



# **DAILY NEWS BULLETIN**

**LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE Day**  
**Sunday**

**20260631**

# **Sterilisation gap: Female at 36.5%, male a mere 0.5%**

## **Family Planning Onus Largely On Women: NFHS**

► Continued from P 1

**N**FHS-6 found that female sterilisation stood at 36.5% whereas male sterilisation was at merely 0.5%. In the previous survey, this percentage was higher for women (37.9%) and lower for men (0.3%).

The data is telling as it highlights challenges arising out of deep-rooted societal gender norms and indicates that many still hold on to the belief that the onus of family planning largely rests with the woman.

The survey findings on sterilisation show that female sterilisation was notably higher in rural areas (38.1%) compared to 32.6% in urban areas. In the case of men, those opting for sterilisation was equally low in both rural and urban areas at 0.5% and 0.4%, respectively.

Meanwhile, a look at urban and rural data shows

**The survey also looked at the unmet need for family planning (currently married women in age group of 15-49 years), which stood at 8.5%, and was higher at 9.1% in rural areas as against 7% in urban areas**

that there was not much difference in the percentage of married women using any form, including traditional and modern, of family planning methods — 69.6% in urban areas and 68.9% women in rural areas.

The survey also looked at the unmet need for family planning (currently married women in age group of 15-49 years), which stood at 8.5%, and was higher at 9.1% in rural areas as against 7% in urban areas. The unmet need for family planning refers to women who do not use contraception but wish to postpone next childbirth or stop childbearing altogether.

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# Women bear heavier burden of pain & mental illness despite longer lives, finds Lancet study

Anuja Jaiswal  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Women may be living longer than men, but they are also spending far more years battling pain, depression, anxiety and other disabling conditions, according to a major global study published in *The Lancet Public Health*.

The analysis, based on data from 204 countries and territories, found that women bear a disproportionately higher burden of several chronic and non-fatal conditions that affect quality of life, while men are more likely to die prematurely from fatal diseases and injuries.

Researchers identified lower back pain as the single-largest condition disproportionately affecting women worldwide. Women also experienced higher burdens of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, headache disorders, musculoskeletal conditions and dementia.

The findings challenge the common perception that longer life automatically translates into better health. Dr Rommel Tickoo, director,

## WOMEN LIVE LONGER, BUT NOT HEALTHIER



Source: WHO World Health Statistics 2020; Global Health Estimates 2023

### What takes away women's health years?

*Major contributors to women's poorer health*

- Back and neck pain
- Gynaecological disorders
- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Migraine
- Dementia
- Musculoskeletal disorders

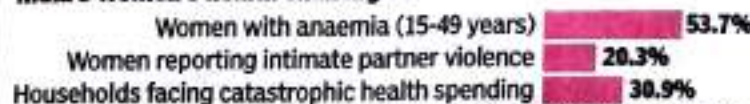
### What takes away men's health years?

*Major contributors to premature mortality among men*

- Ischaemic heart disease
- Stroke
- Road injuries
- Covid-19
- Chronic respiratory disease
- Lung cancer
- Suicide and self-harm

Source: *The Lancet Public Health* study using Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 data

### India's women's health challenges



Source: WHO World Health Statistics 2026

internal medicine, Max Hospital, Saket, said that longevity alone is not a marker of good health. "Women are living longer, but many spend a

greater proportion of their lives dealing with chronic pain, mental health disorders and disabling non-fatal illnesses," he added.

The study found that the health gap between women and men begins early in life and widens with age. Mental health disorders and musculoskeletal conditions emerge as major contributors to ill health among girls and women during adolescence and continue through adulthood.

Tickoo said that the reasons are likely to be multifactorial, including biological and hormonal influences, greater susceptibility to autoimmune and musculoskeletal disorders, and social and caregiving responsibilities that can affect physical and mental well-being.

Researchers said the findings expose a major gap in healthcare systems which continue to focus largely on reproductive and maternal health while often overlooking chronic conditions that account for a substantial share of women's overall disease burden.

Men, in contrast, faced a higher burden from conditions such as Covid-19, ischaemic heart disease, road injuries and chronic respiratory diseases, highlighting a greater risk of premature mortality.



# India's fight against dowry must continue

**T**he recent deaths of several young women under suspicious circumstances in the homes of their in-laws, seemingly motivated by dowry demands, show that despite stringent laws, awareness campaigns, women's empowerment and education, the needle has not moved very much on eliminating this menace.

Take, for instance, the Twisha Sharma case. Sharma's mother-in-law, who spoke disparagingly of Sharma following her death, is a retired judge. Thus, questions are being raised about key institutions likely influencing the investigation into Sharma's death — from alleged mishandling of evidence by the police and discrepancies in the FIR to the delay in finding and arresting the husband — weakening public faith in the impartiality of the law.

According to 2024 data from the National Crime Records Bureau, 5,737 dowry deaths were reported that year. Uttar Pradesh tops the list, followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Among cities, Delhi tops the charts and Bengaluru too has a high incidence of harassment related to dowry. Even states like Kerala that pride themselves on their literacy and women's education are not inured from the social acceptability of this practice. There are sure to be many more women who have either suffered horrific injuries or have died by suicide because of dowry pressures but which have not been reported.

The very idea of dowry suggests that a woman's parents have to compensate her in-laws for taking her into their home. So, the in-laws feel emboldened to raise demands. Once the parents give in, the demands become blackmail, with the daughter as the hostage. Ranjana Kumari, director, Centre for Social Research, says,

"Greed for money, rationalised as a customary practice in the form of dowry, has become a death sentence for many young brides. It is not merely an individual tragedy for women; it reflects a deep collective social failure. Despite stringent laws, society has failed to achieve eradication of dowry."

Often, parents become silent participants by not acting in time to protect their daughters. This silence, social conditioning, and fear of stigma continue to strengthen the cycle of dowry-related abuse and deaths.

Parents are mostly aware that their daughter is suffering in her marital home, but she is told to "adjust". They send their daughter back to her marital home when she seeks support, knowing well that the demands and abuse will not stop — all to maintain their so-called honour in society.

There is no safe haven for women once dowry enters the picture. Parents who see visible signs of abuse but send their daughters back are also culpable of not reporting dowry harassment. Such is their financial and social investment in the marriage that they feel that they have to somehow make it work.

Women must get a safe space to go to when they suffer dowry abuse. There are State-run homes, but these are hardly the first choice for an already traumatised woman. Political parties talk about their commitment to *nari shakti*; they should campaign to fight societal pressure on families to marry off their daughters. Dowry cases only generate outrage in rare cases. The anger over the recent cases will die down soon enough. But, many women will still be in danger from all the evil rooted in the practice.

# Air pollution cut India's solar power output by 9.6% in 2023: study

Yasudevan Mukunth

Aerosols in the air reduced the amount of solar power generated in India by 9.6% in 2023, equivalent to around 15 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to a new analysis published in *Nature Sustainability*. The same study reported that the global average loss due to the same cause in 2023 was 5.8%.

Between 2017 and 2023, pollution-related electricity generation losses from

existing installations averaged 74 TWh a year – roughly one third of the electricity generated every year by new solar capacity.

According to the study, India's loss is one of the world's highest, with the most electricity generation potential lost in the country's heavily polluted north.

The researchers assembled what they called the first global facility-level database of solar photovoltaic generation and losses,

totalling 1.4 lakh facilities worldwide. They analysed the numbers together with satellite data, atmospheric data, and machine-learning.

Aerosols are fine particles of sulphates and carbon, among other constituents, and they directly reduce the amount of sunlight reaching solar panels, thus undermining an important source of power meant to replace coal in India.

India's neighbour with

an even bigger appetite for power, China, lost the most power generation potential in 2023, 61.3 TWh, but which was lower than India's as a fraction of the total generation (7.7%). In fact, China both illustrates the scale of the problem and a way through it.

China generated 793.5 TWh of solar electricity in 2023 and accounted for 54.9% of aerosol-related losses worldwide. Many of the country's solar farms lie within 30 km of coal

power plants, increasing the former's exposure to pollution that blocks sunlight.

However, China reduced pollution-related loss of solar power by around 1.4% a year from 2013 to 2023 and at the same time it expanded coal power. It reduced the losses by retrofitting coal plants with high-efficiency filters that curtailed sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions.

A key technology in re-

ducing these emissions is flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD), which removes sulphur dioxide from flue gas vented into the air.

India's aerosol-induced losses in solar power production did not decline from 2013 to 2023, staying flat. In 2025, the Indian government also significantly weakened a target to install FGD units by limiting them to coal plants near major cities and, on a case by case basis, plants in critically polluted areas.

# How WhatsApp and a clot-buster eased rural access to heart care

By combining WhatsApp-based coordination, training for frontline healthcare workers, and the clot-busting injected drug tenecteplase, doctors are improving access to timely heart attack care in rural Punjab

Swagata Yadavar

**A**t 4:40 am on May 4, a 40-year-old man came to Khanna sub-divisional hospital's emergency department with sweating and chest pain. Within minutes, the staff nurse and emergency medical officer had checked his heart rate, blood pressure, blood sugar, and more importantly had conducted an echocardiogram (ECG).

The ECG result was WhatsApped to the hospital's medicine consultant, who diagnosed it as an ST-elevated myocardial infarction (STEMI) and asked the EMO to administer the drug tenecteplase. STEMI is a severe, life-threatening heart attack with significant coronary artery blockage. The injected drug tenecteplase is used for thrombolysis, or to dissolve the clot.

The patient received the injection within half an hour of his ECG results and soon felt better. Out of danger, he was referred to the Government Medical College in Patiala for further treatment.

This case was the 100th thrombolysis case at the hospital, the highest recorded by any centre in Punjab. A few years ago, any chest pain patient in secondary health centres like sub-divisional and district hospitals would have been immediately referred to medical colleges for further treatment. The 40-70 minutes that the patient would lose in transport and further diagnosis would mean irreversible damage to the heart muscles and their ability to

## Clockwork care

STEMI patients receive 35,000 rupees' worth of treatment free of cost within minutes, saving their lives



Dr Bishav Mohan pointing to the ECG received in the Mission AMRIT WhatsApp group.

■ Mission AMRIT in Punjab has been using a 'hub and spoke' model to rapidly treat heart attacks

■ Local health centres perform thrombolysis to dissolve dangerous blood clots during the critical first hour

■ Staff members use WhatsApp to share ECG data with expert cardiologists for immediate diagnosis and medical guidance

■ Providing early treatment at local centers prevents heart damage

and significantly improves the chances of patient survival

■ The initiative offers expensive cardiac treatments for free, making urgent care accessible to many rural populations

■ Success depends on consistent staff training and effective coordination between various government hospitals and medical colleges

work in future.

Since July 2025, the Punjab government has implemented Mission AMRIT (short for 'Acute Myocardial Reperfusion in Time'), where sub-divisional hospital and district hospital staff – the spokes – are equipped with drugs, equipment, and training to conduct thrombolysis under the guidance of a cardiologist or a specialist in the medical colleges, which are the hubs. When a person with STEMI reaches the spoke within up to 12 hours of a heart attack and no complications, they are thrombolysed and referred to a hub for further angiography and angioplasty.

Around 34,000 people with chest pain have been registered in the project's spokes in Ludhiana. Of them, 1,900 were diag-

nosed with STEMI and 900 received thrombolysis. The initiative has expanded the work of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) STEMI ACT project from 2020 to 2024.

According to Hitinder Kaur, director of Health Services of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, STEMI patients receive Rs 35,000's worth of treatment free of cost within minutes.

The work continued during the 2025 floods and in challenging districts close to the border with Pakistan.

Getting appropriate care at the spokes has also greatly improved patient outcomes in medical colleges.

Amritsar's Government Medical Centre is a hub for six districts around it. In the last 10 months, it has

received 272 patients who were thrombolysed at the spokes, of which 265 underwent angioplasty at the centre, Parminder Singh Manghera, assistant professor of cardiology here, said.

The project's success is due to the efforts of health officials like Ashu Gupta, of the Non-Communicable Diseases Cell of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, and Bishav Mohan, who led the ICMR project at Ludhiana.

Many of the emergency departments deal with infrastructure gaps, staff transfer and shortage, and high patient numbers, so keeping the overwhelmed medical teams motivated requires treating nurses as equal partners, using local languages in training and materials, awarding 'best performers' from the dis-

tricts every month, and organising award ceremonies with the health minister, Dr Mohan said.

After the successful Tamil Nadu STEMI pilot showed a hub and spoke model could reduce mortality, it was implemented in Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and elsewhere. But including only the government hospitals as hubs reduces the model's efficacy, Thomas Alexander, who along with Ajit Mullasari piloted the TN-STEMI model, said. "Patients covered under government insurance schemes should have access to the nearest reperfusion centre – public or private – with safeguards to prevent overuse and overcharging," Dr. Alexander added.

In Punjab, a year after Mission AMRIT was implemented, some other limitations of the model have also become obvious—it relies on individual interest and effort at the spoke level and at present, there is no follow-up as to what happens to patients after they leave the spokes.

That said, thanks to the project, people are more aware and are turning up early. "We are seeing more women from villages above the age of 50 with symptoms turning up in spoke centres because it is close to home and accessible, we would have missed this demographic before," according to Dr Mohan.

(This article is the second of a three-part series by Nivara, a digital public health platform, on the health system's response to emergency cardiac care in India. It is supported by Sunfox Technologies)

# WHO chief visits epicentre of Ebola outbreak in DR Congo

Associated Press

BUNIA

The head of the World Health Organization on Saturday arrived in eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus still spreads faster than the response, despite better-organised health facilities and new aid arrivals.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to visit a treatment centre and meet local authorities, health workers and affected families in Bunia.



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"The best way to address this is to provide all the necessary support to fight the disease at its epicentre and to continue offering every assistance needed," Mr. Tedros told presspersons late Friday.

*The WHO*  
The WHO said on Friday that authorities have reported 906 suspected cases and 223 suspected deaths. Neighbouring Uganda has confirmed nine cases and one death, the Ugandan Ministry of Health said on Friday.

The Bundibugyo virus, the current kind of Ebola, has no approved treatment or vaccine.

"This is a difficult situation, and we recognise that. But the DR Congo has faced the Ebola virus many times before. We are confident that it can once again bring this outbreak under control," Mr. Tedros said.

## Nation

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

# Strictly monitor & report demographic changes in border districts: Shah to DMs

**Home Minister asks officials to deport 'infiltrators'**

**Express News Service**  
Ahmedabad, May 30

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah has directed the district magistrates (DMs) of border districts to strictly monitor and regularly report demographic changes happening in their areas.

Shah gave the directions after chairing a review meeting focusing on security-related issues pertaining to border and coastal districts of Gujarat

along the India-Pakistan Border, an official statement issued on Saturday said.

The review meeting was held in Bhuj on Friday, during Shah's visit to the Kutch district. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Deputy CM Hanish Sanghavi, Chief Secretary M K Das, DGPEL N Rao along with other senior officials of the state apart from DMs and Superintendents of Police (SPs) of Kutch, Patan and Vio-Tirthad districts, among others.

According to the statement, the meeting focused on the challenges faced by the border areas in which emphasis was put on the active and effective role of the state government, especially the DMs and SPs.

Quoting Shah, the state-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the inauguration of Border Out Posts 6-7 and 6-13 at Bhuj, in Kutch on Friday. *in*

more said, "DMs in border districts must strictly monitor and regularly report demographic

changes. The reverse migration taking place due to the setting up of industrial units in border

areas is a welcome development. For deporting already settled infiltrators, everyone - from police stations to Panwars - must come forward collectively. Local administrations should prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which ensures identification of already-settled infiltrators, drones, and narcotics."

As per the statement, Shah said a security coordination group should be formed in every district which includes RSE, Coast Guard, Income Tax, ED and the Lead Bank Manager. He also said that the responsibility for implementing laws related to income tax, money laundering and customs should be of the DMs, SPs and IG of the border range.

The Union minister also

emphasised the need of keeping strict vigil over hawala transactions, financial dealings, mule accounts, shell companies, suspicious vehicles and GST collection in border districts. He also added that agencies fighting against economic offences should be strictly apprised about the border areas and the Income Tax department should launch a major survey in collaboration with the RSI.

Shah said that, considering Gujarat's proximity to the International Maritime Boundary Line, there is a need to focus on coastal security and effective coordination with the Indian Coast Guard. He added that government schemes "should be implemented 100 per cent in border villages."

throughout the world," he said. operations, said.

the meeting in the situation and Oman.

portaged in a coffin to the

During the shutdown more than 20 flights that had been due to land at Munich were diverted to other airports, an airport spokesperson said. REUTERS

# Inside Ebola epicentre, the virus rages with little to stop it

Declan Walsh

Mongbwalu, May 30

IN THE cramped, dilapidated Ebola ward, a 5-year-old boy languished on a bare mattress, a nurse stuffed into his nose to stop the incessant bleeding. His father stood over him, eyes streaked with worry.

A few beds away lay the body of Christiane Rahari, 21, who had died seven hours earlier but had not yet been taken away. Her shoes were still tucked under the bed, her wailing relatives gathered outside the ward doors.

The body, covered by a thin sheet, was highly contagious. Yet hardly anyone in the ward was protected. Relatives came and went, carrying food and

water to dying patients because the hospital had none to give them. A few wore rubber gloves or pulled a scarf across their mouths. Most had nothing at all.

In the room where the hospital's laboratory technician also sick. Several other hospital workers had already died from suspected Ebola.

Few of the staff members had ever been trained to fight the disease, and the most rudimentary equipment was in dangerously short supply: gowns, protective suits, goggles, masks, even drinking water.

Outside, the sound of hammering broke the hushed silence. Aid workers from Doctors Without Borders were racing to erect isolation tents and disinfection stations.

## • THE EPICENTRE



Dr Alex Bogale, a Congolese doctor in the hospital's intensive-care ward, was furious. The virus had been spread-

ing for months, virtually unimpeded, "and this is the best we can do," he said, the frustration pouring through his protective

gear. This is the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the front line is completely overwhelmed.

The Congolese Health Ministry declared the outbreak on May 25, and it has already ballooned into the third largest on record. Two weeks later, the international response is being outpaced by the virus, and there is almost nothing to slow it down. Aid groups warn that without urgent intervention, this could be the world's deadliest Ebola outbreak ever.

Dr Bogale was never trained for this and was angry at everyone — at the Congolese government for failing to detect the outbreak until perhaps six weeks after it began, and at the

world, which has barely mobilized help here in Mongbwalu, a remote gold-mining town of about 150,000 where the outbreak is believed to have started.

"They hold meetings and meetings," he said, struggling to contain his disdain. "What is the purpose of these meetings? People are dying, people are getting infected, people are in danger. It's very slow."

Giant trucks, crawling through bush hills, leave blinding clouds of dust. Edgy-looking Congolese soldiers guard checkpoints that are often little more than string.

Gold miners and people fleeing rebel conflict stream in and out of Mongbwalu, providing an excellent vector for the spread of the virus. NYT

## • NEIGHBOURHOOD

SRI LANKA

### Buddhist monk suspended over abuse charges

THE POWERFUL Buddhist clergy in Sri Lanka on Saturday stripped a senior monk facing charges of child abuse after weeks of relentless pressure. Pallegama Gema-rathana was on May 14 ordered to be remanded after being arrested on May 9 following a probe into a case of child sexual abuse. PTI

लगाता कि बताओ कि जून से यहाँ सेवक शुभारम्भ करने जा रहा है।

**तंबाकू निषेध दिवस** | राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण, राहत की बात यह कि उपयोग करने वालों की संख्या घटी

# दिल्ली में हर पांचवें पुरुष को तंबाकू की लत

## ■ रणविजय सिंह

**नई दिल्ली**। राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, दिल्ली में लगभग हर पांचवें पुरुष को तंबाकू की लत है। हालांकि, राहत की बात यह है कि राजधानी में तंबाकू का सेवन करने वाले पुरुषों की संख्या में 4.6 प्रतिशत की कमी दर्ज की गई है।

राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वे के अनुसार, वर्ष 2019-21 में दिल्ली में 15 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के 26.2 प्रतिशत पुरुष और 2.2 प्रतिशत महिलाएं तंबाकू का सेवन करती थीं। उस दौरान दिल्ली में करीब एक चौथाई पुरुष तंबाकू का सेवन करते थे। 2023-24 में हुए राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वे-छह की रिपोर्ट में यह बात सामने आई है कि दिल्ली में अभी 15 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के 21.6

## सर्वे के अनुसार हालात सुधर रहे

- राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण 15 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के लोगों के बीच किया गया
- 4.6 प्रतिशत की कमी दर्ज की गई
- 2019-21 के सर्वे में 26.2 प्रतिशत पुरुष और 2.2 प्रतिशत महिलाएं करती थीं सेवन
- 21.6 प्रतिशत पुरुष और 1.7 प्रतिशत महिलाएं हालिया सर्वे के अनुसार करती तंबाकू का सेवन



प्रतिशत पुरुष तंबाकू का सेवन करते हैं। वहीं तंबाकू का सेवन करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या घटकर दो प्रतिशत से कम 1.7 प्रतिशत हो गई है। डॉक्टर इसका एक कारण तंबाकू उत्पादों के पैकेट पर अंकित स्वास्थ्य संबंधित चेतावनी व चित्र को भी बता

रहे हैं।

30 प्रतिशत लोग हो जाते हैं टीबी के मरीज : दिल्ली में तंबाकू नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के पूर्व प्रभारी डॉ. एसके अरोड़ा ने बताया कि धूम्रपान करने वाले 30 प्रतिशत लोग आगे चलकर टीबी के मरीज हो जाते हैं।

## छोटे बच्चे के लिए धुआं जानलेवा

पूर्व प्रभारी डॉ. अरोड़ा ने बताया कि तंबाकू का धुआं इतना जहरीला है कि यदि एक वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों में सांस के जरिये तंबाकू का धुआं चला जाए तो उनकी अचानक मौत हो सकती है। इसलिए बच्चों के पास धूम्रपान घातक होता है। इसलिए ऐसा नहीं करना चाहिए।

## टीबी केंद्रों पर मिले छोड़ने की सलाह

डॉ. अरोड़ा ने कहा कि टीबी नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के साथ तंबाकू की सेवकता के कार्यक्रम को भी एकीकृत किए जाने की जरूरत है। टीबी केंद्रों पर ही मरीजों को तंबाकू छोड़ने की सलाह और उनकी काउंसलिंग होनी चाहिए।

इसके अलावा तंबाकू के सेवन से फेफड़े का कैंसर, हाइपरटेंशन, ब्रेन स्ट्रोक, मुंह का कैंसर, गॉल ब्लैडर व आंतों का भी कैंसर, अस्थिमा और ब्रोंकाइटिस जैसी बीमारियां होती हैं। इसके अलावा प्रजनन क्षमता भी प्रभावित होती है।



# विंताजनक : रोजाना 49% बच्चे (9 से 17 वर्ष) तीन घंटे से ज्यादा समय सोशल मीडिया पर बिता रहे हैं बच्चों पर सोशल मीडिया का बढ़ता असर

नई दिल्ली। डिजिटल युग में, सोशल मीडिया बच्चों और किशोरों के रोजमर्रा की जिंदगी का एक अहम हिस्सा बन रहा है। इसका अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि देश में लगभग 40 करोड़ बच्चे इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं।

देश में 76 फीसदी बच्चे स्मार्ट फोन का इस्तेमाल फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, यूट्यूब, स्नेचैट जैसे सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर समय गुजारने के लिए करते हैं। इतना ही नहीं, 49 फीसदी बच्चे (9 से 17 साल तक) हर दिन 3 घंटे या इससे अधिक समय इंटरनेट/सोशल मीडिया पर बिता रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने 'भारत में सोशल मीडिया और बच्चे: अवसर, नोखिम और विनियमन' पर आयोजित बैठक में विभिन्न शोधों और सर्वे का हवाला देते हुए यह जानकारी दी। आयोग ने बड़े पैमाने पर इंटरनेट पर बच्चों की मौजूदगी/डिजिटल कनेक्टिविटी के कुछ फायदे हैं लेकिन बच्चों और



स्मार्टफोन का इस्तेमाल

76% बच्चे सोशल मीडिया  
57% बच्चे पढ़ाई के लिए

स्रोत-एसईआर-2024

ये हैं आंकड़े

39.80 करोड़ बच्चे किशोर



की उम्र में सोशल मीडिया के लंबे समय तक लेफ्ट में रहने से स्वास्थ्य पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

16

किशोरों में सोशल मीडिया के इस्तेमाल से जुड़े नोखिम काफी अधिक हैं। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि खासकर भारत में, जहां कम उम्र के इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता युवाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए जरूरी उपाय अभी भी सीमित हैं। भारत का आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण 2025-26 की रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए मानवाधिकार

आयोग ने कहा कि किशोरों में डिजिटल लत को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताएं साफ तौर पर देखी जा सकती हैं। आयोग ने कहा कि इस रिपोर्ट में अल्पविकसित स्क्रीन टाइम को चिंता, अवसर, नींद में गड़बड़ी, कम उत्पादकता और सामाजिक विचारस में बाधा से जोड़ा है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि लगभग 16

## डिजिटल साक्षरता और पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल हो

एनएचआरसी ने इंटरनेट और सोशल मीडिया के जोखिमों से बच्चों को बचाने के लिए स्कूलों और शिक्षण संस्थानों को अपने पाठ्यक्रम में डिजिटल साक्षरता और साइबर सुरक्षा को शामिल करने का सुझाव दिया है। साथ ही, तकनीकी कंपनियों (सोशल मीडिया कंपनियों) से कहा कि ऐसे सुविधा प्लेटफॉर्म बनाने की जरूरत है जिनमें तत्त लगाने वाली चीजें कम से कम हों।

## आयोग ने कहा

## सोशल मीडिया न नुकसान देह, न फायदेमंद है

आयोग ने कहा कि सोशल मीडिया न तो अपने आप में पूरी तरह नुकसानदेह है और न ही बच्चों के लिए पूरी तरह फायदेमंद। इसका असर इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि इसका इस्तेमाल कैसे किया जाता है, इसे कैसे नियंत्रित किया जाता है और इसका अनुभव कैसा होता है। नीति बनाने वालों के सामने चुनौती सिर्फ इसकी पहुंच को सीमित करना नहीं है।

करने की आवश्यकता और सहानुभूति पर असर पड़ सकता है।

बच्चों अधिक संवेदनशील हो रहे हैं : आयोग ने कहा कि बच्चे साइबरबुलिंग, ऑनलाइन शोषण से जुड़ी समस्याओं के संपर्क में आने के प्रति भी लगातार अधिक संवेदनशील होते जा रहे हैं।

साल की उम्र तक मस्तिष्क के अत्यधिक लचीलेपन को देखते हुए, सोशल मीडिया के लंबे समय तक संपर्क में रहने से डोपामाइन प्रतिक्रियाएं शुरू हो सकती हैं जो नशे की लत वाले व्यवहार जैसी होती हैं, जिससे संभवतः सोचने-समझने की क्षमता, भावनात्मक नियंत्रण, ध्यान केंद्रित

**खुलासा** | अजीम प्रेमजी यूनिवर्सिटी की रिपोर्ट में चेतावनी, समुद्र का जलस्तर बढ़ने से ओडिशा जैसे राज्यों में कई गांवों के डूबने का खतरा

# भारत के तटीय राज्यों पर जलवायु संकट का खतरा

**बेंगलुरु/मुंबई, एजेसी**। भारत के तटीय क्षेत्रों पर जलवायु संकट को लेकर नई रिपोर्ट जारी हुई है। इसमें चेतावनी दी गई कि अगले 14 साल में तापमान में 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि होने की संभावना है, जिसका सीधा असर भारत की 11 हजार किलोमीटर लंबी तटीय रेखा पर रहने वाले लोगों के जीवन, रोजगार और पर्यावरण पर पड़ेगा। बेंगलुरु की अजीम प्रेमजी यूनिवर्सिटी ने रिपोर्ट जारी की है। इसमें संभावना जताई है कि समुद्र का जलस्तर बढ़ने से ओडिशा जैसे राज्यों में कई गांव पूरी तरह गायब हो सकते हैं।

**यूनिवर्सिटी ने 'इंडियन कोस्टल रीजन: क्लाइमेट प्रोजेक्शन 2021-2040'** नाम से रिपोर्ट जारी की है।



वैश्विक पर्यावरण मॉडल (सीएमआईपी6) का अध्ययन करने के बाद वैज्ञानिकों ने बताया कि देश के लगभग 40 तटीय जिलों में गर्मियों का तापमान एक डिग्री से अधिक बढ़ जाएगा। वहीं केरल का एर्नाकुलम क्षेत्र

**40** तटीय जिले हैं भारत में जहाँ गर्मियों का तापमान 1 डिग्री से अधिक बढ़ने के आसार

**1.5** डिग्री तापमान में वृद्धि संभव है अगले 14 साल में जारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार

1.3 डिग्री की बढ़त के साथ सबसे गर्म तटीय जिला बनने की ओर है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि तटीय केरल और तमिलनाडु में आर्द्रता और गर्मी का मिश्रण होगा, जिससे तापमान करीब 3.1 डिग्री तक पहुंच जाएगा। यह इंसानों के

**आजीविका और स्वास्थ्य पर असर**

समुद्र का पानी गर्म होने से मछलियां गहरे समुद्र में जा रही हैं, जिससे छोटे मछुआरों के जाल खाली रह जाते हैं। मुंबई का कोली समुदाय भी बेमौसम बारिश से परेशान है क्योंकि वे झीमे नहीं सूखा पा रहे हैं। इसके अलावा, मौवा में बेमौसम बारिश से नमक की पूरी फसल कुछ ही घंटों में बर्बाद हो रही है। वहीं पश्चिम बंगाल के सुंदरघन में लगातार तटबंध टूटने से खेतों और पीने के पानी में नमक बढ़ रहा है। इसकी वजह से महिलाओं में त्वचा रोग और मासिक धर्म से जुड़ी बीमारियां तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं।

लिए बेहद खतरनाक माना जा रहा है।

**मुंबई- गुजरात में बिगड़ेगे**  
हालात: रिपोर्ट में मुंबई और गुजरात में भारी बारिश का अनुमान जताया गया है। इसमें कहा गया कि मुंबई उपनगर में गर्मियों का तापमान 1.3 डिग्री बढ़ेगा,

साथ ही यहां हर साल छह दिन अतिरिक्त भारी बारिश होगी। इससे बाढ़ जैसे हालात बन सकते हैं। वहीं गुजरात के सूरत में 2.3 फीसदी और भावनगर में 2.4 फीसदी अधिक मानसूनी बारिश होने का अनुमान है।

# हर सातवां इन्सान मानसिक बीमार, 120 करोड़ पर संकट

अमर उजाला नेटवर्क

नई दिल्ली। प्रतिष्ठित मेडिकल जर्नल द लैंसेट में प्रकाशित एक नई वैश्विक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, दुनिया भर में करीब 120 करोड़ लोग किसी न किसी मानसिक विकार से प्रभावित हैं, यानी पृथ्वी का लगभग हर सातवां व्यक्ति मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याओं से जूझ रहा है।

सबसे चिंताजनक तथ्य यह है कि 1990 से 2023 के बीच 34 वर्षों में मानसिक विकारों से प्रभावित लोगों की संख्या दोगुनी हो चुकी है। इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर हेल्थ मेट्रिक्स एंड इवैल्यूएशन (आईएचएमई) और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ क्वींसलैंड के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा तैयार यह अध्ययन



1990 से 2023 के बीच 204 देशों और क्षेत्रों के आंकड़ों पर आधारित है। इसे मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर अब तक के सबसे व्यापक वैश्विक विश्लेषणों में से एक माना जा रहा है। अध्ययन में 12 प्रमुख मानसिक विकारों का मूल्यांकन किया गया, जिनमें एंजायटी और मेजर डिप्रेशन डिस्ऑर्डर प्रमुख हैं।

प्रतिस्पर्धा, भविष्य की अनिश्चितता प्रमुख कारण

सोशल मीडिया, प्रतिस्पर्धा, भविष्य की अनिश्चितता आदि युवाओं के मानसिक तनाव का प्रमुख कारण हैं। यूरोप, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे विकसित क्षेत्रों में भी मानसिक विकारों का भारी बोझ है।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यदि इस आयु में मानसिक समस्याओं की पहचान और उपचार नहीं हो पाता, तो इसका असर लंबे समय तक व्यक्ति के जीवन, शिक्षा और रोजगार पर पड़ सकता है।

15 से 19 आयु वर्ग के किशोर सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वैश्विक स्तर पर बीमारी और विकलांगता के साथ बिताए गए कुल वर्षों में 17 फीसदी से अधिक हिस्सा मानसिक विकारों का है। इससे स्पष्ट है कि मानसिक स्वास्थ्य का बोझ लगातार बढ़ रहा है और यह अब केवल व्यक्तिगत समस्या नहीं, बल्कि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य की बड़ी चुनौती बन चुका है। रिपोर्ट में पाया गया कि 15 से 19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के किशोरों में मानसिक बीमारियों का बोझ सबसे अधिक है। यह वह उम्र होती है जब युवा शिक्षा, करियर और सामाजिक संबंधों की दिशा तय कर रहे होते हैं, लेकिन इसी दौर में अवसाद और चिंता संबंधी विकार तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं।

# अब कीमोथेरेपी से बच सकेंगी स्तन कैंसर से जूझ रही महिलाएं

## प्रोसिग्ना नामक जीन की खोज से जगी उम्मीद

लंदन। दुनिया भर में स्तन कैंसर से जूझ रही महिलाओं के लिए राहत की खबर है। स्तन कैंसर से जूझ रहे मरीजों को अब कीमोथेरेपी से बचाने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध अध्ययन में वैज्ञानिकों ने एक खास डीएनए परीक्षण विकसित करने का खुलासा हुआ है।



हैं। यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज लंदन (यूसीएल) की अगुवाई में हुए इस शोध में ब्रिटेन, नॉर्वे, स्वीडन, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड और थाइलैंड में 40 साल से अधिक उम्र के 4,000 से अधिक ऐसे मरीज शामिल थे, जिनकी बीमारी का हाल ही में पता चला था। वैज्ञानिकों ने स्तन कैंसर के विकास में शामिल 50 जीनों की गतिविधि को मापने और मरीजों को बीमारी के दोबारा होने के खतरे की गणना करने के लिए प्रोसिग्ना जीन परीक्षण का इस्तेमाल किया। एजेंसी

प्रोसिग्ना नामक का यह जीन परीक्षण आसानी से कीमोथेरेपी से लाभान्वित होने और न होने वाले दोनों मरीजों के बीच अंतर कर सकता है। इससे लाखों स्तन कैंसर मरीजों को कीमोथेरेपी के हानिकारक असर से सुरक्षित तरीके से बचाया जा सकता है। दरअसल, कीमोथेरेपी से थकान, मतली, बालों का झड़ना, कमजोर प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली और प्रजनन से जुड़ी दिक्कतें पैदा हो सकती





Forced to wear a helmet for protection, Banerjee was

by BJP workers. Everyone knew I was coming." Abh-

probe "political vendetta and abuse of power".

lam's image and fostered communal divisions.

—Manoj Chaurasia

# Breastfeeding rates for infants have fallen sharply, shows NFHS

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The proportion of babies being exclusively breastfed for the first six months has dropped from 64% in 2019-21 to about 56% in 2023-24, reversing the rising trend of the decade and more before that. This fact, revealed by National Family Health Survey-6 has alarmed public health and nutrition experts who point out that exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months is the most cost-effective nutrition intervention with lifelong benefits for mothers and babies.

The reduction in breastfeeding rates is in almost all states barring a few like Kerala, Gujarat and West Bengal.

Interestingly, however, the

proportion of babies under three years who were breastfed within the first hour of birth has gone up significantly from about 42% in 2015-16 (NFHS-4) and 2019-21 (NFHS-5) to 50% in the latest survey. While most states have shown a marked improvement on this parameter, some like Punjab and West Bengal have recorded a decline.

Some of the states with the highest number of births showed a sharp fall in the proportion of babies exclusively breastfed in the first six months. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh the proportion fell from almost 60% in 2019-21 to just 35% in 2023-24.

In the same period, it fell from 74% to 56% in Madhya Pradesh, from over 70% to 54% in Rajasthan and from

64% to 54% in Assam. Haryana saw the sharpest fall from almost 70% to 41%. Uttarakhand too recorded a fall from almost 53% to 41%.

In many states where breastfeeding within the first hour of birth was very low earlier, such as Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, the proportion has jumped — from 22% in 2019-21 to 46.8% in Jharkhand, from 31% to 52% in Bihar, and from 32% to almost 52% in Chhattisgarh.

In Kerala, the proportion of babies breastfed within the first hour has crossed 82%, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 67%. Kerala also has among the highest proportion of babies exclusively breastfed for the first six months, close to 73%, second to Chhattisgarh (76%).

## KERALA LOGS BEST IMPROVEMENT

| India: Breastfeeding rates | 2015-16 | 2019-21 | 2023-24 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 54.9                       |         |         |         |
| 63.7                       |         |         |         |
| 55.8                       |         |         |         |
| State                      |         |         |         |
| Chhattisgarh               | 77.2    | 80.3    | 75.8 ▼  |
| Kerala                     | 53.3    | 55.5    | 72.7 ▲  |
| Gujarat                    | 55.8    | 65      | 71.4 ▲  |
| Andhra                     | 70.2    | 68      | 69.5 ▲  |
| Odisha                     | 65.6    | 72.9    | 66.7 ▼  |
| Telangana                  | 67      | 68.2    | 64.8 ▼  |
| Maharashtra                | 56.6    | 71      | 64.7 ▼  |
| Jharkhand                  | 64.8    | 76.1    | 63.8 ▼  |
| Bihar                      | 53.4    | 58.9    | 62.5 ▲  |
| Karnataka                  | 54.2    | 61      | 61.6 ▲  |
| Himachal                   | 67.2    | 69.9    | 60.8 ▼  |
| J&K                        | 65.4    | 62      | 59.2 ▼  |
| West Bengal                | 52.3    | 53.3    | 58.4 ▲  |
| MP                         | 58.2    | 74      | 56.4 ▼  |
| Tamil Nadu                 | 48.3    | 55.1    | 55.6 ▲  |
| Assam                      | 63.5    | 63.6    | 54.3 ▼  |
| Rajasthan                  | 58.2    | 70.4    | 54.3 ▼  |
| Punjab                     | 53      | 55.5    | 51 ▼    |
| Delhi                      | 49.6    | 64.3    | 48.3 ▼  |
| Haryana                    | 50.3    | 69.5    | 41.2 ▼  |
| Uttarakhand                | 51.2    | 52.5    | 40.8 ▼  |
| UP                         | 41.6    | 59.7    | 34.6 ▼  |

Top 3 states: Increase in breastfeeding rates (2023-24)  
(Change from 2019-21)



Bottom 3 states: Decrease in breastfeeding rates 2023-24  
(Change from 2019-21)

