned against mechanically applying the test without proper analysis and emphasized the importance of recording reasons for granting injunctions. The Court highlighted three types of problematic judicial orders that restrict journalistic publications: outright gag orders, omnibus prior restraint orders, and pre-trial orders targeting specific media houses. It reaffirmed the common law principle that injunctions in defamation suits should only be granted if the content is deemed defamatory and cannot be justified during trial. Additionally, the Court cautioned against SLAPP tactics used to stifle public criticism and warned that early injunctions could effectively censor material before it is properly evaluated in a trial.

JOBS OUTLOOK BLEAK TRAINING

**FOR A TECHNOLOGICALLY EVOLVING
ECONOMY MUST BE ACCORDED PRIMACY.**

The 'India Employment Report 2024' highlights a grim scenario for youth employment in India despite its touted demographic advantage. Nearly 83% of the country's unemployed are youth, with the proportion of educated unemployed doubling since 2000. Graduates face disproportionately high unemployment rates. Wages have stagnated or declined when adjusted for inflation. The report warns that India's window to harness its youthful population for socio-economic growth is closing rapidly. Gender imbalances persist in labor force participation, with women significantly underrepresented. Informal employment prevails among 90% of workers due to a lack of comprehensive policy initiatives. Urgent targeted interventions are needed to address unemployment, enhance education quality, and create stable, higher-paying jobs. Policymakers must prioritize these issues in upcoming elections to realize India's demographic potential effectively.