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Editorial

NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

The Indian

The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report presents a mixed progress card for India, offering reasons to cheer while also sending clear signals to pause and reflect. On the bright side, stunting levels (for children under five), which indicate long periods of sub-optimal food intake with other deprivations, have declined from 35.8% to 29.3%. Though a modest decline, any gain is welcome given the complexity of the task that involves strengthening women's access to knowledge and resources, improved water and sanitation, and ensuring access to healthy affordable diets. Wasting levels that indicate whether children have adequate weight for their height, show no change, except for severe forms of wasting. The pattern across indicators makes one thing clear: gains in child nutrition are due to better health-care access, immunisation coverage, maternal education and improvements in housing, water and sanitation, while feeding practices and access to quality diets remain weak and continue to limit progress.

Institutional births have reached 90%, with public health facilities accounting for 58% of births; 98% of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and 95% of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.

Equally gratifying is vaccination coverage for children – 87% of children between 12 and 23 months of age are now fully vaccinated. Since private facilities account for only about 3% of vaccinations, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers – Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM). These national averages hide regional disparities, but access to health services has improved across States.

Poor feeding practices

Despite the high rate of institutional births, only about 50% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding. About 60% of children between the ages of six to eight months, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only 15% between six to 23 months receive an adequate diet. Improving the timely initiation of complementary feeding, and ensuring that all children receive an adequate diet are key to reducing undernutrition. In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the



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annaprasana ritual, typically performed between six and 12 months – any delay will result in growth faltering.

A growing and under-explored determinant of child nutrition in India is maternal time poverty. Women perform multiple roles within and outside the home. NFHS-6 reports that about 30% of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden. A large proportion of women in informal economies engage in unpaid family labour, in farming/fisheries, livestock care, and domestic chores. There are no clear estimates of the percentage of young mothers with children between six-23 months who are in the work force and there is very little documentation on how women manage child feeding with their other work roles. In many rural areas, in the absence of crèches, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.

The processed food trap

Recent consumer expenditure survey results show that households are spending less on cereals and more on dairy, processed foods and beverages, with the latter two forming a large part of the expenditure. This creates an impression of diversity which is not the same as nutritional adequacy. A nutritionally adequate diet would have to follow the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) food-based dietary guidelines. Unfortunately, for a sizeable section of the population, a nutritious diet consisting of pulses, millets, fruits and vegetables, animal foods and nuts is unaffordable. Processed foods, in contrast, are easily available, ready to eat and packaged in affordable packs.

The first 1,000 days – from pregnancy to a child's second birthday – form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years). We need disaggregated data for the 0-2 age group, currently unavailable, as stunting typically peaks during the second year of life and growth faltering often begins much earlier. The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children. Prevention of growth faltering must

receive greater priority. Early identification of stagnation in weight or length, with timely counselling and support to mothers, is central to prevention.

Empowering frontline nutrition workers

Monthly anthropometric data for young children is collected by AWWs. Strengthening their skills in data collection would improve data quality. The huge volume of collected data should be analysed locally and feedback provided to the ASHAs and AWWs for timely action.

For this task, recruitment of a nutritionist and a data analyst at the district level is needed. Where possible, digital tools can be used to supplement in person counselling, by providing both workers and mothers practical information on how, when and what to feed young children at different ages, based on locally available healthy foods.

Behaviour change communication efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as annaprasana to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding. Joint capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of undernutrition.

Multisectoral convergence is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak. Child nutrition should be a standing agenda item in Gram Sabha and Panchayat discussions. Local planning must prioritise improvements in Anganwadi infrastructure, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, as these foundational services directly influence child growth and health.

Engaging men in childcare, promoting shared domestic responsibilities, and strengthening support to mothers can significantly enhance feeding and caregiving behaviours. Many non-governmental organisations in India have developed crèche models that combine childcare, nutrition and early learning, and can be run by trained local women. From a gender perspective, crèches are not only child development interventions; they are social infrastructure that enables women's economic participation and reduces unpaid care burdens. With coordinated action across sectors and communities, meaningful and sustained progress in child nutrition is entirely achievable.

The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs

What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?

The Hindu

How do ecological and human factors intersect in driving spillovers? Will it be possible to prevent recurrent spillover events? What has Kerala learnt from the multiple outbreaks? What makes Kerala's Nipah response effective in containing outbreaks? Why is Nipah classified as a high-threat pathogen within Kerala's zoonotic landscape?

EXPLAINER

C. Maya

The story so far:

Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NV) was in 2018, which identified 23 cases (including 18 lab-confirmed ones). The case fatality rate was 50% and there were two survivors. Since then, Kerala has recorded numerous spillovers of NV.

In 2019, a lone case was identified in Ernakulam and the person survived the infection. In 2020, a 12-year-old boy was detected with the infection in Malappuram. In 2023, Nipah resulted in a cluster of six cases in Kozhikode. Two single cases each were reported from separate spillover events from Malappuram, in July and September in 2024. In 2025, four cases of Nipah were reported from two districts, Malappuram and Palakkad and epidemiological investigations reported that none of these cases appeared to be linked to each other, suggesting independent spillover events from the natural reservoir.

NV has resurfaced again in Kozhikode now and a 43-year-old, who tested positive for the virus, is battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?

Research has consistently identified the Indian flying fox bat (*Pteropus medius*) or the fruit bat as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala. Serological studies and viral detection in bats have shown that the virus is circulating in bat colonies in the State, particularly in northern districts.

In the 2018 Kerala outbreak, about 28% of the sampled bats were found to be positive for Nipah viral RNA and in subsequent events too, bat samples had revealed the presence of NV.

The *Pteropus* species are found across the State and very near human settlements. A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

Why is Nipah spillover risk highest in Kerala between April and September?

The recurrent NV spillovers in Kerala with fair regularity suggest that the virus has established itself in the environment. The peak Nipah virus spillover risk in the State is from April to September, when the abundance of seasonal fruit-laden trees, increased bat foraging activity, bat breeding season and viral shedding dynamics coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure. This pattern has not changed in Kerala since the very first outbreak.

Because of the perennial natural virus reservoir in the State, it might not be possible to prevent recurrent NV spillover events in Kerala.

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?

It is the convergence of ecological, demographic, climatic factors and increased human-wildlife interface that makes Kerala a special lab for zoonotic diseases.

The Western Ghats, which stretches along the State's eastern flank, is one of the world's richest biodiversity spots and the tropical rainforest climate sustains



Recurrent alerts: Nipah virus has resurfaced in Kozhikode now, with a 43-year-old patient battling for life at the Government Medical College Hospital. A security guard stands outside Nipah isolation ward at the hospital on June 11, 2025. *S. K. S. K.*

The WHO has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens

several hundred species of birds, reptiles and mammals. But only about 150,000 sq. km of this rich biosphere is formally protected. The high population density in Kerala and the increased presence of human settlements, plantations, and agricultural lands immediately adjacent to and along the forest fringes increases the opportunities for human-wildlife interactions and facilitates exposure to novel pathogens.

Scientific literature links emerging zoonoses to deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification. When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources. Scientists also warn that climate-related ecological disruptions could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.

Nipah is just one among Kerala's broader zoonotic risk profile, which includes other pathogenic diseases like Nipah Forest Disease (NFD), leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens (DTPH) - Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD - which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential. Nipah has been classified by the WHO as a priority pathogen because of its lethality, unpredictability and its alarming

potential to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?

The recurrent spillover incidents in Kerala has pushed the health system about the importance of sharp and coordinated disease surveillance, rapid pathogen identification and containment efforts to ensure that human-to-human transmissions do not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.

The 2018 brush with Nipah shook the health system by surprise. Of the 23 cases identified in the outbreak, only the index case had contracted the infection in the community. All the remaining cases were due to nosocomial transmission (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities in three different hospitals).

Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals. Clinicians in the State have become adept at recognising a high index of suspicion when they encounter unusual cases of acute encephalitis syndrome and to watch for clustering of cases.

The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology, screening of severe respiratory infections as well as early lab confirmation and detection of pathogens through its expanded Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) network and intensive health emergency management measures.

In all its Nipah outbreaks, the health system's public health response has demonstrated that it can rapidly identify

the index case and swiftly contain the event. After the initial event, human-to-human transmission has occurred only once in 2023.

How is Kerala strengthening its preparedness against recurring Nipah outbreaks?

The recurrence of Nipah in Kerala and the State's swift public health response every time has been a demonstration of the resilience of the State's health system. With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

As part of its 'One Health' strategies, it has developed a massive community-based surveillance network supported by over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers at the grassroots, who track and report unusual disease trends, including unusual animal or bird deaths, to enable early detection of zoonotic outbreaks such as Nipah and Mpox.

In 2023, the State set up the One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience at Kozhikode, which has been focusing on building community awareness, resilience and capacity to minimise spillover events and to mount a swift response to any such events.

It has documented every single outbreak in Kerala and prioritised Nipah research for the future, focusing on disease epidemiology, sero-surveillance studies and host factors research.

The State government, along with National Institute of Virology (NIV), is also involved in a project to develop indigenous monoclonal antibodies against Nipah, specific to the Bangladesh strain of NV circulating in Kerala.

THE GIST

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HPV Drive Reaches 50 Lakh Girls in 3 Months

The Economic Times

Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat achieve full coverage; Mizoram reaches 93%

Teena Thacker



Cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer among Indian women, with nearly 80,000 new cases annually

New Delhi: India's free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive has administered nearly 50 lakh doses of the cervical cancer vaccine to 14-year-old girls within three months of its launch, covering almost half of the target cohort of 1.15 crore girls nationwide, according to health ministry officials.

Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have achieved 100% of their respective targets, while Mizoram has covered about 93% of its target population, the officials said.

"The rapid rollout marks a significant step in India's fight against cervical cancer, one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women," a government official said.

The programme, which uses MSD's single-dose HPV vaccine Gardasil, was launched with the objective of eliminating cervical cancer, a disease that claims more than 42,000 lives annually in India.

Cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer among Indian women after breast cancer, with nearly 80,000 new cases reported every year. Until recently, the HPV vaccine was available primarily through private healthcare facilities at a cost of up to ₹4,000 per dose, placing it beyond the reach of many families.

Vaccination is being carried out exclusively at designated government health facilities, including primary health centres, district hospitals and government medical colleges, under the supervision of trained medical personnel equipped to manage rare adverse events.

To ensure uninterrupted availability, the government has secured adequate

vaccine supplies.

Gardasil, approved by India's drug regulator and widely used globally, has been procured through India's partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, officials said.

The adoption of a single-dose schedule follows a 2022 review by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, which concluded that a single dose provides protection comparable to two-dose regimens.

The Union government had announced in the 2024 Budget that it was considering including the HPV vaccine in the national immunisation programme. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization has since recommended its introduction. HPV vaccination in India had faced controversy in 2010 after reports of deaths among girls who had participated in a demonstration project involving the vaccine. Subsequent investigations found no causal link between the deaths and vaccination.

India must capture space vacated by US in biotech

Too much of Indian life sciences still operates as if the country's highest calling is to serve as a low-cost execution arm for others

At the recently concluded American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting, one of the most coveted headlines went to a clinical trial conducted only in China. For the first time, a Chinese-only study was placed on one of cancer research's biggest global stages.

The drug is ivonescimab, developed by Akzo BioPharma. It combines a programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) blocker — PD-1 is a human protein that acts as an immune system down-regulator that prevents autoimmune diseases but also thwarts immune response against cancer cells — and a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor (VEGF is a protein that promotes growth of new blood vessels in normal course, but is also produced by tumours to create a blood supply for them). It has been presented with data from more than 500 Chinese patients with advanced squamous lung cancer. Big Pharma companies including Merck, Pfizer, and Bristol Myers Squibb are now racing to strike billion-dollar deals for Chinese-invented assets. US health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr. told Congress bluntly that "China is eating our lunch." Former US Food and Drug Adminis-

tration (FDA) leaders are warning of a dangerous new dependency on Chinese drug innovation, even as they question whether results from Chinese patients will translate to Americans.

This is a remarkable shift. For decades, the US dominated innovative biotechnology. China was viewed as a manufacturing base, fast follower and copier. That era is ending and China is now producing patents, papers, clinical trials and globally competitive drugs at a speed that should worry every country that wants a role in the future of medicine.

For India, this should be a huge wake-up call. This is a race it should have already won.

In building my Silicon Valley company, Vionix Biosciences, in India, and having guided Karikios Healthcare, India's cancer moonshot that is now part of the Reliance empire, I have seen firsthand what India has: Scientific talent, patient diversity, cost advantages and digital infrastructure. Every time I sit with researchers at IIT Kharagpur, AIIMS Delhi, or the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, I see the same fire in their eyes. At IIT Kharagpur, in particular, faculty across medicine, biotechnology, engineering, Artificial Intelligence (AI), water resources and environmental science are chomping at the bit to participate in global innovation. These are scientists and engineers who want to lead discovery in cancer, rare diseases, antimicrobial resistance, environmental health and precision medicine.

They are ready, but India's inferior-

ity complex is letting them down.

India has world-class researchers, extraordinary clinicians, elite engineers and a massive base of patients whose biology, environment, diet and disease patterns could help answer questions that western research cannot. It also has something the US lacks — the chance to design a modern biotech innovation system without being trapped by decades of legacy regulation and entrenched industry control.

Yet too much of Indian life sciences still operates as if the country's highest calling is to serve as a low-cost execution arm for others. Too many talented scientists generate data for global trials designed elsewhere, owned elsewhere and monetised elsewhere. Too many institutions celebrate biosimilars and incremental improvements when the real prize is original intellectual property (IP).

India also possesses one of the world's greatest untapped scientific assets — longitudinal, multi-ethnic, treatment-naïve patient data across one of the most heterogeneous populations on earth. Its disease burden, environmental exposures, dietary patterns and genetic diversity create a living laboratory that no single western country can match. AI models trained responsibly on Indian data could generalise globally better than models built on narrower cohorts in Boston, London or Shanghai.

India must move faster without sacrificing safety. It can build advanced adaptive and platform trial frameworks, create AI regulatory sandboxes inside major cancer institutes, and



Vivek Wadhwa



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allow carefully monitored Indian-designed molecules, diagnostics and digital health tools to move from discovery to early human validation in months rather than years.

India has rightly celebrated frugal engineering. It should now demand original invention at scale. Every AIIMS and IIT should have a serious translational research centre that connects engineers, doctors, biologists, data scientists and entrepreneurs. Principal investigators should be funded like national assets. India should create a sovereign biotech venture vehicle that backs Indian-led assets before western investors arrive to dictate terms. The diaspora should be invited back into co-creation, not just as mentors or donors, but as builders.

There are already a few notable successes. ImmunoACT has shown that advanced cell therapy can be made dramatically more affordable. Eysenem is doing important regenerative medicine work. Zydsun, Sun Pharma, and others are moving beyond traditional generics into branded innovation. Clinical trial activity is rising. The Union Budget's Biopharma Shakti push and the RDI fund are positive signals. And, of course, there is Biocron,

which showed long ago that an Indian biotech company could compete on the world stage.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has often said that India's biotech opportunity could reach \$1.2 trillion by 2047 if the country builds the capital markets, regulatory pathways and innovation ecosystem needed to support world-class biotech companies. She is right, and India cannot depend on just one Biocron. It needs a hundred companies creating world-class biotechnology IP. It must move from being the pharmacy of the world to becoming one of the world's great engines of medical discovery.

The ASCO moment should focus minds in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and every major research institution in the country — and make them realise the opportunity. China has shown what speed and State-backed ambition can do, while America is beginning to recognise that its old dominance is no longer guaranteed. India still has an extraordinary opening because it combines scale, talent, diversity, entrepreneurship and democratic openness.

Vivek Wadhwa is CEO, Vionix Biosciences. The views expressed are personal.

In child trafficking racket, a city hosp that faked births

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New Delhi: It was an eagle-eyed local's tip that helped crack what was a well-oiled trafficking machinery. He spotted a woman with an infant in Paharganj. Two weeks later, when he saw her carrying a different baby, he alerted police.

Delhi Police soon busted an inter-state child trafficking racket and rescued five infants in an operation spanning 15 days. Thirteen people, including a doctor and the alleged main trafficker, have been arrested. Police suspect nearly 30 infants may have been trafficked.

Among those arrested was Dr Viveki, the owner of Hira Multi Speciality Hospital at Begum Pur in Rohini, police said. She allegedly staged fake hospitalisations to convince relatives of couples purcha-

Jatin Kumar



Dr Viveki, the owner of Hira Multi Speciality Hospital, was arrested

sing trafficked children that the women were in labour, and to complete the deception with a paper trail. Police said she prepared fake records and treatment histories, and forged delivery papers to establish false parentage. Once the paperwork was in place, the infants were given to couples as if they were their biological children.

► How racket operated, P 3

Infants Bought & Sold For Profit In Lakhs

Inter-State Child Trafficking Gang Busted, City Doc Among 13 Held

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New Delhi: Five infants, aged between five days and four months, were rescued after Delhi Police busted an inter-state child trafficking racket following a 35-day operation. Thirteen people, including a doctor, alleged traffickers, middlemen and buyers, have been arrested.

Cops suspect nearly 20 infants may have been trafficked. Police probe revealed the role of Dr Vivek, owner of Hira's Multispecialty Hospital in Rohini's Begun Pur, who allegedly sheltered trafficked infants and identified prospective buyers among childless couples seeking fertility treatment.

The racket came to light after a tip-off from a good Samaritan, who noticed a woman carrying an infant that later disappeared in central Delhi's Puhariganj. About 10-15 days later, he spotted the same woman with another baby, raising suspicion and prompting him to alert police.

Acting on the input, cops tracked the woman, identified as Jyoti alias Kamlesh. To gather evidence, a male and female officer posed as decoy customers and established contact. Jyoti agreed to sell a male infant for Rs 5 lakh and took Rs 20,000 as token money. She asked them to meet near RK Ashram metro station on June 1 for the delivery. At the spot, police rescued the four-five-day-old infant and arrested Jyoti, allegedly the main coordinator. She led them to her alleged associates - Shaik, who handled

FIVE INFANTS RESCUED

FROM TIP-OFF TO TAKEDOWN

- 1. A Good Samaritan alerted police after noticing a woman in Puhariganj with an infant who later appeared with a different baby.
- 2. Police deployed a decoy buyer and negotiated a deal worth Rs 20,000.
- 3. On June 1, near RK Ashram Metro Station, an infant was handed over and one accused was arrested.
- 4. Subsequent investigations led to 12 more arrests, including a doctor and buyers.
- 5. Five trafficked infants were rescued from Delhi, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.



HOW THE RACKET OPERATED

1. Gang comprised suppliers, mediators, transporters, facilitators and buyers.
2. Infants were sourced from multiple states and brought to Delhi.
3. Babies were concealed, medically cared for and prepared for illegal transfer.
4. Childless couples were identified & approached as prospective buyers.
5. Forged documents were created to establish fake parentage.



supply and Ladi who monitored transactions. DCP (Central) Rohini Nagar Singh said the arrests led investigators to uncover a wider trafficking network. During the probe, police found that Jyoti was in contact with Sayabhai, Ghuman alias Kalia, the alleged main supplier who procured infants from Rajasthan. Further investigation revealed that the syndicate operated through a well-organized

network of suppliers, mediators, transporters, facilitators and buyers. Police are also pursuing claims that some infants were procured for as little as Rs 20,000 and later sold for up to Rs 8-9 lakh. Investigators said more

infants were typically bought for Rs 1.5-2 lakh and sold for Rs 6-9 lakh. In some cases, doctors charged as high as Rs 5 lakh. The infants were allegedly sourced from different states and brought to Delhi, where

they were concealed, medically attended and prepared for illegal transfer. At Dr Vivek's medical facility, forged hospital delivery and birth records were allegedly arranged to establish false parentage and fa-

cilitate illegal adoptions. There was no immediate response from the contact number listed on the hospital's website. Police plan to write to Delhi Medical Council about the alleged irregularities and to seek further details about the facility. Police also arrested Vipin, a driver who allegedly facilitated the movement of infants, and Pradipha, a freelance lab technician linked to the hospital, who allegedly played an active role in procuring and selling infants. They were arrested while they were on their way to arrange another child, police said, adding Rs 2.5 lakh was recovered from them. Other suspects include Onwari, a domestic worker in Gurgaon, arrested for allegedly acting as a mediator; Kalia, the alleged supplier, was traced and arrested in Gurgaon June 17 by a team led by inspector Sandeep Yadav under the supervision of ACP (operations) Padam Singh Rana. The suspects were arrested from Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Police also arrested several alleged buyers, including Gwalior-based couple, Mohesh and Reema Pal, accused of purchasing two trafficked infants, and a Panipat-based couple, Sunny and Ritu Arora, who allegedly bought one infant. Sarika Chh, a resident of Haryana's Panipat, was arrested for allegedly purchasing a trafficked child. While one four-month-old male infant was rescued from Panipat, two 20-day old infants - one male and one female - were rescued from MP's Gwalior. Five of them are still babies and one is from Delhi in custody recovered from an Arora. Seven arrested in a raid against Panipat couple and Panipat High police said.

KEY PLAYERS

1. **Jyoti alias Kamlesh:** Alleged main trafficker and coordinator
2. **Sayabhai Ghuman alias Kalia:** Major infant supplier
3. **Dr Vivek:** Hospital owner accused of facilitating transactions and documentation
4. **Shaik:** Handled and delivered infants
5. **Ladi:** Facilitated trafficking-related deals
6. **Pradipha:** Coordinated procurement and sale of children
7. **Vipin:** Transported syndicate members
8. **Onwari:** Mediator

HOSPITAL LINK

Hira Multi Specialty Hospital in Begun Pur was allegedly used to shelter trafficked infants.

Childless couples seeking fertility treatment were identified as potential buyers.

fake medical and birth records were allegedly created to facilitate illegal adoption and transfer.

ARRESTED BUYERS

Mohesh and Reema Pal: Allegedly purchased two trafficked infants

Sunny and Ritu Arora: Allegedly purchased one infant

Sarika: Allegedly purchased a trafficked infant.



How To Tell Your Spouse They're Doing Intimacy Wrong

Lack of desire isn't the real crisis in modern marriage. It's the inability to talk about desire. But, there are quiet ways to ask for what makes you feel good, and point out which touch leaves you feeling lonely

Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghi



Before he wrote his Booker-nominated *Animal's People*, my friend Indra Sinha penned a smart translation of *Kama Sutra*, where his great corrective was that it was not merely a manual of ecstasy – as Sir Richard Burton might have you believe – but a text about how to live with other people: a spouse, a bossy cook, and, most heroically even a mother-in-law.

Today one of our unsaid things is not that married people fail to have sex, or have it badly. Rather, it is how two people spend years in the same bed, without finding the sentence that could save them from becoming strangers to each other.

Kama Sutra knew this. So, a generation of Indians long before us had an erotic language, or codes of intimacy, far more sophisticated than we know today (gleaned mostly from self-help manuals and reels). *Kama Sutra* helped to subtext all the awkward, beautiful things that compose life – its many topics include how to end a quarrel, or exit an affair without tamasha.

But Victorian morality under British rule, later absorbed by Indian reform movements and post-independence nationalism, created a genuine erasure: a civilisation that once carved lovers onto temple walls spent decades blurring kisses out of films. Silence arrived at the party dressed up as good old-fashioned decency. But silence, it turns out, is hardly neutral.

A friend recently told me her husband was loving and literate, devoted to their marriage but also a sexual failure. She had married one of the most decent men in all of north India – a rare and diminishing gene pool. Only to discover that his libido was not lacking, but expressed as a series of erotic misjudgements.

Briefly as she spoke, I wondered when our friendship had devolved into an episode of *Sex and the City*, but rescue came when she began to cry. In her sobbing I heard neither anger nor frustration but sincere, profound sorrow. How, after all, can you leave someone because

they are sexually incompetent? And equally, how do you stay? "I wish there was a school," she said, "where sexual skills might be certifiable prior to marriage."

John Updike spent several novels – *Couplings* chief among them – examining this: a community of Massachusetts marriages where sexual restlessness is the symptom, and the disease is an inability to say, in plain words, *this isn't working, and I don't know how to tell you*. Updike's couples solve the issue by having affairs instead of conversations. The New York solution is generally too much talk, or sudden flight.

Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach* is the more compressed, British version of the same idea – one catastrophic wedding night, and a marriage that ends before it begins. Suppression as a coping mechanism.

Both novelists nurse the idea that a marriage that cannot speak about desire, begins to lose desire. In one study of divorced couples, 75% cited lack of commitment, nearly 60% cited infidelity, and nearly 58% cited too much conflict or arguing. A study in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine* found that while sexual frequency and sexual communication both predicted sexual satisfaction, only sexual communication predicted relationship satisfaction.

In other words, the problem is not only how often a couple rents a room by the hour, it is whether they can speak about the sex they wish they were having.

Few people walk into a lawyer's office and announce, "I'm leaving because I have not been touched with tenderness in ten years."

They cite incompatibility, conflict, and lack of commitment. These are not lies, but discreet translations: the body converts disappointment into administrative buyout clauses. But how would my friend tell her entirely loving husband he was "loopy in the sack", as she had confided in me, without dismantling the fragile intimacy of their marriage?

Of course there's couples therapy, but replacing the language of tenderness with a language of medicine is a tedious exit, although it often works. Yet, "talking about it" is largely an American faith: the conviction that the

self must be excavated and then narrated. In India we do not always say "I am lonely" or "I feel unseen." We sulk, withdraw, serve sugarless tea, sleep back-to-back, forget anniversaries. The real question is not if we adopt the language of therapy, but how it translates in a culture that has long chosen implication over declaration.

Psychotherapist Esther Perel's remarkable contribution is to notice that modern marriage asks two opposing things of the same person: *make me safe, and make me weak in the knees*. Emily Nagoski, writing from the science of sexuality, believes lasting erotic connection is not the mythical "spark". But a practice of trust, attention, and pleasure purposefully chosen.

Long before these scholars showed up, *Kama Sutra* understood that civilisation is not proven by how much desire it permits, but by how it teaches desire to speak. Perhaps the work relies on one honest sentence: *this is how your touch makes me feel lonely*. This sentence may not repair everything, but it might be a place from where repair begins.

THE GREAT UNSPOKEN
Conversations we need to have



ED raids Kerala hosps, suspects' residences in organ trafficking case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday conducted searches at several leading private hospitals and suspects' residences across the state as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged organ trafficking racket. The central agency's probe is based on FIRs registered by police in May this year.

While a special investigation team of Kerala police is probing the alleged criminal conspiracy, forgery and possible human trafficking involved in the case, the ED is investigating suspected money laundering and the possible involvement of hospital officials.

Officials from the Kochi zonal unit of the agency carried out searches at multispecialty hospitals and residences in Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Kottayam districts. The ED is investigating the alleged proceeds of crime generated by the main accused, Mohammed Najeem Kallatra, through the organ trafficking network.

The searches, which continued for several hours, began amid suspicion that staff at some hospitals may have connived with the accused

Searches carried out in Ernakulam, Kollam Thiruvananthapuram, and Kottayam districts, began amid suspicion that staff at some hospitals helped facilitate the fraud

to facilitate the alleged fraud.

The enforcement agency is scrutinising donor registries, transplant records, internal approvals and financial documents. It may also question hospital managements and doctors if evidence of negligence or complicity emerges.

Hospitals have maintained that all transplant procedures were carried out in accordance with the prescribed norms. However, the ED is examining whether external agents manipulated the approval process using forged documents to facilitate illegal transplants. It is also probing whether any financial transactions took place between the accused and hospital officials.

Najeem was arrested from Ghaziabad last month. The probe found that the alleged racket had been operating for about five years and was involved in around 40 organ transplants.

INSTITUTE CLIMBS FIVE PLACES TO 118 GLOBALLY IN QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, BEATS IIT BOMBAY FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Research impact & sustainability, but focus on students: IIT-D formula for QS success

Isha Kuramala
New Delhi, June 18

IIT-D's second year running, Delhi has emerged as India's best-ranked institution in its World University Rankings, having climbed five places last year to 118 rank globally and widening its lead over IIT Bombay, which has moved to rank 134.

The 2023 rank for IIT Delhi is highest ever achieved by an Indian university, bettering the previous record of IIT Bombay in 2021 and caps a remarkable seven climb of 76 places from 194 in the QS 2017 rankings.

According to QS, the rise of Delhi has been driven by

significant gains in employer reputation, research impact and graduate employability. The institute has climbed to 29th place globally in Employer Reputation, 50th in Citations per Faculty, and jumped 60 places to rank 280 in Employment Outcomes. "QS Senior Vice President Ben Sawyer said, "These two areas are key to IIT-D achieving such an outstanding rank in 2023," Sawyer said.

IIT Bombay declined 25 places in Citations per Faculty, even though it continued to score strongly on employer reputation and academic reputation. Weaker performance on international engagement indicators weighed down its

overall ranking.

Overall, "Global peers are gaining momentum while institutions across India are improving at a comparatively slower pace," Sawyer said.

Administration at IIT Delhi attributed the improved rank to the fulfilment of broader institutional goals. "Whatever goes on inside the QS algorithm, our job is different," Somnath Baidya Roy, Dean of Planning at IIT Delhi, told *The Indian Express*. "We want to be a leader in providing technological education at affordable rates to all our students," he said. The institute remains focused on attracting talent, improving infrastructure, and strengthening re-



The 2023 rank for the institute is the highest ever achieved by an Indian university.

search rather than on ranking indicators. "One of the reasons for our success is that we have continued to attract the best students and faculty. We are a preferred destination for students across India," he said.

In the QS World University Rankings by subject announced earlier this year, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Chemical Engineering and Civil Engineering at IIT Delhi featured among the world's top 50 programmes. IIT Delhi also retained its position as India's highest-ranked institution in Engineering and Technology with a global rank of 36.

Sustainability, an area in which IIT Delhi remains the highest-ranked institution in India, has played a key role over the last two years.

"A couple of years back, we decided that IIT Delhi was already doing a lot of activities re-

lated to sustainability and we needed to emphasise them. At the time, it was not because sustainability was a metric in rankings," Roy said.

Sustainability efforts emerged from a combination of student demands, institutional priorities, and government regulations, Roy said. "We came up with our sustainability policy and we are acting on our sustainability action plan," he said. He pointed to green building initiatives, environmental programs and academic units such as Atmospheric Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering as examples of the way sustainability had become embedded

across the institute.

"Most importantly, sustainability is an integral part of our curriculum," he said.

IIT Delhi is also betting on a broader transformation for the coming decade, having begun to implement a revamped curriculum aimed at making education more interdisciplinary while giving students greater flexibility in designing their academic pathways. "We are looking at interdisciplinarity and also giving students more flexibility in terms of designing their own education," Roy said.

The revised framework expands opportunities for minors and specialisations and places greater emphasis on intern-

ships and engagement with industry and society. "We are encouraging VITECH students to take up internships under the new curriculum," he said.

The institute's Vision 2030 roadmap will guide infrastructure development, labour upgradation and internationalisation efforts. "We are also emphasising globalisation," Roy said. "We are training students to work in a global environment."

At the end though, IIT remains about its students, he said. "Our students are getting top jobs in academia, research and industry. Our alumni is doing extremely well. The product is our students. That's the story here."

For teachers, the last period never arrives *The Indian Express*



ROOPALI SINHA

SCHOOLS ARE shut for the summer holidays. Yet for the past few years, a sword has hung over these vacations. There is always the uncertainty that they may be cut short, teachers may be called back, or assigned some new duty. Earlier, summer holidays were one of the incentives of the teaching profession, especially for women balancing home and work. Today, teaching may still be described as a part-time job, but it takes up more time than many full-time ones.

Teachers in both private and government schools return home much like their students, carrying bags full of "homework" — preparing assignments, checking notebooks, filling out report cards, and completing administrative tasks. Work spills into the little "free time" that belongs to their personal lives and families.

The Covid years accelerated this process. Online teaching ensured continuity in children's education. But that connectivity has since become a tool for exploitation. Teachers can be asked at any hour to submit reports, data, or documents, and are expected to comply immediately. The boundaries between the professional and the personal have all but disappeared. Perhaps that is why the old reverence embodied in "Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu..." now survives largely as a ritual saved for Teachers' Day. In reality, teachers are now marionettes, expected to obey instructions and whims without question.

This becomes particularly visible in the endless non-academic duties assigned to them. Recently, news emerged from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly that teachers had been assigned the task of collecting fodder. The order was later modified following protests. Such examples are not unusual. Teachers are routinely assigned election duties, Census work, surveys, data-entry campaigns, mid-day meal management, and other such duties. Time that could be spent improving classroom practice or developing professional expertise is consumed by tasks far removed from teaching. In the process, the profession loses its intellectual freedom.

The problem with this epidemic of perpetual busyness is that teachers are left with no free time to read, think, create, or explore new things. Leisure is the condition that makes intellectual life possible. Yet this space for reflection is steadily being taken away from us. I am often reminded of Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Lost Time", though in a context quite different from his spiritual one. Who knows, even Jawaharlal Nehru's "Aaram Haram Hai" slogan may soon be evoked to justify our predicament. That slogan belonged to the years immediately after Independence, when a newly independent nation had to be built. Today, the corporate world's many Narayana Murthys have appropriated it to celebrate endless toil that inflates corporate wealth. It feels almost dystopian to argue for the importance of rest, but that is where we have arrived as a society. People are being reduced to cogs in the machine, valued only for their revenue-generating potential.

Teachers once shaped future citizens by nurturing curiosity, sensitivity, and a sense of responsibility. The work of nation-building may no longer be the urgent task it once was, but in the disappearance of free time, something equally important is ebbing away: The space for reflection, and intellectual and emotional growth. That is an immeasurable loss.

The problem with this epidemic of perpetual busyness is that teachers are left with no free time or space to read, think, create, or explore new things. Leisure is the condition that makes intellectual life possible

The writer is a Delhi-based teacher

Why the monsoon's progress has stalled over Maharashtra

Anjali Marar
Bengaluru, June 18

IT HAS been a fortnight since the official commencement of the southwest monsoon season, but its performance has largely been sub-par so far. All-India rain was 38% below average between June 1 and 17.

The June-September southwest monsoon brings more than 70% of India's annual rainfall. The monsoon arrives over the Andaman Sea in the third week of May and advances into the mainland through Kerala, generally by June 1. It then advances in surges and reaches north Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and its neighbouring areas by the end of June, and covers the entire country by July 15. But an early or timely onset of the monsoon does not guarantee good rainfall or its distribution, or vice versa.

How has the monsoon progressed?

After onset over Kerala on June 4, the southwest monsoon progressed for four consecutive days. It advanced early into parts of the west coast, including Karnataka and Goa, but marked a delayed onset over

most regions in northeast India.

The rainfall intensity over Kerala, southern Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, and the whole of northeast India picked up in early June, but did not sustain for long. Up to June 10, the southwest India region recorded a 8% rain surplus.

Maharashtra's wait for the monsoon has now gotten longer, and there are no clear indications of possible onset yet. The latest monsoonal advance was on June 8, over parts of south Konkan and adjoining areas of south Madhya Maharashtra.

Overall, the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon appears to be making slower progress this year compared to the Bay of Bengal branch.

After June 8, the monsoon advance continued mainly along eastern India regions. On June 15, the monsoon advanced into the remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

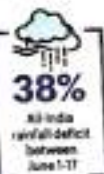
Why has it slowed over Maharashtra?

FIRST, monsoonal winds from the Arabian Sea since the onset period have

Rain shortfall in the West

Subdivision	Rainfall	Rainfall departure
Konkan and Goa	56.8 mm	-81%
Madhya Maharashtra	15.8 mm	-80%
Marathwada	26.9 mm	-62%
Vidarbha	39.2 mm	-72%

SOURCE: INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT; DURATION: JUNE 1-17



weakened. Instead, stronger northerly or northwesterly dry winds are dominating the region and acting as barriers for the incoming, weak monsoonal winds. Moreover, these weak monsoon wind flows lack a strong surge from the Arabian Sea. It is these monsoon pulses that drive moisture and cause widespread rainfall while also helping the monsoon advance.

SECOND, cross-equatorial wind flow over the western Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea has weakened. These winds pump in moisture, aiding the monsoon's advance.

THIRD, the monsoon requires the sup-

port of other weather systems. These can be in the form of low-pressure areas or cyclonic circulations, either present over the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal or an off-shore trough (low-pressure belt) parallel to the west coast. All of these are now absent.

FOURTH, the southwest monsoon also requires favourable global weather factors. One such system is the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), an eastward propagating wind and cloud band originating in the Mediterranean Sea. When MJO is in the favourable phase, it causes rainfall over India. However, that is not the case now.

How will the monsoon advance now?

Since June 16, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not released any updates on monsoon advancement over Maharashtra. This not only indicates a delayed monsoon onset but also greater uncertainty over its likelihood.

The monsoon is most likely to advance next over Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, and some parts of Chhattisgarh sometime during the next four to five days, the IMD said Thursday.

शिशु तस्करी गिरोह का भंडाफोड़, डाक्टर समेत 13 गिरफ्तार

एक नवजात को **छह से नौ लाख** में बेचते थे

● अब तक 40 नवजातों को बेच चुका है यह गिरोह, पांच नवजातों को पुलिस ने बरामद किया

● ग्राहक बनकर गिरोह तक पहुंची पुलिस, गुजरात से सरगना को भी घर दबोचा

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री से 7.6 नई दिल्ली की सीमा पर बड़े राजने भी निजाम पूर्व प्रधान के परिवार राजस्थान गुजरात साबर है। पुलिस करोड़ को करा दिया



ऐसे काम करता था गिरोह

1 बच्चों की खरीद: गरीब परिवारों और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों से खरीदता था शिशु।



2 यहां छिपाता था: राजस्थान और गुजरात से नवजात खरीदकर दिल्ली के हीरा अस्पताल में छिपाता था।

3 जली दस्तावेज: हीरा अस्पताल की संचालिका फर्जी जन्म प्रमाण पत्र बनाती थी।



4 अस्पताल में होता था सौदा: हीरा अस्पताल में इलाज कराने के लिए आए नि:संतान जोड़ों को नवजात बेच दिया जाता था।

जागरण इनको

जागरण समादाता, नई दिल्ली: गरीब परिवारों में जन्मे एक से 20 दिन के नवजात को खरीदकर उसे नि:संतान दंपती को बेचने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिशु तस्करी गिरोह का मध्य जिला पुलिस ने भंडाफोड़ किया है। यह गिरोह 1.5 लाख से दो लाख रुपये में नवजात को खरीदता था और छह से नौ लाख रुपये में बेच देता था। गिरोह के सदस्य दुधमुंहे बच्चों को खरीदकर बहरी दिल्ली के बेगमपुर स्थित 'हीरा मल्टी स्पेशलिटी हॉस्पिटल' में रखते थे और वहीं फर्जी दस्तावेज तैयार कर ग्राहकों को बेच देते थे। दिल्ली, हरियाणा, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश से लेकर गुजरात तक नेटवर्क फैला हुआ है। पुलिस ने अस्पताल की महिला डाक्टर (मालकिन) समेत 13 आरोपितों को गिरफ्तार कर उनकी निशानदेही पर पांच नवजात बरामद किए हैं। यह गिरोह अब तक 40 नवजातों को बेच चुका है।



गिरफ्तार डाक्टर विवेकी

टीसीपी रोहित राजवीर सिंह ने बताया कि पांच जून को स्पेशल स्टाफ के प्रभारी संदीप खट्वा की टीम ग्राहक बनकर पहाड़गंज व आरके आश्रम मेट्रो स्टेशन के पास पहुंची और तीन आरोपित ज्योति उर्फ कमलेश, शालू व ललित को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। पुलिस ने मौके से एक नवजात को बरामद कर लिया और टोकन मनी के रूप में दिए 20 हजार रुपये भी बरामद किए।

इन आरोपितों से पूछताछ के बाद पुलिस नेटवर्क की तह तक पहुंची

तो पता चला कि गिरोह के सदस्य पाली, राजस्थान व गुजरात के गरीब परिवारों, आदिवासी इलाकों (खासकर राजस्थान व गुजरात) से नवजात को खरीदते थे और द्राइवर विपिन की मदद से गाड़ियों से दिल्ली

लाते थे। यहां हीरा अस्पताल में नवजातों की मेडिकल देखरेख की जाती थी और अस्पताल संचालिका डा. विवेकी अस्पताल के रिकार्ड, दिल्लीवरी से जुड़े फर्जी मेडिकल पेपर और जन्म प्रमाणपत्र तैयार करती थी। दिल्ली, हरियाणा और मध्य प्रदेश में छापेमारी कर जिन पांच नवजातों को बरामद किया गया है, उनमें चार लड़के और एक लड़की है। चार नवजात गरीब आदिवासी परिवारों के हैं।

हीरोपी के अनुसार, हीरा अस्पताल में इलाज के लिए आने वाले नि:संतान जोड़ों को नवजात खरीदने का आकर दिया जाता था। एक नवजात को छह लाख तो दो अन्य को नौ-नौ लाख में बेचा गया था। पुलिस ने तकनीकी सर्विलांस के बाद गिरोह के मुख्य सरगना सायबाबाई घामर उर्फ कलिया को 17 जून को गुजरात से गिरफ्तार कर लिया। उदयपुर निवासी कलिया ही नवजात को खरीदकर दिल्ली के इस नेटवर्क तक पहुंचाता था। पुलिस ने दिल्ली की प्रीतिंस लैब टेक्नोलॉजियन प्रतीभा को भी पकड़ा है, जो इस रैकेट की सक्रिय सदस्य थी।

विलक्षण स्थिति » संवाददाता

संपादित » पेज 7

दिल्ली सरकार में गुप सी

प्रतिगामी है जनसंख्या प्रोत्साहन नीति

51 दिनांक 10/1/20

हाल में आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने राज्य की नई जनसंख्या प्रबंधन नीति के अंतर्गत तीसरे बच्चे के जन्म पर 30 हजार और चौथे बच्चे के जन्म पर 40 हजार रुपये की प्रोत्साहन राशि देने की घोषणा की है। प्रदेश में दूसरे बच्चे के जन्म पर पहले से ही 25 हजार रुपये प्रोत्साहन स्वरूप दिए जाते हैं। ऐसे फैसलों के पीछे की वजह राज्य की गिरती 'कुल प्रजनन दर' और जनसांख्यिकीय असंतुलन की चुनौतियों से निपटना है, लेकिन वास्तविकता के धरातल पर देखें तो यह कदम लोकसभा में अपने राज्य का प्रतिनिधित्व घटने की आशंका और असुरक्षा की उपज है। संभव है कि जनसंख्या में संकुचन से जुड़ा रहे अन्य प्रदेश विशेषकर दक्षिणी राज्य भी आंध्र की यह राह पकड़ सकते हैं। ऐसा कोई प्रोत्साहन नितांत संकुचित सोच का ही परिणाम है, जिसमें राज्य के हित को राष्ट्र हित से ऊपर देखा जा रहा है। यह गिरती प्रजनन दर की सतही समझ और जनसांख्यिकीय असंतुलन के शार्टकट समाधान से अधिक कुछ नहीं है।

नायडू की गिनती प्रगतिशील नेताओं में होती है और अतीत में वे समेकित राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या नीति बनाने के पैरोकार भी रहे हैं, लेकिन उनका यह निर्णय प्रतिगामी है। यह राष्ट्रीय हितों के बरबस वोट बैंक की राजनीति और प्रभावी दबाव समूह बने रहने की चाह का प्रतिफलन है। नायडू का यह सोच उन वर्गों का हौसला ही बढ़ाएगा, जो अपनी संख्या से राजनीतिक वर्चस्व की चाह रखते हैं। अगर जनसंख्या में कमी को एक समस्या के रूप में देखा जा रहा है तो फिर उसके उचित समाधान तलाशने होंगे। इसकी एक वजह बड़ी संख्या में युवाओं का समय पर विवाह न करना है। अगर देरी से विवाह हो भी जाए तो वे एक ही संतान को पर्याप्त समझने लगे हैं। आज के प्रतिस्पर्धा से भरे जीवन और संयुक्त परिवारों के घटते चलन में बच्चों के पालन-पोषण की चुनौतियां कहीं अधिक बढ़ गई हैं। ऐसे पहलुओं ने भी प्रजनन दर को प्रभावित किया है और एक हद तक इससे जनसांख्यिकीय असंतुलन की स्थिति भी निर्मित हो रही है। चूंकि भारत में प्रतिनिधिमूलक लोकतंत्र है तो घटती जनसंख्या



प्रो. रसाल सिंह

चंद्रबाबू नायडू की गिनती प्रगतिशील नेताओं में होती है, लेकिन आबादी बढ़ाने की उनकी पहल संकुचित राजनीति है



चंद्रबाबू नायडू की नीतिगत पहल से शुरू हुई बहस • पण्डित

वाले राज्यों को अपने राजनीतिक प्रभाव को लेकर भी चिंता सता रही है। यह आशंका सिर्फ राज्यों की ही नहीं है, बल्कि तमाम धार्मिक और जातीय समुदायों में भी फैल रही है। ऐसी चिंताओं के बावजूद जनसंख्या बढ़ाने संबंधी प्रोत्साहन उचित नहीं, क्योंकि भारत में संसाधन और सुविधाएं सीमित हैं। इन सीमित संसाधनों पर पहले ही भारी जनसंख्या का दबाव है।

जनसांख्यिकीय लाभों की बात करें तो जनसंख्या और मानव संसाधन में अंतर होता है। कमाने वाले हाथों और आश्रितों के बीच सही संतुलन आवश्यक है। वर्तमान युग तो मशीन और तकनीक का है। इस कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता और अत्यधिक विकसित तकनीकी उपकरणों वाले युग में तो कमाने वाले हाथों को सोचने वाले मस्तिष्क ने काफी हद तक प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया है। जनसंख्या को मानव संसाधन बनाने के लिए आधारभूत ढांचे, साधन-संसाधन और सुविधाओं की आवश्यकता होती है। पौष्टिक आहार, पेयजल, समुचित स्वास्थ्य, स्तरीय शिक्षा और वैशाल विकास की व्यवस्थाओं एवं सुविधाओं द्वारा ही जनसंख्या को मानव संसाधन बनाया जा

सकता है। भारत जैसे विकासशील देश की तो बात ही क्या, किसी विकसित देश में भी ये संसाधन और सुविधाएं असीमित नहीं। कृषि भूमि और उसकी उत्पादन क्षमता, अन्यान्य प्राकृतिक संसाधन और यहां तक कि शुद्ध जल और वायु भी असीमित नहीं हैं। साधन-सुविधाओं के अभाव और बढ़ते अपराध के अंतर्संबंध को भी अनदेखा नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। जनसंख्या वृद्धि, अशिक्षा, गरीबी, कुपोषण, पर्यावरण असंतुलन और प्राकृतिक क्षरण के दुष्प्रकार से हम सब अनभिज्ञ भी नहीं हैं। तमाम सुविधाओं के अभाव और संसाधनों पर निरंतर बढ़ते दबाव ने न सिर्फ मानव-स्वभाव और चरित्र को विकृत किया है, बल्कि प्रकृति के स्वरूप को भी बदरंग और विध्वंसक बना डाला है। अत्यधिक दोहन और शोषण ने मनुष्य को प्रकृति का दुश्मन बना दिया है और यही कारण है कि नियमित अंतराल पर प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की आवृत्ति बढ़ी है। प्रख्यात अर्थशास्त्री माल्थस ने जनसंख्या नियंत्रण और प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के अंतर्संबंध की विस्तृत विवेचना की ही है।

भारत में जनसंख्या वृद्धि के लिए प्रोत्साहन में कोई समझदारी नहीं, क्योंकि जनसंख्या की दृष्टि से हमारा देश पहले ही चीन को पछड़ कर पहले पायदान पर पहुंच गया है। भारत का जनसंख्या घनत्व भी चीन से लगभग तीन गुना अधिक है। इसलिए यह आवश्यक ही नहीं अनिवार्य हो गया है कि समस्त देशवासी इस विकराल बन चुकी समस्या के बारे में सोचें और उसके समाधान की दिशा में सक्रिय हों। भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल और अन्य संसाधनों-सुविधाओं और जनसंख्या में अनुपातिक संतुलन स्थापित करके ही राज्य अपने नागरिकों को आवश्यक मूलभूत सुविधाएं प्रदान कर सकता है, जो कल्याणकारी राज्य का प्राथमिक कर्तव्य भी है। इन सुविधाओं से ही नागरिकों की गरिमा भी बहाल हो सकेगी। मानव जीवन का महत्व और सम्मान सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समेकित राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या नीति में ही इस समस्या का समाधान निहित है।

(लेखक दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के किरोड़ीमल कालेज में प्रोफेसर हैं)
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पर्दाफाश : नवजातों की खरीद-फरोख्त करने वाला अंतरराज्यीय गिरोह दबोचा बच्चों के सौदागर गिरफ्तार

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। दिल्ली पुलिस ने नवजात शिशुओं की खरीद-फरोख्त करने वाले अंतरराज्यीय गिरोह का पर्दाफाश करते हुए सरगना समेत 13 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया है। पुलिस ने गिरोह के कब्जे से पांच नवजात शिशुओं को भी सुरक्षित बरामद किया है।

गिरोह पिछले दो वर्षों में करीब 30 बच्चों को चित्री कर चुका है। गिरफ्तार आरोपियों में पांच ऐसे लोग भी शामिल हैं, जिन्होंने बच्चों को खरीदने के लिए सौदा किया था। पुलिस बच्चों के असली माता-पिता की तलाश में जुटी है।

पड़ोसी की सूचना से खुला राज
पुलिस के अनुसार, पहाड़गंजन निवासी एक व्यक्ति ने पुलिस को सूचना दी थी कि पड़ोस में रहने वाली एक महिला अलग-अलग समय पर कई नवजात शिशुओं के साथ दिखाई देती है। नामला सोदगंध लगने पर स्पेशल स्टाफ ने जांच की तो बच्चों की खरीद-फरोख्त करने वाले गिरोह के बारे में पता चला। इसके बाद एक महिला पुलिसकर्मी को ग्राहक बनाकर गिरोह के पास भेजा गया। सौदा तय होने पर आरोपियों ने पांच नून को उसके अलग बेटी स्टेशन के पास अंकिम भुगतान लेकर बच्चा सौंपने के लिए महिला को बुलाया। वहां पुलिस ने आरोपी ज्योति, शबु और ललित को गिरफ्तार कर एक नवजात को सुरक्षित बरामद कर लिया।

आईसीएफ सेंटर संचालिका भी गिरफ्तार
पुलिस के बाद पुलिस ने बेगमपुर स्थित बच्चों के अस्पताल एवं



फर्जी जन्म प्रमाणपत्र बनाकर बदल दी जाती थी पहचान

खरीदार मिलने के बाद उन्हें अस्पताल बुलाया गया था। यहां फर्जी प्रसव संकेही दस्तावेज और जन्म प्रमाणपत्र तैयार किए जाते थे, जिन्हीं असली माता-पिता की जगह खरीदार दंपति का नाम होता था। पुलिस अस्पताल से जब सीसीटीवी की डीवीआर, कंप्यूटर, लैपटॉप और अन्य दस्तावेज की जांच कर रही है।

30 से ज्यादा बच्चों का सौदा गुजरात तक पहुंची जांच

मामले की जांच से जुड़े वरिष्ठ पुलिस अफसरों का कहना है कि शुरुआती जांच में पता चला है कि गिरोह अब तक 30 बच्चों की खरीद-फरोख्त कर चुका है। जांच में यह आकड़ा बढ़ भी सकता है।

आईसीएफ सेंटर की संचालिका डॉ. विवेकी, बच्चों की आपूर्ति करने वाले साबा भाई उर्फ बालिया समेत कुल 10 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया। पुलिस ने ग्वालिपर और पानीपत से दो-दो नवजात बच्चों को बरामद किया है।

05

दिन से तीन माह के बीच है बरामद बच्चों की उम्र

13

आरोपियों को इस मामले में पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया है

अस्पताल को बनाया था नवजातों का 'गोदम'

पुलिस की जांच में नवजात शिशुओं की खरीद-फरोख्त करने वाले गिरोह से जुड़े कई चौकाने वाले खुलासे हुए हैं। पुलिस के अनुसार, बेगमपुर स्थित हीरा भट्टी सोशलवर्कटी अस्पताल की दूसरी मंजिल पर खरीदे गए नवजात रखे जाते थे। अस्पताल की संचालिका डॉ. विवेकी गिरोह की सरगना है। बीएससी नर्सिंग के बाद डॉक्टर की डिग्री हासिल करने वाली विवेकी अपने पति के साथ अस्पताल चलाती थी। इसका प्रचार आईवीएफ सेंटर के रूप में किया जाता था, मगर एनआईसीयू काई का इस्तेमाल खरीदे गए बच्चों को रखने के लिए किया जाता था।

पीछे नहीं छोड़ते थे सबूत

गिरोह के सदस्य बातचीत के दौरान लड़के को 'बड़ी काइत' और लड़की को 'छोटी काइत' कहते थे। वे टेलीग्राम की ऑटो-डिलीवी चैट सुविधा का इस्तेमाल करते थे, ताकि सबूत न बचे।

नवजात बच्चों को खरीद कर लाता था और गिरोह के जरिए बेचता था। बरामद बच्चों की उम्र पांच दिन से तीन माह के बीच है। गिरोह के सदस्य नवजात बच्चों को उनके परिवारों से आठ से दस हजार रुपये में खरीदते थे। इसके बाद

आरोपी सोशल मीडिया से खोजते थे खरीदार

निसंतान दंपति को पहचाने के लिए सोशल मीडिया का सहारा लिया जाता था। गिरोह के सदस्य ज्योति, ललित, शबु, प्रतिभा, ओमवती और विपिन सम्बंधित ग्रहकों को लाने का काम करते थे। प्रत्येक सौदे पर उन्हें 20 हजार से 50 हजार रुपये तक कमीशन मिलता था। लड़कों की मांग अधिक होने के कारण कई बार विशेष ऑर्डर पर नवजात मंगाय जाते थे।

नकली दंपति बनाकर लाए जाते थे बच्चे

पुलिस की जांच में पता चला कि डॉ. विवेकी राजस्थान के पाली और गुजरात के साबरमती से साबा भाई उर्फ बालिया के जरिए नवजात बच्चों की खरीदारी करती थी। इन बच्चों को यहां से लाने के लिए अलग-अलग युवक-युवतियों को पति-पत्नी बनाकर अस्पताल की कार से भेज दिया जाता था। यात्रा और अन्य खर्चे अस्पताल उठाता था।

लड़कियों को पांच से जहां लाख और लड़कों को आठ से दस लाख रुपये तक में बेच दिया जाता था। गिरोह एक संगठित नेटवर्क के रूप में कार्य कर रहा था।

➤ **लाश्यों में देवते थे POG**

कुछ अलग सोलह साल में 1.88 डिग्री तक बढ़ा है गंगा के पानी का औसत तापमान, कृषि के साथ पेयजल और मत्स्य पालन पर असर पड़ेगा

गर्म हो रहा गंगाजल, हालात और बिगड़े तो नदी में लू चलेगी

हैलेन्द्र सेनगुप्त

देहरादून। गंगा में बढ़ती गर्मी व चटती ऑक्सीजन चिंता का विषय बन गई है। इससे गंगा के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, जल जीवन और इस पर निर्भर करोड़ों लोगों की आजीविका पर खतरा बढ़ रहा है। जलवायु परिवर्तन, कम बरिशा, घटता जल प्रवाह, नदी किनारे हरियाली की कमी, प्लेथिनॉटों में सिकुड़न इसके प्रमुख कारण हैं।

आईआईआईटी हैदराबाद के हाइड्रोक्लाइमेटिक रिसर्च ग्रुप और कुछ अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं के शोध के अनुसार, गंगा के मध्य प्रवाह क्षेत्र में 2009 से 2025 के बीच पानी का औसत तापमान करीब 1.88 डिग्री



सेल्सियस बढ़ा है। इससे पहले इस क्षेत्र में पारा बढ़ने की वार्षिक औसत दर 0.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस थी। आईआईआईटी हैदराबाद की

01 डिग्री तापमान बढ़ने पर पानी में ऑक्सीजन घुलने का स्तर 2.3 % घट जाता है

क्या है नदी की 'लू'?

जब नदी का पानी लगातार कई दिनों तक सामान्य से अधिक गर्म रहता है तो इसे 'रिवराइन हीटवेव' या नदी में घड़ने वाली 'लू' कहा जाता है। वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन में केलावनी दी गई कि यदि ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का उत्सर्जन मौजूदा गति से जारी रहा तो 2090 तक गंगा के आधे से अधिक हिस्से में 'लू' की घटनाएं काफी बढ़ सकती हैं।

वैज्ञानिक डॉ. रेहाना शेक ने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि तापमान में एक डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि होने पर पानी में ऑक्सीजन घुलने का स्तर

04 दशकों में दुनिया की 78.8 प्रतिशत नदियों में ऑक्सीजन स्तर घटा

2.3 प्रतिशत तक घट सकता है। यह ऑक्सीजन मछलियों, जलीय कीटों और बाकी जीवों के लिए जीवनदायी होती है।

आजीविका पर असर

वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि गंगा के पानी का तापमान बढ़ने से जैव विविधता, कृषि, पेयजल उपलब्धता और मत्स्य पालन पर असर पड़ेगा। पत्रिका साइंस एडवांसेज में प्रकाशित इस शोध के मुताबिक, बीते चार दशकों में दुनिया की 78.8% नदियों में ऑक्सीजन स्तर घटा है।

क्या हैं समाधान?

इस संकट से निपटने को नदी किनारे हरित पट्टी का विकास, प्राकृतिक जल प्रवाह बनाए रखना, प्रदूषण कम करना जरूरी है। वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, गंगा को प्रदूषण से ही नहीं, बरिच बढ़ती गर्मी से भी बचाने की जरूरत है।



एक सप्ताह में डेंगू के 10 नए मामले

नई दिल्ली, व.सं.। राजधानी में डेंगू के मामलों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की जा रही है। एमसीडी की 13 जून तक की साप्ताहिक मच्छरजनित रोग रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पिछले एक सप्ताह में डेंगू के 10, मलेरिया के तीन और चिकनगुनिया के दो नए मामले सामने आए हैं।

जून में अब तक डेंगू के 20, मलेरिया के पांच और चिकनगुनिया के दो मामले दर्ज किए जा चुके हैं। वहीं, वर्ष 2026 में अब तक दिल्ली में डेंगू के कुल 162, मलेरिया के 42 और चिकनगुनिया के नौ मामले सामने आए हैं। एमसीडी ने लोगों से मच्छरों के प्रजनन को रोकने और साफ-सफाई बनाए रखने की अपील की है।

मच्छर प्रजनन मिलने पर नोटिस

नई दिल्ली, व.सं.। दिल्ली में मच्छरजनित बीमारियों की रोकथाम के लिए एमसीडी ने सभी जोन में घरेलू प्रजनन जांचकर्ता (डीबीसी) और मल्टी टास्क स्टाफ (एमटीएस) की टीमों तैनात की हैं।

निगम के अनुसार, पिछले एक सप्ताह में 8.32 लाख से अधिक घरों का निरीक्षण किया गया, जिनमें 4028 स्थानों पर मच्छरों का प्रजनन मिला। नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वालों के खिलाफ 3532 कानूनी नोटिस जारी किए गए। इसके अलावा 10,909 घरों में मच्छर रोधी दवा का छिड़काव किया गया।

अब सिर्फ 'हमारे दो' से नहीं चलेगा काम

हाल में आई सैफल रजिस्ट्रेशन सिस्टम (SRS), 2024 रिपोर्ट से पता चला है कि भारत की कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR)



जाह्नवी नीलेकणि

1.9 रह गई है। स्थिर आबादी के लिए यह करीब 2.2 होनी चाहिए। यानी हम तेजी से बुजुर्ग आबादी की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं, जहां रिटायर्ड लोगों के मुकाबले कामकाजी वयस्कों की संख्या घटती जा रही है। देश की 40% आबादी ऐसे राज्यो में बसकर रही है, जहां TFR 1.5 या उससे भी कम है।

नई नीतियों की दरकार

सरकारी अस्पतालों के लेबर वॉर्ड में भीड़ नहीं दिखती। कभी देश में हर साल 2.9 करोड़ बच्चों का जन्म होता था, जो अब घटकर 2.3 करोड़ रह गया है। बच्चों की संख्या साल 2010 के बाद से लगातार कम हो रही है। यह बदलाव चुनौती जरूर है, लेकिन इससे निपटा जा सकता है। महिलाओं की रोजगार

में हिस्सेदारी बढ़ाकर, रिटायरमेंट की उम्र बढ़ाकर, मशीन और ऑटोमैटिक इंटेलिजेंस (AI) का सही इस्तेमाल और देश के भीतर पलायन बढ़ाकर इसका असर कम किया जा सकता है।

लंबे समय तक काम करना, मशीन और AI का इस्तेमाल बढ़ाना, पेशा कम करना और अंतरराष्ट्रीय पलायन बढ़ाने जैसे मुद्दे विवादित हैं। इमरजेंसी के 50 साल और सालाना सबसे ज्यादा बच्चे पैदा होने का दौर खत्म हुए 25 साल बीत चुके हैं, लेकिन देश की जनसंख्या नीति का अब भी जन्म दर घटाने पर जोर है। नतीजतन, 15 से 49 साल की 37% महिलाओं का बंध्याकरण हो चुका है। यानी भविष्य में वे कभी मां नहीं बन सकती हैं।

भारत में घटती जन्म दर को देखते हुए अब ऐसी नीतियां बननी चाहिए, जो बच्चे पैदा करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें। सिक्किम और आंध्र प्रदेश जैसे कुछ राज्यो ने प्रयास जरूर शुरू किए हैं, लेकिन अभी बहुत कुछ करना होगा। TFR को 1.5 से ज्यादा बरकरार रखने के लिए ऐसे कई परिवारों की जरूरत है, जिनमें तीन या उससे अधिक बच्चे



हों। आज सबसे बड़ी चुनौती बदलती जीवनशैली है। लोगों को लगता है कि वे तीन बच्चों की परवरिश नहीं कर पाएंगे। करियर, यात्रा और अन्य प्राथमिकताओं के कारण भी लोग छोटे परिवार को तरजीह दे रहे हैं।

हम दो, हमारे तीन

असल में कुछ लोग बच्चे नहीं चाहते और जिन्हें चाहिए वे एक से खुश है। आबादी में गिरावट की रफ्तार कम करने के लिए तीन बच्चों वाले परिवार को सामान्य विकल्प बनाना होगा। इसके लिए सरकार को भी टैक्स छूट, सब्सिडी

और अन्य मदद वाली नीतियां बनानी होंगी। आज कई सुविधाएं सिर्फ पहले दो बच्चों के लिए हैं। 26 हफ्ते की मैटरनिटी लीव भी पहले दो बच्चों के लिए ही है। तीसरा बच्चा होने पर मां को सिर्फ 12 हफ्ते की छुट्टी मिलती है। शिक्षा के लिए आयकर छूट भी सिर्फ पहले दो बच्चों के लिए ही मिलती है।

मौजूदा प्रजनन दर के लिहाज से 1.5 TFR वाले कर्नाटक में दो पीढ़ियों बाद हर 100 वयस्कों में सिर्फ 49 और 1.3 TFR वाले तमिलनाडु और केरल में सिर्फ 37 वयस्क रहेंगे। ज्यादा कामकाजी युवा ही भविष्य में अर्थव्यवस्था संभालेंगे, बुजुर्गों की देखभाल करेंगे और समाज का संतुलन बरकरार रखेंगे। पहले पारिवारिक तस्वीरों में दादा-दादी के पास बच्चे खड़े होते थे। आज तस्वीर बदल गई है। ऐसे में घटती आबादी की रफ्तार कम करने के लिए कुछ परिवारों को हम दो, हमारे तीन के सिद्धांत को अपनाना होगा।

(लेखिका आसिका फाउंडेशन और आसिका मिडवाइफरी सेंटर की संस्थापक व चेयरपर्सन हैं)

ED ने खोली 'किडनी फाइल्स', अस्पतालों समेत 10 जगह रेड ट्रांसप्लांट मरीजों से 25 लाख वसूलते थे, डोनर्स को देते थे बस 5 लाख

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■ नई दिल्ली: केरल के निजी अस्पतालों में गुरुवार सुबह सनसनी फैल गई, जब ED की टीम एक साथ कई शहरों में पहुंची। कोच्चि और आसपास के इलाकों में 10 स्थानों पर फर्जी छापेमारी की। दस्तावेज ईडी की कार्रवाई दिखाकर कथित मानव होता था अंग तस्करी और ट्रांसप्लांट उससे जुड़े मनी लॉन्डिंग नेटवर्क की जांच के सिलसिले में है। पूरे नेटवर्क का केंद्र है कासरगोड निवासी मुहम्मद नजीब कल्लात्रा, जिसे पिछले महीने गाजियाबाद से गिरफ्तार किया गया था। सूत्रों के मुताबिक नजीब ऐसे नेटवर्क का मास्टरमाइंड है, जिसने जरूरतमंद लोगों को पैसे का लालच देकर अंग दान के लिए तैयार किया। एक किडनी ट्रांसप्लांट के लिए मरीजों से 20 से 25

AI Image



लाख वसूले जाते थे, लेकिन किडनी देने वाले गरीब लोगों के हाथ सिर्फ 5 से 10 लाख ही लगते थे। बाकी रकम दलालों जेब में जाती थी। एजेंसी यह पता लगाने में जुटी है कि क्या अस्पतालों के कुछ कर्मचारी या अन्य लोग इस खेल में शामिल थे। ईडी टीम की नजर अस्पतालों के डोनर रजिस्टर, ट्रांसप्लांट

रिकॉर्ड और फंड ट्रांजेक्शन पर है। अंदेश यह भी है कि जरूरी कानूनी प्रक्रियाओं को कागजों पर सही दिखाने के लिए किसी ने भीतर से मदद की थी। पिछले वर्षों में 20 संदिग्ध किडनी ट्रांसप्लांट इस नेटवर्क के जरिए हुए। हालांकि अस्पतालों का दावा है, कि सभी ट्रांसप्लांट नियमों के तहत किए।

'डॉक्टरों के नकली लेटरहेड बनाते थे'

ईडी को शक है कि डॉक्टरों की मुहरे मेडिकल सर्टिफिकेट और अस्पतालों के लेटरहेड तक नकली बनाए गए। स्वास्थ्य और विधायकों के नाम वाले खाली लेटरहेड का दुरुपयोग कर डोनर और रिसीवर के बीच रिश्तेदारी या ब्लड रिलेशन दिखाने की कोशिश की गई। डिजिटल भुगतान, एन्क्रिप्टेड चैट्स का यूज हुआ है। रैकेट का मुख्य आरोपी कासरगोड निवासी मुहम्मद नजीब है। नजीब 'कल्लात्रास मेडिकल टूरिजम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड' नाम से कंपनी चलाता था। आरोप है कि उसकी आड़ में अंगों के अवैध लेनदेन को अजाम दिया जाता था। रैकेट के दलाल अस्पतालों, अंग डोनर्स और मरीजों के बीच मध्यस्थ की भूमिका निभाते थे।

एनएमआर में पंजीकरण की रफ्तार सुस्त 30 हजार डॉक्टरों को मंजूरी का इंतजार

नई दिल्ली। देश में मरीजों को प्रमाणित डॉक्टरों की जानकारी उपलब्ध कराने और फर्जी चिकित्सा प्रैक्टिस पर रोक लगाने के उद्देश्य से शुरू की गई राष्ट्रीय मेडिकल रजिस्टर (एनएमआर) योजना अपेक्षित रफ्तार नहीं पकड़ पा रही है। राष्ट्रीय चिकित्सा आयोग (एनएमसी) की 17वीं बैठक के कार्यवृत्त के अनुसार एनएमआर के लिए आए करीब 30 हजार आवेदन अभी भी लंबित हैं, जबकि अब तक केवल 1,800 पंजीकृत चिकित्सा प्रैक्टिशनरों (आरएमपी) को ही प्रमाणपत्र जारी किए जा सके हैं।

बैठक में सामने आया कि बड़ी संख्या में आवेदन राज्य चिकित्सा परिषदों और एनएमसी स्तर पर

मरीजों की सुरक्षा से जुड़ी पहल अटकी, राष्ट्रीय मेडिकल रजिस्टर में हजारों आवेदन लंबित

सत्यापन प्रक्रिया में अटके हुए हैं। आयोग ने इस पर चिंता जताते हुए प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाने के लिए सुझाव मांगे हैं। साथ ही समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए एक समिति गठित करने का भी फैसला किया गया है। स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि एनएमआर देश के सभी पंजीकृत डॉक्टरों का सत्यापित डिजिटल डेटाबेस तैयार करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। इससे मरीज किसी भी डॉक्टर की योग्यता और पंजीकरण की जानकारी आसानी से जांच सकेंगे। साथ ही फर्जी

यह है राष्ट्रीय मेडिकल रजिस्टर

राष्ट्रीय मेडिकल रजिस्टर देश के सभी पंजीकृत चिकित्सकों का केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल डेटाबेस है। इसके माध्यम से डॉक्टरों की शैक्षणिक योग्यता, पंजीकरण और पेशेवर जानकारी एक मंच पर उपलब्ध होगी। यह व्यवस्था मरीजों को सही चिकित्सक चुनने और फर्जी डॉक्टरों को पहचान करने में मददगार मानी जा रही है।

चिकित्सकों की पहचान और उन पर कार्रवाई में भी मदद मिलेगी। हालांकि, आवेदन निपटाने की धीमी गति के कारण यह व्यवस्था अभी पूरी तरह प्रभावी नहीं हो सकी है। संवाद

आनंद विहार-मऊ के बीच चलेगी नियमित

शोध : रोज योग करने से छूटेगी सिगरेट और तंबाकू की लत

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

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योग करने वालों में तंबाकू न छूने की संभावना अन्य उपायों की तुलना में 1.5 गुना ज्यादा पाई गई

नई दिल्ली। सिगरेट और तंबाकू छोड़ना आसान नहीं होता। बहुत से लोग कोशिश करते हैं, लेकिन कुछ समय बाद फिर शुरू कर देते हैं। ऐसे में एम्स के एक नए शोध शोध में पता चला है कि रोज योग करने से सिगरेट और तंबाकू छोड़ना आसान साबित हो सकता है।

शोधकर्ताओं ने दुनिया भर के सात रैंडमाइज्ड नियंत्रित परीक्षणों (आरसीटी) का विश्लेषण किया, जो पिछले तीन दशक (1993 से सितंबर 2024 तक) में प्रकाशित हुए। इसमें 18 साल से ज्यादा उम्र के लोगों को शामिल किया गया।

हठ योग, विन्यास और अयंगर जैसे योग शैली से तनाव कम हुआ और तंबाकू की तलब घटी। वहीं, प्राणायाम से मन शांत और मूड बेहतर हुआ।

एम्स के कार्डियोलॉजी विभाग के (शोधकर्ता) डॉ. गौतम शर्मा ने इसके नतीजे के बारे में बताया कि योग करने वाले लोगों में 7 दिन तक तंबाकू न छूने की संभावना सामान्य उपायों की तुलना में करीब 1.5 गुना ज्यादा पाई गई। योग से

तनाव, डिप्रेशन और चिंता भी कम हुई। लोगों की जीवन की गुणवत्ता बेहतर हुई।

इसके अलावा, शोध में पाया गया कि हठ योग, विन्यास और अयंगर जैसे सक्रिय योग से तनाव और डिप्रेशन घटता है, जबकि प्राणायाम से तंबाकू की इच्छा और नकारात्मक भावनाएं कम होती हैं। हालांकि, शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, नतीजे पूरी तरह एक जैसे नहीं मिले, लेकिन कुल मिलाकर योग तंबाकू छोड़ने का एक अच्छा सहायक तरीका साबित हो सकता है।

यह दिमाग और शरीर दोनों को संभालता है, जो लत के इलाज के लिए जरूरी है। शोधकर्ता अब चाहते हैं कि कम और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में भी योग आधारित कार्यक्रम चलाए जाएं। अगर तरीकों को एक समान बनाया जाए तो योग की असली ताकत और साफ पता चल सकेगी।

नींद पूरी होने पर भी नहीं मिट रही थकान

नई दिल्ली। पर्याप्त नींद लेने के बावजूद दिनभर थकान, सुस्ती और ऊर्जा की कमी महसूस होना आजकल आम समस्या बनती जा रही है। स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इसके पीछे खराब जीवनशैली, मानसिक तनाव, बढ़ता स्क्रीन टाइम और शारीरिक निष्क्रियता कारण है।

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार लगातार मोबाइल, लैपटॉप और अन्य डिजिटल उपकरणों के इस्तेमाल से नींद की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है। इसके अलावा अनियमित खानपान, शारीरिक गतिविधियों की कमी और काम का बढ़ता दबाव भी शरीर को पूरी तरह आसम नहीं करने देता। ऐसे में व्यक्ति पूरी रात सोने के बाद भी खुद को थका हुआ महसूस करता है।

गुरु तेग बहादुर अस्पताल के एडिशनल मेडिकल सुपरिटेण्डेंट डॉ. प्रवीण कुमार ने बताया कि कई बार लगातार थकान महसूस होना शरीर में पोषण की कमी, तनाव, एनीमिया, थायरॉयड संबंधी समस्याओं या खराब नींद की गुणवत्ता का संकेत भी हो सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि नियमित व्यायाम, संतुलित आहार, पर्याप्त पानी का सेवन, समय पर सोना और स्क्रीन टाइम को नियंत्रित करके इस समस्या बचा जा सकता है। संवाद

Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?

PARLEY

India is witnessing an unprecedented expansion in higher education. Over the past decade, thousands of new colleges and universities have been established, producing millions of graduates every year. Yet unemployment of the educated remains a growing concern. Nearly one in three graduates are unemployed. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb? Rajan Wadhwa and O.R.S. Rao discuss the question in a conversation moderated by M. Kalynayanasan. Edited excerpts:

Is India producing more graduates than the economy can absorb?

O.R.S. Rao: The numbers point to a widening gap between the growth in graduates and the growth in jobs. In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace. Earlier, the IT services sector was the principal employer of engineering graduates. Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment. The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.

A second issue is the nature of investment. Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive. As a result, large investments do not necessarily translate into proportionate job creation.

Has AI made the problem worse?

ORSR: We are in the middle of a major technological transition. AI is changing the nature of work much faster than how educational institutions can adapt. Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology. Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed. Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly.

As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.

Is employability more important than just



Keeping up: Candidates who came for a mega job fair at the Government Engineering College in Thiruvananthapuram in 2023. <https://www.thehindu.com>

job creation?

Rajan Wadhwa: There is certainly a growing concern about employability, particularly among engineering graduates. The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires. Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving. When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively. Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap. This was far less common a few decades ago.

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?

RW: Manufacturing still has considerable potential, but it too is undergoing profound change. People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems. Historically, a large number of engineers were employed in supervisory and operational roles on factory floors. Today, many of those functions are automated. Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes. As a result, the number of engineering jobs generated by manufacturing is not increasing at the pace many people expected. Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?

RW: I would not go that far. India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence,



Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving

RAJAN WADHWA

aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities. There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging. The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow. Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth. This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together. Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?

ORSR: Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers. The real value lies in research, development and design. Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products. Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson. Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks. India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?

RW: It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base. Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities. Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere. The issue is not whether these capabilities exist. The issue is scale. The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

What role should entrepreneurship play?

ORSR: Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate. We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment. One major challenge is access to risk capital. Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams. Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage. India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.

What should India focus on in the AI era?

ORSR: India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products. There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access. Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment. The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets. We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader. LTP's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.

What needs to change in higher education?

ORSR: Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper. Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?

ORSR: Three priorities stand out. First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development. Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely. Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.

RW: I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing. The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace. The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.



To listen to the full interview, scan the QR code or go to the link www.thehindu.com

शोध : रोज योग करने से छूटेगी सिगरेट और तंबाकू की लत

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

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योग करने वालों में तंबाकू न छूने की संभावना अन्य उपायों की तुलना में 1.5 गुना ज्यादा पाई गई

नई दिल्ली। सिगरेट और तंबाकू छोड़ना आसान नहीं होता। बहुत से लोग कोशिश करते हैं, लेकिन कुछ समय बाद फिर शुरू कर देते हैं। ऐसे में एम्स के एक नए शोध शोध में पता चला है कि रोज योग करने से सिगरेट और तंबाकू छोड़ना आसान साबित हो सकता है।

शोधकर्ताओं ने दुनिया भर के सात रैंडमाइज्ड नियंत्रित परीक्षणों (आरसीटी) का विश्लेषण किया, जो पिछले तीन दशक (1993 से सितंबर 2024 तक) में प्रकाशित हुए। इसमें 18 साल से ज्यादा उम्र के लोगों को शामिल किया गया।

हठ योग, विन्यास और अयंगर जैसे योग शैली से तनाव कम हुआ और तंबाकू की तलब घटी। वहीं, प्राणायाम से मन शांत और मूड बेहतर हुआ।

एम्स के कार्डियोलॉजी विभाग के (शोधकर्ता) डॉ. गौतम शर्मा ने इसके नतीजे के बारे में बताया कि योग करने वाले लोगों में 7 दिन तक तंबाकू न छूने की संभावना सामान्य उपायों की तुलना में करीब 1.5 गुना ज्यादा पाई गई। योग से

तनाव, डिप्रेशन और चिंता भी कम हुई। लोगों की जीवन की गुणवत्ता बेहतर हुई।

इसके अलावा, शोध में पाया गया कि हठ योग, विन्यास और अयंगर जैसे सक्रिय योग से तनाव और डिप्रेशन घटता है, जबकि प्राणायाम से तंबाकू की इच्छा और नकारात्मक भावनाएं कम होती हैं। हालांकि, शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, नतीजे पूरी तरह एक जैसे नहीं मिले, लेकिन कुल मिलाकर योग तंबाकू छोड़ने का एक अच्छा सहायक तरीका साबित हो सकता है।

यह दिमाग और शरीर दोनों को संभालता है, जो लत के इलाज के लिए जरूरी है। शोधकर्ता अब चाहते हैं कि कम और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में भी योग आधारित कार्यक्रम चलाए जाएं। अगर तरीकों को एक समान बनाया जाए तो योग की असली ताकत और साफ पता चल सकेगी।

नींद पूरी होने पर भी नहीं मिट रही थकान

नई दिल्ली। पर्याप्त नींद लेने के बावजूद दिनभर थकान, सुस्ती और ऊर्जा की कमी महसूस होना आजकल आम समस्या बनती जा रही है। स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि इसके पीछे खराब जीवनशैली, मानसिक तनाव, बढ़ता स्क्रीन टाइम और शारीरिक निष्क्रियता कारण है।

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार लगातार मोबाइल, लैपटॉप और अन्य डिजिटल उपकरणों के इस्तेमाल से नींद की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है। इसके अलावा अनियमित खानपान, शारीरिक गतिविधियों की कमी और काम का बढ़ता दबाव भी शरीर को पूरी तरह आसम नहीं करने देता। ऐसे में व्यक्ति पूरी रात सोने के बाद भी खुद को थका हुआ महसूस करता है।

गुरु तेग बहादुर अस्पताल के एडिशनल मेडिकल सुपरिटेण्डेंट डॉ. प्रवीण कुमार ने बताया कि कई बार लगातार थकान महसूस होना शरीर में पोषण की कमी, तनाव, एनीमिया, थायरॉयड संबंधी समस्याओं या खराब नींद की गुणवत्ता का संकेत भी हो सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि नियमित व्यायाम, संतुलित आहार, पर्याप्त पानी का सेवन, समय पर सोना और स्क्रीन टाइम को नियंत्रित करके इस समस्या बचा जा सकता है। संवाद