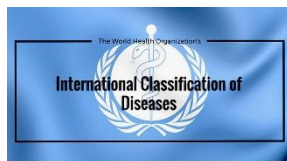


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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES



Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released the 2025 edition of the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11).

- It is a **flagship World Health Organization product** that serves as the basis for identifying health trends and statistics at country level and worldwide.
- ICD is at the foundation of WHO's Fourteenth General Programme of Work efforts to accelerate progress towards health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing inequalities and achieving relevant national health targets.
- **Uses:** It serves a broad range of uses globally and provides critical knowledge on the extent, causes and **consequences of human disease** and death worldwide via data that is reported and coded with the ICD.
- Clinical terms coded with ICD are the main basis for health recording and statistics on disease in primary, secondary and tertiary care, as well as on cause of death certificates.
- In India, the **Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)** is an agency under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that serves as the WHO Collaboration Centre for ICD-related activities.

TRAILGUARD AI SYSTEM



Similipal Tiger Reserve is the first reserve where TrailGuard AI system has shown success as an 'anti-poaching tool'.

- It is an end-to-end, **camera-based alert system** designed for enhancing wildlife conservation and promoting human-wildlife coexistence in remote areas.

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Features:

- The system combines durable outdoor hardware, **on-the-edge AI algorithms**, and real-time transmission capabilities, and can be deployed along trails or access points in areas of interest.
- Its **battery lasts for 6 months** to one year based on the number of photos it sends
- It **autonomously detects target objects**, and transmits real-time alerts that can trigger rapid-response to entry by poachers or illegal loggers, wildlife entering agricultural or pastoral lands, or status of endangered or exotic invasive species.
- It transmits human and wildlife activities in **remote areas in under 30 seconds**, enabling real-time interventions.

Working of TrailGuard AI System:

- They operate on a **low-power mode** by default but switch to a high-power mode when they sense movement, and capture an image.
- The camera then performs **AI inference on the edge**, meaning it uses the chip inside to sort between various object classes such as ‘animals’, ‘humans’, and ‘vehicles’ in the image.
- If the AI deems it necessary, it autonomously transmits an image using the cellular system attached to the camera to an end-user in 30-40 seconds.

PRIME MINISTER'S YOGA AWARD



Recently, the Ministry of Ayush announces the opening of nominations for the prestigious Prime Minister's Yoga Awards for the 2025 edition of the International Day of Yoga (IDY2025).

- It recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant and sustained contributions to the **promotion and development of Yoga**, both **nationally and internationally**.

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- It was established to **honor the profound impact of Yoga** on society and aim to celebrate exemplary contributions to the field, reinforcing Yoga's role in disease prevention, health promotion, and the management of lifestyle-related disorders.
- The awards will be conferred in the **National Individual, National Organization, International Individual, and International Organization categories**, with each winner receiving a Trophy, Certificate, and a **Cash Award of Rs. 25 lakh**.
- **Eligibility:** Individuals applying **must be 40 years** or older and should **have at least 20 years of dedicated service** in Yoga promotion.
- Entities can apply directly or be nominated by a prominent Yoga organization. Each applicant/nominee can **apply for only one category** (National or International) per year.
- **Selection committee:** A Screening Committee **constituted by the Ministry of Ayush** will review all applications and recommend a maximum of 50 names per award category to the Evaluation Jury.
- The Jury, comprising eminent personalities from various fields, will be the apex decision-making body.

TECH COMPANIES, REGULATORS FLAG ROMANCE SCAMS

Romance Scams

- Romance frauds typically occur through dating apps and social media, where scammers create fake online profiles to lure victims.
- According to the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), fraudsters gain trust and then demand money, gifts, bank details, or intimate content.

Modus Operandi of Scammers

- As per the FBI, scammers use fake identities to manipulate victims emotionally and financially.
- Meta highlights that scammers often pose as attractive and successful individuals, using cold messages and fake stories to gain trust before requesting money or promoting fraudulent investments.

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- **Financial and Reputational Risks**

- Moody's warns that money from romance scams, including sextortion, is often laundered through banks, exposing financial institutions to reputational damage and legal penalties.
- Sextortion—which mainly targets teenage boys—involves extortion using fake profiles to solicit explicit content, later used to blackmail victims.

- **Preventive Measures**

- Authorities advise people to avoid sending money or sharing sensitive personal information with strangers online and to be cautious about the details they share on social media.

Other Major Fraud Trends in Focus

- **Fake Donation & Travel Booking Scams**

- Fraudsters exploit major festivals like Diwali by setting up fake charities and offering fraudulent travel deals.

- **AI-Generated Celebrity Investment Scams**

- Scammers use deepfake videos, fake news articles, and social media posts to promote fraudulent cryptocurrency and trading investments.

- **Remote Access Tech Support Fraud**

- Posing as bank, tech support, or government officials, scammers create a sense of urgency to steal device access or sensitive data.

- **Job Scams**

- Fraudsters lure job seekers with fake high-paying remote work or international job opportunities, often requiring upfront payments.

- **Predatory Loan App Scams**

- Scammers target people in urgent financial need, offering quick loans with minimal paperwork but trapping them in high-interest repayment cycles.
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PRIME MINISTER DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA

- The **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDKY)** is a major agricultural initiative launched under the **Union Budget 2025-26** by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- The scheme aims to improve **agricultural productivity, irrigation, crop diversification, and financial access** for farmers across **100 districts** with **low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average credit parameters**.
- This initiative follows the success of the **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)** and aligns with the government's goal of **strengthening rural prosperity, boosting farm incomes, and enhancing self-sufficiency in food production**.

Objectives of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- **Enhancing Agricultural Productivity** – Improving farming efficiency through modern technology and better land utilization.
- **Promoting Crop Diversification** – Encouraging farmers to grow multiple crops for better income stability.
- **Strengthening Post-Harvest Infrastructure** – Establishing storage and processing units at the **Panchayat and Block levels**.
- **Improving Irrigation Facilities** – Expanding irrigation infrastructure to reduce dependence on rainfall.
- **Facilitating Credit Access** – Providing **long-term and short-term agricultural loans** to farmers for investment in better farming practices.
- It is expected to **benefit 1.7 crore farmers** across the selected districts.

Implementation Strategy:

- **Selection of 100 Target Districts** – The scheme will cover **100 districts** based on the following parameters:
 - **Low productivity** – Areas with below-average agricultural output.
 - **Moderate cropping intensity** – Regions where farming cycles can be optimized.

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- **Limited credit access** – Districts with low financial inclusion in agricultural loans.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, in collaboration with **NABARD** and the Department of Financial Services, will identify these districts based on data analysis of farm credit, cropping intensity, and land productivity.
- **Financial Support and Convergence of Existing Schemes**
 - PMDKY does not have a standalone budget allocation but will be **funded through the convergence of existing agricultural schemes** under:
 - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
 - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- **Rural Prosperity and Resilience Programme**
 - To address underemployment in agriculture, the government has introduced a multi-sectoral Rural Prosperity and Resilience Programme. This will focus on:
 - Skilling rural youth & farmers
 - Investments in agricultural infrastructure
 - Technology-driven solutions for higher farm output
 - Encouraging rural entrepreneurship

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ MOVEMENT

An Overview of Panchayati Raj System

- The Panchayati Raj System was introduced through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, **to establish decentralised governance** at the grassroots level.
- The system is based on the principle of **democratic decentralisation**, giving power to local self-governments in rural areas.
- Its roots trace back to ancient India, but it was **formally recommended by the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)**, which proposed a three-tier structure, Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zila Parishad.

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- The primary purpose of the system is to **promote participatory democracy, empower rural communities**, and ensure effective local administration.
- Panchayats have been given **constitutional status under Article 243**, with elections held every five years to ensure accountability.
- They are **responsible for local governance, including rural development, sanitation, water supply, education**, and poverty alleviation programs.
- States have been granted flexibility in structuring their PRIs, leading to variations across India.
- Over the years, **the system has strengthened grassroots democracy but still faces challenges** like lack of financial autonomy, political interference, and capacity building issues.

The Achievements of Panchayati Raj Institutions

- The panchayati raj system has made **significant strides in democratising local governance**.
- Elections to PRIs have become highly competitive, and political participation at the grassroots level has increased.
- One of the most notable achievements has been the empowerment of women in leadership roles, with **nearly 14 lakh elected women representatives** currently serving in panchayats.
- Furthermore, PRIs have **played a crucial role in implementing various social sector programs**, particularly in rural development initiatives.
- The **Constitution mandated State Finance Commissions to allocate financial resources to local governments**, ensuring that panchayats had the necessary funds to carry out their responsibilities.
- These achievements **underscore the importance of panchayati raj institutions** in developing inclusive and participatory governance.
- Despite these accomplishments, **the panchayati raj system is facing a decline** due to several structural and policy-related challenges.

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THE SILENT CRISIS OF RAT-HOLE MINING

- Illegal mining has emerged as a **persistent and hazardous problem in Assam and Meghalaya**, leading to devastating consequences for both human lives and the environment.
- The **recent tragedy in Umrangso, Assam**, where nine labourers were trapped in a flooded mine, is yet another example of the ongoing crisis.
- Despite repeated accidents and legal interventions, **illegal mining continues unabated, largely due to weak enforcement**, political and economic interests, and inadequate policy reforms.

The Persistence of Illegal Mining

- **The Historical Roots**
 - The proliferation of illegal coal mining in Assam and Meghalaya can be **traced back to the 1980s** when industrial demand from West Bengal and Bangladesh led to the expansion of small-scale mining operations.
 - The region's **difficult terrain made mechanised extraction challenging**, prompting the widespread adoption of rat-hole mining, a dangerous technique involving narrow tunnels that put miners at significant risk.
 - **Two forms of rat-hole mining prevail**: side-cutting along hill slopes and box-cutting, where pits are dug up to 400 feet deep and coal is extracted horizontally.
- **Legal and Administrative Challenges**
 - Illegal mining persists is the **failure of state authorities to enforce existing laws**.
 - While the **Meghalaya government has sought to exempt itself** from national mining regulations **under Schedule 6** of the Constitution, this effort remains unsuccessful.
 - The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act)** obligates states like Meghalaya and Assam to prevent illegal mining, but enforcement remains lax.

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Consequences of Illegal Mining: Environmental and Human Costs

- The consequences of illegal mining are **severe, affecting both human lives and the environment.**
- Accidents like the one in Umrangso are common, **with at least 30 miners losing their lives** in Meghalaya over the past five years due to similar incidents.
- The hazardous working conditions of rat-hole mines **expose labourers to fatal risks**, with many deaths going unreported.
- **Environmentally, illegal mining has caused severe degradation.** The unregulated extraction of coal has led to deforestation, water contamination, and soil erosion.
- The **abandoned mine openings**, estimated to be around 26,000, **pose ongoing risks, serving as potential death traps** for both miners and wildlife.

The Way Forward: The Need for a Multi-Faceted Approach

- **Stricter Legal Enforcement**
 - The **MMDR Act must be amended to explicitly criminalise rat-hole mining**, with harsher penalties under Section 21.
- **Alternative Livelihoods**
 - Promoting alternative employment opportunities, **such as eco-tourism and sustainable forestry, can reduce dependence on coal mining** and provide safer, legal sources of income.
- **Technological Solutions**
 - Advanced monitoring techniques, **such as satellite-based surveillance**, can help track illegal mining activities.
- **Community Involvement**
 - **Strengthening local governance by enforcing the Forest Rights Act, 2006**, and ensuring community consent before granting mining permits can help hold mining operations accountable.