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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

PIB,MAR13,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the National Education Policy 2020 offers enabling opportunities to aspiring Start-Ups

The National Education Policy 2020 is something that India was waiting for several decades: Dr Jitendra Singh

If you have to grow on, you have to grow on in synergy. The era of silos is over. It has to be integrated effort: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the National Education Policy 2020 offers enabling opportunities to aspiring StartUps.

Addressing the Inaugural Session of the 5- National Seminar on "Innovation in Education Through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Model in Higher Education" at Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), Delhi University, Dr Jitendra Singh said that NEP 2020 accommodates the aspirations of potential StartUps at various stages of their growth. The new avenues of StarUp initiatives should be determined based on the requirements of the Industry and the market dynamics to make them sustainable, he said.

The Minister said that the National Education Policy 2020 is something that India was waiting for several decades. The biggest change was renaming the Ministry of Human Resource and Development to Ministry of Education. Secondly, before NEP 2020 came in, we were largely following the education policy formulated by Macaulay. “The biggest harm that has been done to the country by the education policy that we followed for 65 years is that we created a new genre of population called educated unemployed”, he added.

The Minister further said that unless we correct some of the bottom- line misconceptions, we cannot move forward. This National Education Policy 2020 has given us a clue to realise where



we were and to work on accordingly. He said that earlier we didn't even have a clue. The mismatch of education with livelihood will be sought to be corrected through this. “This is where the theme of the PPP model also comes in. Delinking it with degree and linking it with sources of livelihood”, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh also said that one of the most beautiful provisions in the National Education Policy 2020 is the exit and entry provision. He said that you can have a combination of subjects and even alter them. “You are actually given full potential to your aptitude, capacity and also to the opportunities. In the earlier policy every passing year made you more and more captive just like you have entry exit provision for students, you could have that for the teachers as well”, he added.

The Minister said that the other part is the earlier education system also gave us a kind of perverted entitlement. The New Education Policy will eliminate the nomenclature of dropouts and that gives students an opportunity to try their hand at the skill, innovation or idea that they want to try right now. On the Science and Technology front, Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that If you have to grow on, you have to grow on in synergy. The era of silos is over. It has to be an integrated effort. After 20 years, it will all be all private public and it will all be global. Now it's time for public and private in India to collaborate with the public and private in the other country. “We are now a part of the global world so this public private partnership is inevitable”, he added. The Minister said that the Government has so many programmes that are not adequately availed off. “We are able to provide support to those who reach us. So how to reach those who could make the best out of it. That's where the universities come in.”, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh added that the other is a change of mindset needed from obsession with government jobs. Universities can play an important role here also to liberate the mindset by making people realize that there are avenues that are much more lucrative than a government job and that will draw them.

The Minister further added that the next is to liberate from the mindset that the educated should be given more entitlement. We have huge potential in this country of Agri tech start-ups. Most of their founders are not even graduates. Innovation can be independent of science, of education and degree. “We have aroma mission going on in the country, also popularly referred to as the Purple revolution. We are providing all support and they are making huge profits and most are not even graduates”, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh also said that education does not mean literacy. You could be educated without being a graduate. You could be innovative without going to a college. That genre is gradually coming up now. Dr Jitendra Singh said that the National education policy 2020 has liberated us from all the superfluous entitlements and then made it a tool of not only livelihood but also of ease of living. “Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, there is a new awakening that has dawned in this country regarding Start-up India and Stand-up India. The result is that from just 350 start-ups we have more than 90,000 and we have more than 100 unicorns, our economy is the fastest growing and we are rated as the 3rd best start-up ecosystem in the world. There was a lot of potential waiting to happen and the Prime Minister has given it the outlet”, he concluded.

PIB, MAR 14, 2023

Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Vibrant Villages Programme’ for the comprehensive development of the villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in four States and one UT

The Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Vibrant Villages Programme’ for the comprehensive development of the villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in 4 States and 01 UT viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh(UT) abutting the northern border. A fund of ₹4800 crores has been allocated for the programme for the Financial Year 2022-23 to 2025-26. Initially, 662 border villages have been identified for comprehensive development on priority under the programme. State wise number of villages are as follows: Arunachal Pradesh- 455, Himachal Pradesh- 75, Ladakh(UT)- 35, Sikkim- 46 and Uttarakhand-51. Under this programme following focus areas have been identified for intervention: (i) Economic growth- livelihood generation (ii) Road Connectivity (iii) Housing & village infrastructure (iv) Energy including renewable energy through Solar and Wind power (v) Television & Telecom Connectivity including setting up of IT enabled Common Service Centre in the Village (vi) Regeneration of eco-system (vii) Promotion of tourism & culture (viii) Financial Inclusion (ix) Skill development & entrepreneurship (x) Development of cooperative societies for managing livelihood opportunities including agriculture/horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs etc.

Vibrant Villages Programme aims for convergence of existing schemes of Central and State Government through formulation of District Convergence Plan. It focuses on projects in the identified areas of intervention for inclusion in the vibrant villages

action plan for select villages. This was stated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nisith Pramanik in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today.

PIB,MAR14,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India is fast emerging as the world's knowledge based economy:

Having leapfrogged from 81st to 40th in the Global Innovation Index 2022, we must now aspire to be in the top 25 in the near term and in the top five by India @ 100. Prime Minister Modi has provided a huge impetus to innovation by adding Jai Anusandhan to the country's evergreen slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan: Dr Jitendra Singh

India has the third-largest startup ecosystem and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns. Startups are very important as they are a source of new ideas and technologies: Dr Jitendra Singh

Today the young talent of India, including especially Women via startups or otherwise, are scripting the saga of success for a thriving innovation led economy: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that India is fast emerging as the world's knowledge based economy and over the last few years, it has grown by leaps and bound when it comes to innovation and technology. India stands today as one of the leading nations of the world in terms of scientific and technological prowess, he said.



Addressing the plenary session of the 28th edition of The CII Partnership Summit being held in partnership with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Innovation prowess of any country is instrumental in shaping and sustaining its industrial sectors, delivering

economic growth, jobs, wealth creation and ensuring a strategic edge. The Covid-19 pandemic taught the business world an important lesson – ‘innovate or perish’. The Minister said that India is on a mission in the very first year of Amrit Kaal. This mission is technology-driven towards achieving its aspiration of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy. “Technology will therefore be at the centre-stage in this phase of socioeconomic growth and development”, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasized that the present Government clearly puts a strong emphasis on strengthening the Nation’s ecosystem of Research, Innovation and Technology development to achieve this aspiration. He added that the technology-driven, and innovation-focused enterprises that form the bedrock of an innovation nations have moved from being a buzzword to a critical component of national economic and strategic power. Having leapfrogged from 81st to 40th in the Global Innovation Index 2022, the Minister said that we must aspire to be in the top 25 in the near term and in the top five by India @ 100. “Our Hon’ble Prime Minister has provided a huge impetus to innovation by adding Jai Anusandhan to the country’s evergreen slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan”, he added. The Minister said that an enabling atmosphere for innovation was missing in the earlier policy initiatives and political dispensation but now that atmosphere is being provided by the political dispensation led by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr Jitendra Singh further highlighted that the Indian industry is the backbone of the fastest growing large economy of the world and has the potential to revolutionize and bring in a technology movement. He added that integration of Research, Start-ups, Academia and Industry is no longer an option but a dire necessity to attract young innovators in the country, particularly in the States to come out with cutting-edge and globally competitive products and solutions.

Talking further about Industry, the Minister said that the key concern is R&D contribution by the private sector, less than 40% of the national GDP. This is in contrast to the global average of over 70%, especially in developed economies. It is important for industry to scale up investing in R&D and initiate collaboration through sponsorship research with the other pillars of the Quad, supported by policy and funding from the Centre. Talking about Startups, the Minister said that India has the third-largest startup ecosystem and is home to the fastest-growing unicorns. Startups are very important as they are a source of new ideas and technologies. He added that linking Start-Ups with Industry right from the beginning as equal stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable Start-Ups is essential. Support from industry and government is crucial. “Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, there is a new awakening that has dawned in this country regarding Start-up India and Stand-up India. The result is that from just 350 start-ups we have more than 90,000 and we have more than 100 unicorns”, he

added. Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned that today the young talent of India, including especially Women via startups or otherwise, are scripting the saga of success for a thriving innovation led economy. This is creating valuable Intellectual property and simultaneously generating sizeable employment. “As we move ahead, we must consider creating synergies of startups with large corporates for incubation and handholding. In particular, women entrepreneurs must be encouraged to participate in the research, innovation and technology ecosystem of the country”, he added.

The Minister emphasized that a seamless and collaborative innovation ecosystem will enable a dynamic ecosystem. Private-public partnerships must be aligned with the national goals. “The time is opportune to collectively harness the strengths of all the innovation ecosystem stakeholders and quickly take India to the next level of technology and innovation leadership”, he added.

PIB, MAR 15, 2023

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, IMD has launched seven of its services (Current Weather, Nowcast, City Forecast, Rainfall Information, Tourism Forecast, Warnings and Cyclone) with ‘UMANG’ mobile App for use by public in 2020.

Union Minister of State, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, M/o Earth Sciences; MoS, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that in 2020, IMD has launched seven of its services (Current Weather, Nowcast, City Forecast, Rainfall Information, Tourism Forecast, Warnings and Cyclone) with ‘UMANG’ mobile App for use by public. Moreover, in 2020, IMD had developed mobile App ‘MAUSAM’ for weather forecasting, ‘Meghdoot’ for Agromet advisory dissemination and ‘Damini’ for lightning alert.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that IMD follows a seamless forecasting strategy. The long range forecasts (for the whole season) issued are being followed with extended range forecast issued on every Thursday with a validity period of four weeks. To follow up the extended range forecast, IMD issues short to medium range forecast and warnings daily valid up to next five days with an outlook for subsequent two days. The short to medium range forecast and warning at district and station level are issued by state level Meteorological Centres (MCs)/Regional Meteorological Centres (RMCs) with a validity of next five days and are updated twice a day. The short to medium range forecast is followed by very short range forecast of severe weather up to three hours (nowcast) for all the districts and 1171 cities and towns. These nowcasts are updated every three hours.

The Minister further said that forecast is issued for 36 meteorological sub divisions from National Weather Forecasting Centre, IMD HQ and is updated four times a day. The forecasts and nowcasts are issued at District Level and Station Level by State Level Meteorological Centres and Regional Meteorological Centres. Dr Singh said that IMD is implementing Impact Based Forecast (IBF) which gives details of what the weather will do rather than what the weather will be. It contains the details of impacts expected from the severe weather elements and guidelines to general public about do's and don'ts while getting exposed to severe weather. These guidelines are finalised in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and is already implemented successfully for cyclone, heat wave, thunderstorm and heavy rainfall. The Minister also added that IMD has taken various initiatives in recent years for improvement in dissemination of weather forecast and warning services based on latest tools and technologies. The forecasts and warnings are disseminated to users including disaster managers by e mail on regular basis. In addition to this, WhatsApp groups are created including disaster managers and IMD officials and forecast & warnings are disseminated through this facility also. The forecast & Warnings are uploaded in social media & website for reference by all concerned. The nowcasts related to Severe Weathers are disseminated through SMS also to the registered users.

PIB,MAR15,2023

NATIONAL POLICY ON SENIOR CITIZEN

THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT IMPLEMENTS A CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (IPSRC)

THE NATIONAL HELPLINE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN (14567)- ELDERLINE: HAS BEEN LAUNCHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of older persons. The Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

As compared to western world, in India, family still plays the role of the first institution to take care of its elderly members. Moreover, Government of India is implementing various schemes and programmes, through different Ministries and Departments for care and welfare of senior citizens. These include shelter, food, healthcare, financial security, social security, awareness, recreation etc. Details given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Government of India implements various schemes and programmes, through different Ministries and Departments for care and welfare of senior citizens. Details given below:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:

Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC):

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) under which grants in aid are given for running and maintenance of Senior Citizens Homes (Old Age Homes)/ Continuous Care Homes, Mobile Medicare Units etc. to the Implementing Agencies (IAs) such as State Governments / Union Territory Administrations (through Registered Societies)/ Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) / Local bodies; Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organizations.

RashtriyaVayoshriYojana (RVY):

RashtriyaVayoshriYojana (RVY) is a Central Sector Scheme funded from Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. Under the Scheme of RVY, aids and assistive living devices are provided to senior citizens belonging to BPL category or those senior citizens who earn less than 15000/- per month and suffer from age related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and loco-motor disabilities. The aids and assistive devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries, free of cost. The Scheme is being implemented by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) which is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

National Helpline for Senior Citizen (14567)- Elderline:

The Ministry has set up the National Helpline for Senior Citizen for senior citizen to address the grievance of the elders. The helpline has been launched across the country and has been dedicated to the Nation by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on the occasion of the International Day for Older Persons i.e. on 01st October, 2021. The Elder line offers services to the senior citizens through toll free number 14567.

State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC):

Appreciating the critical and significant role of States/UTs, each State/UT is expected to plan and strategize taking into account their local considerations and frame their own State Action Plans for the welfare of their senior citizens. This State Action Plan may comprise a long-term strategy for five years as well as Annual Action Plans. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment shall release funds to the States/UTs for formulation and implementation of their State Action Plans.

SAGE:

To promote out-of-the-box and innovative solutions for the commonly faced problems, innovative start-ups will be identified and encouraged for developing products, processes and services for the welfare of the elderly under this initiative. The selected start-ups/start-up ideas can be provided equity support of upto Rs.1 crore per project while ensuring that the total Government equity in the start-up should not exceed 49%. For this, the SAGE portal (<http://sage.dosje.gov.in>) has been launched on 04/06/2021. Under Umbrella Scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, Ministry has included awareness generation/sensitization programmes with school/college students for strengthening Inter-generational bonding. It also aims to provide information and educational material to individuals, families and groups for better understanding of the ageing process so as to enable them to handle issues relating to it.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, shri A. Narayanaswamy in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, today.

STATESMAN,MAR16,2023

Political Education

Introduction to history of national politics, brief notions of governance, quality of political systems and their impact on the life of citizens are the basic pedagogic framework of any education in politics at the rudimentary level. The purpose of such an introduction to political education is distinctly utilitarian. It is designed to promote political awareness, ideas of rights and duties

Aparna Roy and Rudrashis Datta

In his autobiographical Seventh Letter, Greek philosopher Plato famously remarked, “The human race will have no respite from evils until those who are really philosophers acquire political power or until, through some divine dispensation, those who rule and have political authority in the cities become real philosophers”. Plato’s retreat to his ‘Academy’ for implementing his political ideals in contemporary Greek politics ended in abject failure and his Academy closed down in 529 BC. His later writings reveal the difficulty of shaping political systems on sound philosophical ideals and the crisis that he pointed out in the face of politics minus ideals has remained an unresolved enigma in the world of politics even today. There is universal agreement that the best education in politics begins in schools. Introduction to history of national politics, brief notions of governance, quality of political systems and their impact on the life of citizens are the basic pedagogic framework of any education in politics at the rudimentary level. The purpose of such an introduction to political education is distinctly utilitarian. It is designed to promote political awareness, ideas of rights and duties, and the shaping of democratic systems and individual’s participation in them. While the broad educational framework of political education is generally agreed, the methodology and applied pedagogy of the subject remains a contentious issue across the world, more so in India, where the education of politics more often slips into a politics of education that carries with it unhealthy acrimony and discord.

Curriculum experts have observed that the rudimentary pedagogy of political education, modelled with a different subject title, namely ‘civics’ may introduce school children to the preliminaries of a functioning democracy but in itself it cannot guarantee a genuinely felt political awareness. Interestingly, the National Education Policy, 2020 places political science in the specific context of legal education and teacher education and has not earmarked the role political science would be playing in the context of school education. The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, 2009, widely considered as a bell-weather indicator of school education dynamics in the country places political science in the context of a wide spectrum of areas which need focus in school education. It says, “There is a need to shift the focus from an overwhelming emphasis on

psychological characteristics of the individual learner to his / her social, cultural, economic and political contexts. Therefore, a rigorous engagement with issues of contemporary Indian society must necessarily be examined through an engagement with concepts drawn from a diverse set of disciplines including sociology, history, philosophy, political science and economics.”

However, the place of political science has remained compromised with the predominant practice of being merged with either history or a broad spectrum of social science subjects, thereby implying its status as a minor field of study among school subjects. This lack of importance is usually seen to amplify with very few school pass outs voluntarily opting to specialize in political science as a special field of study leading to compromised teaching and research talents available to the subject. Interestingly, the importance of political science as a special subject of study that ought to begin as early as possible in a school education setting was underlined by the UNESCO as early as 1948 with the twin developments of a destructive world war and the political freedoms of several colonies, highlighting the importance of universal political awareness as an antidote to dictatorship and a guarantee of vibrant governance. With the foundation of the International Political Science Association in 1949, politics as a special subject of study attained a prominence and importance across most school education systems in Europe and the US.

In the Indian context, we find significant delays in the adoption of political science as a subject of study at school levels. The Secondary Education Commission, 1952-53 was silent on political education and instead stressed that ‘unhealthy trends of political life are to be avoided in schools’. The Education Commission of 1964 too maintained the need to delink school education from political education since it felt that school children are to be protected from political influence at all costs. The negative nuances associated with political education amplified into a general distrust of political awareness in school going age, thereby leading to delayed understanding of political and legal complexities of the social systems of the country.

Neglect of political education in schools has serious ramifications in the shaping of a healthy democratic set-up in the country. Ignorance of political processes, lack of knowledge on rights and duties make school children vulnerable to unhealthy political manipulation, ignorance of the roles and responsibilities of citizenship, compromised patriotic feelings and a poor mental connection with the country’s democratic apparatuses. This has a cascading effect on the body-politick as a whole.

Since we are in the throes of a path-breaking National Education Policy, 2020 that sets itself the task and vision of transforming the education system of the country as a whole, it would be a costly mistake if political science is not given its due place of importance in the education curriculum right from high school education itself. To quote Pericles, a Greek philosopher-politician of the fifth century BC, “Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you.” In other words, a lack of interest in politics would not prevent an individual from facing the negative nuances of a disjointed political atmosphere and the best protection for an individual citizen is an awareness of political systems, ideas of rights and duties and commitment to social living. This is best guaranteed by a scientifically planned political pedagogy, irrespective of individual academic specialization, that would begin early enough in a student’s education so as to leave a firmer impression on the mind. This is the best way forward for a vibrant political system and is the primary condition of a well-functioning democracy

(The writers are, respectively, an Assistant Professor in Political Science and an Assistant Professor in English, Pritilata Waddadar Mahavidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal)

PIB, MAR 18, 2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, earlier governments never cared to explore India's vast ocean resources and it is for the first time, after Shri Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister that there is a serious effort to explore and harness the ocean resources and give priority to the Blue Economy of India. Goa Ministerial delegation led by Union Minister, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and State Tourism Minister, Shri Rohan Khaunte along with other senior officials called on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the earlier governments never cared to explore India's vast ocean resources and it is for the first time, after Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister that there is a serious effort to explore and harness the ocean resources and give priority to the Blue Economy of India. He recalled the not once but in two of his Independence Day addresses to the nation, PM Modi had referred to the Deep Ocean Mission thus underlining its importance.

Dr Jitendra Singh was talking to a high level Goa official delegation led by Union Minister, Shripad Yesso Naik and Goa State Tourism Minister, Rohan Khaunte. The delegation called on him to discuss the various potential projects to promote tourism and ocean related economy in the State of Goa. The Tourism Minister of Goa, Rohan Khaunte and his team placed before Dr Jitendra Singh some of the proposals for different schemes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. While assuring the State Tourism Minister that he would have the proposals examined, the Union Minister said that it is pertinent to mention that only last year, the Government of India through Ministry of Earth Sciences undertook the largest ever coastal clean-up campaign in the world lasting 75 days culminating on 17th September 2022 when the entire coast and 75 beaches particularly earmarked for the campaign were cleaned.

Description: A group of people posing for a photo
Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Dr Jitendra Singh also mentioned the need in creating an Ocean Aquarium for which the Tourism Ministry may be taken into cognisance. The Union Minister further said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the first time the Government of India has started exploring the ocean resources of India which have a huge potential under the Blue economy and provide a tremendous value addition to the Indian Economy over the next 25 years. He added that these ocean resources had never been explored before in the past. The Union Minister said that the objective of the Blue Economy has been to promote smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and opportunities within the Indian Ocean region's maritime economic activities and initiate appropriate programmes for the sustainable harnessing of ocean resources, research, and development. The State Tourism Minister appreciated the manner in which the Ministry of Earth Sciences has been forthcoming to accommodate the priorities of the State government.

PIB,MAR19,2023

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to chair two-day Global Conference on Digital Health – ‘Taking Universal Health Coverage to the last citizen’

Global Conference aims to shift focus from strategy to achieving a global consensus on a Plan of Action that produces impactful results

Leveraging India's presidency of the G20 and the prolific actions and commitments of previous presidencies, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the WHO South-East Asia Regional office are organizing a two-day Global

Conference on Digital Health – ‘Taking Universal Health Coverage to the last citizen’ on 20th and 21st March 2023 in New Delhi. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, and Chemicals & Fertilizers will chair the Global Conference. Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, Shri Lav Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional, Director, WHO SEARO, Prof Alain Labrique, Director, Digital Health and Innovation, WHO/HQ and Manoj Jhalani, Director Health System Department, WHO, SEARO will also grace the meet. The conclave will bring together global leaders and health development partners, health policy makers, digital health innovators and influencers, academia and other stakeholders. The objective of the Global Conference on Digital Health is to shift the focus from strategy to achieving a global consensus on a Plan of Action that produces impactful results on the ground in the member countries, through a set of digital health initiatives aiming to accelerate our progress towards UHC.

The Global Conference will address the issues to accelerate the implementation of connected digital health initiatives and interventions as a cornerstone of building PHC-oriented and resilient health systems. It will also focus on to unlock the potential of delivering and sharing digital health solutions in an ethical, safe, secure, reliable, equitable and sustainable way. The conference will also focus on to finding ways to invest, develop and share digital technologies following principles of transparency, accessibility, scalability, replicability, interoperability, privacy, security, and confidentiality. This will help in establishing strategic enablers and technology enablers required for implementing digital health at population scale.

As part of the Global Conference, five sessions on following aspects have been planned:

Digital health - an imperative for UHC

Digital health population scale – Strategic enablers

Digital health population scale - Technology enablers

Innovations for UHC

Global Digital Goods for UHC

The conference will also have a ministerial session involving brainstorming on insight and experience on the digital transformation challenges, opportunities and critical success factors along with panel discussions.

TELEGRAPH,MAR19,2023

Death of Excellence

Government data on student suicides at premier Indian institutions has the IITs topping the list. Are we going to continue pretending this is about cold stats?

Upala Sen

Firstborns have a special place. Not a bigger place, not a better place, just a special place. First-borns are carriers of collective dreams and aspirations and they are coddled and disciplined after a fashion quite distinct from whatever is in store for the next-borns. Five years after it was conceived in the pages of the N.R. Sarkar report, the first Indian Institute of Technology or IIT was born in 1951. At the first convocation at IIT Kharagpur five years later, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said, “Here in the place of that Hijli Detention Camp stands this fine monument of India today representing India’s urges, India’s future in the making. This picture seems to me symbolical of the changes that are coming to India.”

Of National Importance

Since then, the IITs have come to occupy a first-place in the Indian sensibility. In 1956, Parliament passed the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) Act wherein it was declared an “Institute of National Importance”. The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, and an amendment Act in 1963 were passed to ensure the first-born’s unique development and care-taking. Rightly, wrongly or a tad too simplistically, the IITs came to be synonymous with a meritocracy. IITians were first citizens, every other top boss was sure to be a product of the brand. In 2005, the US Congress passed a bill recognising the contribution of IIT graduates to American society. To date, even IIT dropouts have a faint halo over their heads.

The Question

That is not to say that this Brand journey of 70-plus years has been bereft of criticism. Since the 1980s there has been the charge of brain drain and IIT ragging is notorious. But the recent spate of suicides is something else. Jaideep Swain from Chhattisgarh and a student of IIT Bombay. In IIT Madras alone, Fathima Latheef from Kollam, Kerala; Shahal Kormath from Kerala's Palakkad; Gopal Babu from Uttar Pradesh and Ranjana Kumari from Jharkhand. At IIT Guwahati, Gudla Mahesh Sai Raj from Andhra Pradesh. Darshan Solanki, a native of Ahmedabad and student of IIT Bombay; V. Vaipu Pushpak Sree Sai of Andhra Pradesh from IIT Madras; Stephen Sunny of Maharashtra and IIT Madras. According to government data, 33 IIT students have ended their lives since 2018. The Hijli camp, the birthplace of the first IIT, was witness to great brutality. In 1931, police fired on unarmed political prisoners. Subhas Bose himself came to take possession of the bodies and Tagore wrote a dirge. Composed like a question to God it reads like this: “Those who have poisoned your air, those who have extinguished your light,/Can it be that you have forgiven them?” The poem composed nearly a hundred years ago is titled Prashno, meaning, the question.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PIB,MAR13,2023

High Level Committee meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah approves Rs. 1,816.162 crore of additional Central assistance to five States

This shows the resolve of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to help the people of the five States who faced these natural disasters

Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Nagaland to get funds for floods/ landslides, cloudburst that occurred during 2022

The High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, has approved the additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five States, which were affected by flood, landslides, cloudburst during 2022. This shows the resolve of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to help the people of the five States who faced these natural disasters.

The HLC approved additional central assistance of Rs. 1,816.162 crore to five States from NDRF. The breakup is as follows:-

Rs 520.466 crore to Assam

Rs 239.31 crore to Himachal Pradesh

Rs 941.04 crore to Karnataka

Rs. 47.326 crore to Meghalaya

Rs. 68.02 crore to Nagaland

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States. During the financial year 2022-23, the Central Government has released

Rs. 15,770.40 crore to 25 States in their SDRF and Rs. 502.744 crore to 4 States from NDRF. The Central Government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these States, immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of Memorandum from them.

PIB, MAR 13, 2023

Budget 2023-24 announces recruitment of 38,800 teachers and support staff for 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students

The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) is being implemented as a central sector scheme to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students (Class 6th to 12th) in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population. Government has decided to establish one EMRS in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per 2011 census) subject to availability of suitable land to be provided by the State Government. EMRSs are intended to provide good quality education to tribal students, free of cost in their own environment. The capital cost for setting up the school complex, including hostels and staff quarters has been revised from Rs 20.00 crores to Rs. 37.80 crore in plain areas from Rs. 24.00 Crores to Rs. 48.00 crore in North East, hilly areas and LWE affected areas.

Recurring cost upto Rs. 1.09 lakh per year per student is paid for running of the schools and towards expenses of the students (uniform, books & stationary, food etc.) States have also been advised to run schools in alternative buildings preferably in Government Buildings till the construction of schools is completed. As on date, 690 schools have been sanctioned and 401 EMRS have been made functional across the country with 113275 students enrolled in these EMRSs. Under the scheme of EMRS, funds are released by the Ministry to an autonomous society, National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) for implementation of the scheme and NESTS further releases funds to State Societies and Construction Agencies etc. as per their requirements. Upto the year 2019-20, funds were being released to states including Rajasthan for this scheme under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the constitution as one of the components. From the year 2020-21 onwards, separate allocation has been made for EMRS scheme.

Government in Budget 2023-24 has made announcement of recruitment of 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students. In pursuance of this, National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) has finalized the action plan and is taking further appropriate action to initiate the recruitment process in a phased manner. This reply was given by Minister of state for Tribal Affairs Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta in Lok Sabha today.

PIONEER.MAR142023

Poverty, population proscribe progress

Sangram Mishra

To be in the fast lane of growth we must eradicate poverty and control population growth

Be it a Progress Positive with a pragmatic shift auguring positive development or a pyrrhic one; wise men depict that growth with equity (ethics) connotes progress and as such growth trajectory gets influenced by the waxing and waning of the impact of poverty and population growth. Development is a process that procreates growth as well as progress and positive change. The concept is closely associated with physical, socio-economic, environmental and demographic factors. Whereas progress is associated with a movement, especially towards an objective and it has manifestations like technological progress, scientific progress and socio-economic progress. In Amartya Sen's words 'no nation has grown out of poverty to prosperity without taking care of the basic needs of its people'.

Modern definition projects poverty not just as relative but also as absolute. It is stated that poverty connotes failure to achieve certain minimum capabilities or lack of capability which is absolute (Amartya Sen). Therefore development economics with microeconomic analysis and measurement of the well-being of the poor is being focused on in modern times. Poverty hinders growth and affects the progress (and development) of the nation with predicaments of the impecunious affecting growth factors like per capita income etc. The rapidly growing population and its upsurge transform a growing economy into an economy of mass unemployment as well as low employment. All the major theories of the population like Malthusian theory, Optimum theory of population (Edwin Cannan) and Theory of demographic transition interpret the correlation between population growth and development. Malthusian theory harangues eloquently about the negative impact of population growth. Needless to say, rapid population growth precipitates unemployment and other associated problems like lack of shelter and

housing, the poor living conditions of the poverty-stricken people and food insecurity etc. The decrease in individual income and dwindling of resources with scanty access to financial resources by the vulnerable group accentuate the problem. It is seen that poverty and rapid population growth pose and seem to be Siamese or conjoined twins, both symbiotic to each other and as such form the vicious cycle of poverty. The rapid growth of the population witnesses the waxing of the number of poverty-affected people, as has been mentioned supra. Last but not least pessimism also affects the economy at the micro level with households reducing current demand and firms posting fewer job vacancies. Fear of higher future costs reduces incentives for firms to lower prices. Pessimism as such in economics can be stated as a tendency to see the bad side of the thing or to expect the worst in any situation.

Any concept of all-around progress and development (Vikash) has to start with the eradication (vinash) of poverty, along with control of population growth. Closing the eyes to harsh realities doesn't stop its occurrence rather it provides the impetus to proliferate. Prophylactic action with accurate perception is always preferable to a curative one as it saves time, stops consequential damages and nips the repercussions. Things are clear that unless and until we eradicate poverty higher economic growth would remain a chimaera. The task at hand is to eradicate poverty and control population growth. While the first task is on the anvil, the second has to be given a kick-start. If these two problems are not squarely addressed, no matter how much effort we may put in, the result would remain much to be desired.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer)

PIB, MAR 15, 2023

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, an amount of Rs. 2177 crore is allocated for implementation of O-SMART scheme during a period of 5 years i.e 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Union Minister of State, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, M/o Earth Sciences; MoS, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that an amount of Rs. 2177 crore is allocated for implementation of O-SMART scheme during a period of 5 years i.e 2021-22 to 2025-26. Rs. 382.08 crore was released during the year 2021-22 and Rs. 176.35 crore is so far concurred for expenditure during current year.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) Scheme of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is implemented through various institutes of Ministry.

To achieve the objectives of the scheme, following steps are being taken by the Ministry:

The proposed technology development and R & D activities related to schemes are being assigned to relevant institutes of the Ministry for timely execution. Various ocean observational platforms viz., Argo floats, XBT/XCTDs, Wave Rider Buoys, Automatic Weather Stations, Drifters, Moored Buoys, Tide Gauges, Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers, were deployed and existing ones were maintained to obtain continuous data sets for initializing models and assimilation. Process Specific Observations were also undertaken to improve the model outputs.

Operational services on Tsunami Early Warnings, Storm Surges, Potential Fishing Zones, Ocean State Forecast, Harmful Algal Blooms, Coral Reefs, Multi Hazard Vulnerability, Coastal Vulnerability Indices, High Wave Alerts, Oil Spill, Search and Rescue operations etc were generated using the data and models operational in house and was provided on day-to-day basis to various stake holders and end users. Coastal surveys and deep-sea cruises are conducted as per the requirement of the program using the fleet of research vessels maintained by the Ministry. Public awareness campaign and related activities are conducted on regular basis to disseminate technology and policies.

The Minister further said that the Ministry is following applicable guidelines for assessment of environmental impact for developing underwater vehicles and technologies. The underwater vehicles developed under the scheme are environmentally safe and do not cause any appreciable effects. The deep sea mining machine is developed and deployed as per the guidelines laid down by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the impact is monitored between, during and after the deployment as per the guidelines of ISA.

Dr. Singh said that O-SMART is a continuing central sector scheme mandated for technology development for oceanic application, services (forecast and advisories) and R & D activities in the marine as well as coastal environment. The research outputs obtained from this scheme are presented on regular basis in the form of annual reports and submitted to the Parliament and also posted in the Ministry's website. Moreover, several developed technologies are transferred to industry and scientific outcomes are published in peer reviewed journals.

PIB,MAR15,2023

Shri Bhupender Yadav calls for coordinated actions by all the stakeholders for effective implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

Cities under NCAP advised to incorporate Mission LiFE actions in their plans

All cities asked to upload action plans and progress reports on PRANA portal

Union Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav in his inaugural address to the meeting of National Apex Committee under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), today highlighted the importance of the implementation of NCAP and emphasised coordinated actions from the Union Government, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, Urban Local Bodies and State Pollution Control Boards for taking air quality improvement measures.

The Union Minister appreciated the performance of 95 cities which have improved air quality and 20 cities which met the National Ambient Air Quality Standard in FY 2021-22 under the Programme. He spoke on the significance of Airshed approach adopted in Indo-Gangetic Plain and stressed on the need for regional cooperation to address the issue of air pollution.

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey congratulated the nine cities viz. Lucknow, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Moradabad, Firozabad, Amravati, Dewas, Sunder Nagar and Nalagarh that have received cash award under Swacchh Vayu Sarvekshan conducted for FY 2022-23. He urged all cities to take air quality improvement measures and participate in the ranking framework. He requested States/Union Territories to submit proposals under Nagar Van Yojana and AMRUT for increasing the green cover in NCAP cities. During the meeting the importance of Mission LiFE launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for taking citizen centric actions to protect and conserve environment was emphasised. It was stated that on 15th August 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi assuring Government's commitment to ensure clean air to all the people of the country, announced the intent and plan to improve the air quality in more than 100 cities through holistic approach.

Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change informed that Rs.8915 Crore have been provided from 2019-20 to 2022-23 for taking air quality improvement measures in 131 cities for achieving the prescribed annual air pollution reduction targets. 24 States/Union Territories and 131 Cities/Urban Local Bodies under NCAP have been requested to incorporate relevant actions of Mission LiFE in State and City Action Plans for improvement of air quality.

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on 10th January, 2019 as a national-level strategy outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in the Country. The Programme aims to systemically address air pollution by engaging all stakeholders and ensuring necessary action. 131 non-attainment and million plus cities have been identified for the implementation of the city specific action plans under this Programme. The Programme focuses on preparation and implementation of national level action plan, state level action plans & city level action plans of the targeted 131 cities. NCAP targets to achieve reduction in Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) levels up to 40% or achievement of national standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26 in targeted 131 cities of 24 States. Further, States/UTs have been requested to mobilise the resources from convergence of various Schemes of Union Government for improving air quality.

The following Union Ministries have presented the Schemes launched by the Government of India for taking measures to improvement of air quality.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs on convergence of schemes (SBM 2.0, Smart City Mission and AMRUT) in 131 targeted cities. Ministry of Heavy Industries on implementation of FAME-II/EV mobility in 131 targeted cities. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on status of implementation of SATAT and City Gas Distribution Network in 131 targeted cities. Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) on Electric Mobility.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) on Nagar Van Yojana in 131 targeted cities. Ministry of Power on status of installation of Flue-Gas Desulfurization and pollution control measures for new emissions norms and National Mission on use of Biomass in TPPs near 131 targeted cities. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on phasing out of old vehicles and implementation of vehicle scrapping policy in 131 targeted cities.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on implementation of NCAP.

State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also presented the progress of implementation of Clean Air Action Plans and various activities under NCAP. States were requested to convene regular meetings of Steering Committees, State Level Monitoring and Implementation Committee and City Implementation Committee for effective implementation of the Programme. All cities have been requested to upload action plans and progress reports on PRANA portal. The National Apex Committee under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was convened to review the implementation of NCAP under the co-chairmanship of Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

Representatives of eight Union Ministries viz. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and representatives from Central Pollution Control Board, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries, Environment Department, Chairman of State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees of 24 States/Union Territories and 131 Municipal Commissioners representing cities covered under NCAP were present during the meeting.

PIB,MAR15,2023

Power Foundation and Climate Policy Initiative India Pvt. Ltd. sign MoU to advance Sustainable Development in Power Sector

MoU aimed at promoting distributed renewable energy, capacity building and managing energy transition related risks

The Power Foundation and Climate Policy Initiative India Pvt. Ltd. (CPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together to support India's transition towards a cleaner energy future. The MoU was signed at a function in New Delhi by Dr Sambit Basu, Director (Programs) & Chief Energy Economist on behalf of Power Foundation, and Shri Dhruba Purkayastha, Director, on behalf of Climate Policy Initiative India Pvt. Ltd in the presence of Director General of Power Foundation, Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai.

Under the MoU, Power Foundation and CPI will work together to promote distributed renewable energy, capacity building of relevant stakeholders, supporting India's energy transition, and managing transition-related risks. This MoU intends to provide an overarching framework under which collaborations and partnerships may be developed between the two organisations in the areas of sustainable development of the power sector. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Basu said, "As India works to fulfill its global climate change commitments, collaborations like this one between CPI and Power Foundation are crucial. By working together to promote sustainable development in the power sector, we can build a cleaner, more resilient energy system for the future."

Shri Purkayastha said, "We are excited to partner with Power Foundation to drive sustainable development in India's power sector. Through our collaboration, we hope to promote the adoption of distributed renewable energy and develop sustainable financing mechanisms to support India's energy transition." Power Foundation, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is a think tank and a policy & research advocacy body under the Ministry of Power, has been working to positively impact the changing energy landscape.

CPI is an organization registered under the Companies Act, 2013, and is a subsidiary of the international non-profit organization Climate Policy Initiative. CPI has been working to support India in fulfilling its global climate change commitments through clean energy market catalyzing initiatives, capacity building initiatives, and research and analysis into energy transition, will collaborate with Power Foundation in furthering the deployment of distributed renewable energy (roof-top solar and off-grid solar), and in developing sustainable financing mechanisms for energy transition in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TELEGRAPH, MAR 14, 2023

Profound potential

ChatGPT and the future of human society

A. Raghuramaraju

ChatGPT, the recently-launched chatbot developed by OpenAI, is the fastest-growing consumer application and can cause significant disruptions in society. The January editorial of the prestigious science journal, *Nature*, acknowledged this technology's vast impact by admitting that it is getting increasingly difficult to distinguish text written by people from sentences churned out by AI products. This is profoundly disturbing; the journal confesses that ChatGPT "has produced research abstracts good enough that scientists found it hard to spot that a computer had written them".

Science and modernity are based on objective evidence, discarding subjectivity as a source of validity. However, the editorial seems to take recourse to subjective virtues when it says, "ultimately, research must have transparency in methods, and integrity and truth from authors". What is important here is that science scrutinises transparency, integrity, and truth through objective methods. This U-turn from objective validation to subjective virtues reveals our helplessness in dealing with the attack on objectivism. Technologies like ChatGPT, based on a family of large language models, will seriously undermine the idea of authorship and make redundant what was so far a uniquely human skill. In the future, machine-authored text may be as widespread as social media, another technology that has radically affected our lives.

From a common-sense point of view, the difference between Google and ChatGPT is the difference between buying mass-produced, pre-packaged food at a supermarket as opposed to ordering a meal prepared to specifications by a chef at a restaurant. This latest AI technology has significantly bridged the gap between humans and machines by introducing real-time dynamism, a characteristic usually identified with human interactions.

ChatGPT interacts with human beings much like human beings interact with other human beings. We are now faced with a situation where we must decide if or how exclusive features of human social interactions, such as rewards and punishments, can be extended to machines for the same work — for instance, writing a research paper for a professional journal like *Nature*. There is a need to move from identifying authorship of knowledge with a human being to considering non-human beings — such as machines — as independent authors if the quality of the research is good enough. In a way, what is important is the advancement of knowledge and not necessarily the agent unless science declares that it only recognises knowledge authored by human beings.

The current discussion on ChatGPT is focused on the nature of the technology and possible consequences affecting the present and the future. Theoretically inclined computer scientists can turn to Alan M. Turing's foundational essay, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence", published in the philosophy journal, *Mind* (October 1950). While Turing is the father of AI, the philosophical foundations for AI were laid by René Descartes, the father of modern Western philosophy. Descartes defined the human individual as a cognitive, thinking being. He accepted only the thinking mind and excluded others, including the body. Thus, we can draw parallels between the disembodied Cartesian individual, the foundation of modernity, and the thinking machine, the latest version of which is ChatGPT. However, there is a vast difference between the embodied individual — an ordinary human being — and a disembodied human brain and thinking machine. This philosophical perspective from the past can help us better understand the nature and the creation of thinking machines and the consequences of such a machine on our embodied selves. The thinking machine, which shares similarities with the disembodied human self, is growing faster than the embodied self. Consider a general observation of Indian society: each generation is adapting progressively to new technologies. My children know more about the use of technology than me; my capacity to use technology is more than my parents and so on. However, this increasing dependence on technology has also resulted in a decline in the younger generation's physical stamina and ability to deal with complex issues. This is cause for concern.

In addition to privileging the activities around thinking, there is a need to recognise the virtues of non-thinking human activities. It is necessary to closely examine those who depend on technology in their lives and their profession and those who do not. Human beings compete not only with other human beings but also with thinking machines. Like in all competitions, losing, discarding, and replacing are part of the game.

While technology, and AI in particular, undoubtedly makes things easier and has been enormously beneficial to human beings, it must also be recognised that these astounding human inventions can also undermine human beings. This happens not only in the form of job losses but also in their widespread impact on our lives and on society. This is reminiscent of the enigmatic line from the famous Social Contract theory of the philosopher, J.J. Rousseau, who wrote, “Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. One thinks himself the master of others and still remains a greater slave than they.” This could be applied to the present context and rephrased as ‘Modern human beings think themselves the masters of machines and still remain a greater slave than they.’ The question is not whether technology is good or bad. Instead, we must focus on understanding the nature and the extent of human dependence on others or on machines, especially the autonomous, modern self’s cherished virtues, such as individualism, freedom, and liberty.

Raghuramaraju teaches Philosophy at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati

PIB,MAR15,2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh informs that the budget of Rs. 9,023 Crore is allocated towards achieving the objectives of Gaganyaan mission

ISRO is developing indigenous technologies for Human rated launch vehicle, Habitable Crew Module, Life Support System, Crew Escape System, Ground Station Network, Crew Training and Recovery: Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today informed that the budget of Rs. 9023 Crore is allocated towards achieving the objectives of Gaganyaan mission.

In a written reply to a question to the Lok Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the scope of Gaganyaan programme is to demonstrate human spaceflight capability to Low Earth Orbit and safe return. He said, ISRO is developing indigenous technologies for Human rated launch vehicle, Habitable Crew Module, Life Support System, Crew Escape System, Ground Station Network, Crew Training and Recovery. These technologies are crucial to meet the objectives of Gaganyaan mission and to take up any further interplanetary missions, the Minister added.

Government has created the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), as the single window agency to promote, enable, authorize and supervise the non-Government entities in Space Sector in India. IN-SPACe has started to facilitate the private companies / start-ups, in installation of facilities within ISRO campuses, launch of satellites and Launch Vehicles, and Mentorship support. Till date, IN-SPACe has received applications from more than 160 NGEs in the Space Sector. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the space sector in the country. The sector has already been opened up for enhanced participation of private enterprises in the space sector by allowing them to conduct end-to-end activities across all verticals of space domain. In this regard, IN-SPACe has been created for the promotion and handholding of Non-Government Entities.

The role of New Space India Limited [NSIL] has also been widened to bring forth a commerce-oriented approach towards the conduct of space activities. Besides, several private industries are also contributing significantly to the Indian space programme led by ISRO, delivering subsystems and components. The Department of Space is also in the process of formulating a comprehensive, overarching space policy that shall provide a further boost to the entire space ecosystem.

PIB,MAR15,2023

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, presently (2020-21) nuclear power is saving 41 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, compared to the emissions that would be generated by equivalent electricity generation from coal based thermal power plants. Union Minister of State, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, M/o Earth Sciences; MoS, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that presently (2020-21) nuclear power is saving 41 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, compared to the emissions that would be generated by equivalent electricity generation from coal based thermal power plants.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that as part of Low Carbon Development of Electricity Systems consistent with Enhanced Development benefits, Government is exploring a significantly greater role for nuclear power. He added that nuclear power currently provides 3% of electricity generation. Sufficient production and share of nuclear power is essential for ensuring country's energy security. Current policy targets a three-fold rise in nuclear installed capacity by 2032.

The Minister highlighted that nuclear energy can be considered for delivering base load power free of intermittency in place of energy from fossil fuels. DAE considers nuclear energy as a significant component of its non-fossil fuel power generation capacity and will continue to pursue research and innovation in this sector. Dr Jitendra Singh further pointed out that the present installed nuclear power capacity is set to increase from 6780 MW to 22480 MW by 2031 on progressive completion of projects under construction and accorded sanction. He added that in the next three years, capacity addition of 5300 MW is planned on completion of KAPP 3&4 (2X700 MW), RAPP 7&8 (2X700 MW), KKNPP 3&4 (2X1000 MW) and PFBR (500 MW).

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAR 19, 2023

Are these jobs going to be taken over by AI? This is what GPT-4 says

The AI went on to state the human traits that it can replace in these jobs, such as communication and empathy.

When ChatGPT first came out late last year, it sparked much discussion surrounding AI eventually replacing everyone's jobs. Where one would've thought that technology like it was still decades away, ChatGPT came as a complete surprise, with capabilities that looked like something out of a sci-fi movie. The AI chatbot is able to write code for fairly complex games and makes an excellent copywriter, among a slew of other things. Now with GPT-4 out, ChatGPT is only going to get better at what it does. OpenAI, the company behind it, says that the GPT-4 LLM is more creative and collaborative than ever before. That would only make people more insecure about their jobs, but unfortunately, GPT-4 just doesn't seem to care. When asked to list 20 jobs that the AI chatbot would replace, the bot did so rather blatantly:

Data Entry Clerk

Customer Service Representative

Proofreader

Paralegal

Bookkeeper

Translator

Copywriter
Market Research Analyst
Social Media Manager
Appointment Scheduler
Telemarketer
Virtual Assistant
Transcriptionist
News Reporter
Travel Agent
Tutor
Technical Support Analyst
Email marketer
Content Moderator
Recruiter

The AI went on to state the human traits that it can replace in these jobs, For example, to be good at data entry, a human would need to have excellent typing speed and accuracy. These traits can be easily replaced by AI, so GPT-4 listed these accordingly. Of course, the output isn't meant to be taken very seriously – GPT-4 still only mimics human language and isn't exactly aware of what it states.

That said, we had previously asked GPT-3.5-based ChatGPT about what programmers and those working in the media industry can do to future-proof themselves against the AI threat. The advice that the bot gave is worth checking out.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

PIB,MAR13,2023

‘LIFE’ - ‘Lifestyle for Environment’, key to combating climate change

Green economy, one of the top seven priorities (Saptarishi) of the Union Budget 2023-24

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that the Government has started Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement with a view to sensitize all stakeholders, including the public at large, about the need for mindful utilization instead of mindless consumption of resources. A comprehensive and non-exhaustive list of 75 individual environment-friendly actions (LiFE actions) across 7 categories has been identified for nudging individuals, communities and institutions as a part of this movement.

In the written reply it was stated that the five elements enunciated by India at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021 have been appropriately incorporated in enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under Paris Agreement and Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategies towards net zero emissions by 2070, in accordance with the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in light of National Circumstances.

The update to NDC submitted to UNFCCC in August 2022 includes India's commitment to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level; achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund; and put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for ‘LIFE’– ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ as a key to combating climate change. The NDC update is a step towards achieving India’s long-term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070; for which India has prepared and submitted a separate framework document titled ‘India’s Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy’ to the secretariat of the UNFCCC in November 2022. India’s long term strategy rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways including promotion on economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low-emission industrial system.

It was also stated that Government of India has already taken a number of measures including the announcements in the Union Budget 2022-23 and 2023-24. Green economy is one of the top seven priorities (Saptarishi) of the Union Budget presented to the Parliament on Feb 1, 2023. The Union Budget provides for Rs. 35,000 crores for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security. The Budget pushes energy transition by encouraging domestic production of solar power equipment and batteries, in line with India's climate commitments.

PIB,MAR13,2023

Government emphasizes on a holistic approach of early warning, preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, mitigation and capacity building in disaster management

Government strives to achieve zero mortality in all disasters in collaboration with State Governments and response agencies

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that preparation of climate risk indices and risk assessments is a growing field of commercial consultancy activity, undertaken by an increasing number of private and publicly owned enterprises across the world. The Government in its preparation of risk analysis and risk assessments relies on scientifically validated data, methodologies and analyses provided by public and private scientific institutions and multilateral agencies and institutions with a recognized expertise in this area. However, it is also not appropriate nor possible for Government to have a view or comment on all such analyses and assessments available in the public domain. Government notes that the rising level of such activity is testimony to the rising climate change awareness in business circles across the world.

In the written reply it was stated that the Government is seized of the matter. The Government of India through its various Ministries and Departments continues to assess the impact of climate change keeping with new data and increased scientific knowledge on the subject. Such data and analyses are routinely carried out in the regular work of Ministries/Departments and incorporated in further schemes, plans and initiatives of the Government as notified from time to time. Experts and scientists in academia and thinktanks also consulted from time to time as need arises on these subjects. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has undertaken a study called 'Risk and vulnerability assessment of Indian agriculture to climate change' under its flagship network project National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). Further, the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation, and

research teams from the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, have studied the nation-wide vulnerability assessment and have released a report titled 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework'.

It was stated that the Government stands committed to combating climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable agriculture, health, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. Thirty-four States/Union Territories (UTs) have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with NAPCC taking into account the State specific issues relating to climate change. India has also proactively taken a lead in promoting international collaborations through International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and has undertaken various activities through these arrangements. Further, to support adaptation measures in States/ UTs in areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, Government is implementing the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). Under NAFCC, 30 projects in 27 States/ UTs have been sanctioned for adaptation in agriculture, water, forestry, etc.

In the written reply it was stated that in view of the welcome increase in awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction and disaster management, there is increasing coverage of relevant issues in the media. Hence, general comment on the content of individual media pieces may not be possible. However, it may be noted that the Government of India, with its continuous efforts, has significantly improved its approach towards disaster management in the country from relief-centric to a holistic approach of early warning, preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, mitigation and capacity building.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 articulates the need for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning. The National Policy and National Plan on Disaster Management seeks to build a safe and disaster resilient India. There are institutional mechanisms at the National, State and District level in the country viz. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) respectively for appropriate preparedness, coordination and prompt response mechanisms for effective management of natural disasters. Central Government has also set up the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for providing a specialist response to threatening disaster situations or disasters.

The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments. The Central Government strives to achieve zero mortality in all disasters in collaboration with State Governments and response agencies. Further, strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing and evolving process of the governance.

PIONEER,MAR14,2023

39 Indian cities among world's 50 most polluted: Report

The Swiss firm IQAir in its 'World Air Quality Report' released on Tuesday ranked India the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022, dropping from fifth place the previous year. In the list of most polluted cities in the world, out of the 50 cities, 39 are in India. Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Kuwait, India, Egypt and Tajikistan were the top 10 most polluted countries while Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, and New Zealand met the World Health Organization (WHO) PM2.5 guideline (annual average of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less). The data from 131 countries was taken from over 30,000 ground-based monitors, either government or non-government operated. As per the report, In India, the transportation sector causes 20-35 per cent of the PM2.5 pollution while other sources of pollution are industrial units, coal-fired power plants and biomass burning. After the two top most-polluted cities, Lahore in Pakistan and Hotan in China, Rajasthan's Bhiwadi is in third place and Delhi ranked fourth.

Delhi's PM2.5 level is almost 20 times the safe limit, the report stated.

Delhi has so far been the most polluted capital in the world and the report made a distinction between 'greater' Delhi and New Delhi the capital. Both are in the top 10 and the infamous distinction of being the world's most polluted capital goes to Chad's N'Djamena. National Capital's peripherals-- Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad have seen a decline in pollution levels. The report said that there is a 34 per cent decline in Gurugram to 21 per cent in Faridabad if compared to the average PM2.5 levels reported in previous years. Delhi has seen a decline of eight per cent.

The report said that worldwide, poor air quality accounts for 93 billion days lived with illness and over six million deaths each year.

"The total economic cost equates to over \$8 trillion dollars, surpassing 6.1 per cent of the global annual GDP. Exposure to air pollution causes and aggravates several health conditions which include, but are not limited to, asthma, cancer, lung illnesses, heart disease, and premature mortality," the report said. According to the report, 31 cities including 10 cities in Uttar Pradesh and seven in Haryana, have seen a steep percentage decline in pollution levels." A total of 38 cities and towns have seen a rise in pollution compared to an average of previous years," stated the report. As per the report, among the six metro cities, Kolkata was ranked the most polluted after Delhi. However, Chennai was stated to be the cleanest with pollution 'just' 5x the WHO's safe level. The metro cities -- Hyderabad and Bengaluru -- saw pollution levels uptick over the average since 2017.

PIB,MAR15,2023

Government promotes environment protection and nature education through curricula on conservation of forest, water and soil

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 stresses upon appropriate integration of environmental awareness and sensitivity towards its conservation and sustainable development in school curricula. Some of the recommendations of NEP 2020, to make environment education an integral part of school curricula, are inclusion of environmental awareness including water and resource conservation; introduction of environmental education as a contemporary subject at relevant stages; incorporation of traditional Indian knowledge systems and India's future aspirations with regard to environment; inculcation of respect for environment; appropriate integration of environmental awareness and sensitivity towards its conservation and sustainable development in all B.Ed programmes. NCERT has initiated the process of development of National Curriculum Frameworks where in inputs are invited from various stakeholders including various Ministries/Departments, States and UTs drawing from grass root levels.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) has been launched, which focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization of resources and its philosophy is to promote sustainable lifestyles. As part of the activities undertaken in this Mission, CBSE and NCERT are organizing various activities such as quiz competitions, webinars, exhibitions, poster/painting contests, rallies, seminars, workshops and expert talks celebrating various important events such as International Day of Forest, World Water Day, Earth Day, International Day for Biodiversity, World Environment Day etc. Sessions on LiFE also includes as part of the Live telecast in various PM e-Vidya channels.

The concerns, concepts and issues related to water and its conservation have already been infused in the existing school curriculum. As such, the curricular materials prepared by NCERT incorporate such concerns adequately across all subjects at all stages of school education. There are chapters in Science textbooks from classes VI – XII that relate to environmental concerns, concepts and issues. Social Science and Language textbooks also integrate concerns related to environment. NCERT has also prepared supplementary materials for students and teachers related to environmental education. The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

TELEGRAPH,MAR,19,2023

Green films: Editorial on need for 'environmental cinemas'

Given its global reach, cinema can not only raise awareness on conservation but also foster greater public engagement

There is no denying the impact of the large screen. It can make or break futures — of mankind and other species. For instance, after the release of Jaws in 1975, the populations of sharks and rays decreased by over 71%. According to a 2021 study, more than 100 million sharks were killed each year and over 30% of all shark and ray species are now considered threatened because of the film. But cinema can also heal by holding up the hope of revival. Conservationists are hopeful that this year's Academy Award for the documentary, The Elephant Whisperers, an entry from India, will promote a greater understanding of the complex but interconnected relationship between these pachyderms and humans. Kartiki Gonsalves's film is a tender depiction of the bond between two orphaned elephants and their caretakers, an adivasi couple, in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

Admittedly, as a genre, 'environmental films' have become effective in stimulating public discussions about complex environmental issues. The Elephant Whisperers perhaps falls in the category of cinema that approaches such knotty issues optimistically — as opposed to apocalyptic environmental films — to raise awareness and encourage action. Incidentally, The Elephant Whisperers is not quite an outlier in the ecosystem of Indian cinema. Recently, films like Your Tiger Our Forest, Dhivarah and Sherni have spoken of such ecological challenges as man-animal conflict and marine conservation as well as about the lives of forest officers imaginatively to foster a positive spirit. Such an optimistic intent, a study by Harvard University shows, could reduce anxiety-induced denial and fatalism about the global battle to save the environment.

But this is not to suggest that the success of *The Elephant Whisperers* would, by some magic, remove the hurdles that litter the path of environmental films. These films are often accessible to a niche audience only. For instance, the subscription fee of Netflix — the platform that is streaming *The Elephant Whisperers* — puts the film out of the reach of the poor and disempowered indigenous and forest-dwelling people who actually co-exist with elephants and bear the brunt of man-animal conflict. The challenge is two-fold: first, to create a broader platform for niche films — the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival is a heartening step in this regard. Second — this is the stiffer of the two challenges — is to mainstream specific cinematic genres for greater public consumption. This is not impossible. *Kantara* — a film based on tribal livelihoods in a forest, State efforts in wildlife conservation and feudal and caste oppression conspiring to take away land from the people — grossed Rs 400 crore worldwide; *All That Breathes*, which evocatively combined environmental and social stress, drew attention as well. This goes to show that there is an audience and a market that can be tapped. Financers, forever glued to hackneyed, formulaic, popular cinema, must come forward to support alternative cinematic projects that are beginning to offer the audience a different — real — picture.

CURRENT EVENTS

PIB,MAR13,2023

International conference on “Shared Buddhist Heritage” to be held on 14-15 March with focus on India’s civilizational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations

An international conference on “Shared Buddhist Heritage” will be held on 14-15 March, with focus on India’s civilizational connect with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The event, a first of its kind, under India’s leadership of SCO (for a period of one-year, from 17 September, 2022 until September 2023) will bring together Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian and Arab countries on a common platform to discuss “Shared Buddhist Heritage”. The SCO countries comprise of Member States, Observer States and Dialogue Partners, including China, Russia and Mongolia. More than 15 scholars – delegates will be presenting research papers on the topic. These experts are from Dunhuang Research Academy, China; Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnology, Kyrgyzstan; State Museum of the History of Religion, Russia; National Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan; Belarusian State University and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Myanmar, to mention a few. the two-day programme is being organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC-as a grantee body of the Ministry of Culture). A number of Indian scholars of Buddhism will also participate in the event. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour some of the historical sites of Delhi. The aim of the Conference is to re-establish trans-cultural links, seek out commonalities, between Buddhist art of Central Asia, art styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museums’ collections of the SCO countries.

One of the natural marvels in this world is the evolution and spread of ideas, since times immemorial. Crossing effortlessly, formidable mountains, vast oceans and national boundaries; ideas that find a home in distant lands; getting enriched with the existing cultures. So is the uniqueness of Buddha’s appeal. Its universality crossed both time and space. Its humanistic approach permeated art, architecture, sculpture and subtle attributes of human personality; finding expression in compassion, co-existence, sustainable living and personal growth.]

The Conference is a unique meeting of the minds, where countries from different geographical regions but with a common thread connecting them based on a shared civilization legacy, strengthened by Buddhist missionaries who played a major role in integrating various cultures, communities and regions in the entire Indian subcontinent and Asia will discuss for two days' various themes, chalking out ways to continue the age-old bonds into the future.

PIB,MAR19,2023

5th Poshan Pakhwada celebrations begin tomorrow

Theme: "Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India"

Focus of Poshan Pakhwada will be to popularise 'Shree Anna'- the mother of all grains, as a valuable asset to address malnutrition

Activities during Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March to 3rd April 2023 to focus on promotion and popularization of Shree Anna, Celebration of Swasth Balak Spardha and Popularizing Saksham Anganwadis Ministry of Women and Child Development aims to raise awareness about importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari during Poshan Pakhwada

The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the fifth Poshan Pakhwada from 20th March 2022 to 3rd April 2023 with various activities nationwide. The Pakhwada aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari. Poshan Abhiyaan, launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 8th March 2018, has been instrumental in ensuring people's participation and bringing the discourse on nutrition to the forefront. Poshan Abhiyan was launched with the aim to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner. Behavioral change at individual and community level is an important component to achieve the desired goals of a Kuposhan-mukt Bharat.

Every year, Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated in the month of March for 15 days. Similarly, the month of September is celebrated as Rashtriya Poshan Maah, across the country. The Poshan Maah and Pakhwada celebrated so far have witnessed wide participation and enthusiasm from all States/UTs, frontline functionaries, converging Ministries as well as public at large. Close to 2.96 crore activities were held across the country in the last Poshan Pakhwada 2022

The theme of this year's Poshan Pakhwada 2023 is "Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India". With the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, this year the focus of Poshan Pakhwada will be to popularise 'Shree Anna' - the mother of all grains, as a valuable asset to address malnutrition. The activities during the Poshan Pakhwada will focus, inter alia, on the following key themes:

1. Promotion and popularization of Shree Anna / Millets for nutritional- well-being through organization of drives to link Millet-based foods with supplementary nutrition, Home visits, Diet consultation camps, etc.
2. Celebration of Swasth Balak Spardha: Celebrate and recognize the 'Swasth Balak' or Healthy Child as per defined criteria by generating a healthy spirit of competition for good nutrition good health and well being
3. Popularize Saksham Anganwadis: Campaigns will be organized to increase awareness and popularise Saksham Anganwadis with upgraded infrastructure and facilities as centers of improved nutrition delivery and early childhood care and education..

The Ministry of Women & Child Development will be the nodal Ministry for coordinating activities during the Poshan Pakhwada. In the State/UT, Department of Women & Child Development /Social Welfare Department will be the nodal department for Poshan Pakhwada.