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ADI VAANI PLATFORM



- It is India's first **AI-powered translator for tribal languages**.
- It is **designed to bridge communication gaps** between tribal and non-tribal communities, while safeguarding endangered tribal languages **using advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The project combines advanced AI technologies with community-driven approaches to protect, promote, and revitalize tribal languages and cultures across India.
- It is developed by a national consortium of premier institutions led by **IIT Delhi with BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, and IIIT Nava Raipur** in collaboration with Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya.
- **It aims to:**
 - **Enable real-time translation** (text and speech) between Hindi/English and tribal languages.
 - Provide **interactive language learning** for students and early learners.
 - **Digitally preserve folklore**, oral traditions, and cultural heritage.
 - **Support digital literacy**, healthcare communication, and civic inclusion in tribal communities.
 - **Awareness** of the government schemes and important speeches
- **Features:**
 - **Multilingual Translator:** It **converts images and documents** to editable text in seconds.
 - **Audio files to Text:** It **transcribes live speech or audio files into text** and translate into indigenous languages instantly.
 - **Speech to speech Translation:** Speak or upload speech in English or Hindi and listen to real-time voice translation in Santali, Mundari, or Bhili.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESILIENCE INDEX



- It is introduced to **assess the functioning and resilience of information technology systems of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations.**
- It is an initiative of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India.**
- **Aim:** It is aimed at **strengthening oversight of the resilience of IT systems** and identifying emerging weaknesses at an early stage, so that timely corrective measures can be taken.
- **Key Features of IT Resilience Index:**
 - **Parameters:** The ITRI will be computed using a **uniform set of nine parameters, each carrying a specific weightage.**
 - These parameters are namely availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability and monitoring, business continuity, modularity and flexibility, scalability, and other relevant factors.
 - **Weightage:** **Availability and security** will carry the **highest weightage of 20 per cent each**, followed by integrity, governance, reliability and monitoring, business continuity, and modularity and **flexibility at 10 per cent each.**
 - MIIs would be required to **calculate the index** on a **half-yearly basis** within 60 days of the end of each half-year.
 - They would also have to submit a **comparative analysis of two consecutive half-years** on a rolling basis, along with details of corrective actions taken or proposed, to their **Standing Committee on Technology (SCOT) and governing boards.**
 - MIIs will also develop an **Early Warning System (EWS)** to detect any deterioration in ITRI parameters that could potentially lead to performance issues, system slowness or other disruptions, and take remedial measures.

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

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INDIA'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS RUNS DEEPER THAN THE JOBLESS RATE

- Recent data show that **around 9.2 crore young Indians are neither in education, employment nor training**, a figure the falling unemployment rate does not capture.

Problem One: Youth Unemployment Remains High

- Unemployment among young Indians aged 15 to 29 is far higher than the overall rate.
- It fell from almost 18% in 2017-18 to around 10% in 2022-23, but has since stayed stuck at that level. More troubling is that unemployment rises with educational attainment. Graduates aged 25 face the highest unemployment rate, close to 40%.
- This means roughly four out of every ten graduates aged 25 who are looking for work fail to find it.
- Educated unemployment is not new in India, but the situation appears to be worsening over time.

Problem Two: The Quality of Jobs Created

- India's workforce has undoubtedly expanded. The total number of people employed rose from 43.3 crore in 2017-18 to around 61 crore by December 2025. But a closer look at where these jobs came from raises concerns.
- More people are working, in other words, but not necessarily earning more.

Problem Three: The UER Understates the Problem

- The UER counts only those who are willing to work and actively searching for a job. In India, however, many people who could work do not register in surveys as looking for work.
- They are therefore counted outside the labour force altogether, and never appear in the unemployment figure.
- As one of the SWI report's authors explains, this happens particularly with women. Regardless of their education, even after completing graduation, many are not recorded as looking for work, and thus fall out of the labour force entirely.

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The Better Measure: NEET

- A different metric captures this reality more accurately: NEET, or Not in Employment, Education, or Training.
- The logic behind NEET is straightforward. Those pursuing education cannot reasonably be expected to be working. NEET therefore measures how many people are in none of these three categories, not studying, not training, and not working.
- As the SWI report describes it, NEET is a comprehensive measure of labour under-utilisation that excludes those in education or training. It includes not just the unemployed, but also those of working age who are neither in education nor in training nor in employment.

The Scale of the Problem

- According to official PLFS data released in March this year, 25% of Indian youth were classified as NEET.
- Applying this proportion to current population figures produces a striking number.
- Based on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare projections, India's youth population in 2026 stands at 36.8 crore, the largest youth population in the world.
- At 25%, this means roughly 9.2 crore young Indians are currently neither in education, nor skilling, nor any form of employment. That is a figure almost equal to the entire population of Iran.

Why This Matters?

- The combination of high youth unemployment and an enormous absolute NEET population helps explain the growing youth unrest in the country.
- What makes it more striking is the context. These figures coexist with government satisfaction over the pace of economic growth based on GDP figures, a period some have described as a "goldilocks" phase for the Indian economy.
- The disconnect is the core issue. Headline growth and a falling unemployment rate can both look healthy while a very large share of young people remain entirely disconnected from productive activity.

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UK MET OFFICE FORECASTS STRONGEST EL NIÑO IN OVER A CENTURY: 3°C+ PACIFIC WARMING, 2027 LIKELY HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD

Britain's Met Office has forecast that the 2026 El Niño event is likely to be the strongest in over a century, with Pacific Ocean surface temperatures rising more than 3°C above the baseline — an "unprecedented" reading that has already contributed to well-below-normal monsoon rainfall in India and threatens to push 2027 past 2024 as the warmest year on global record.

How El Niño Disrupts Global Weather — Key Mechanisms

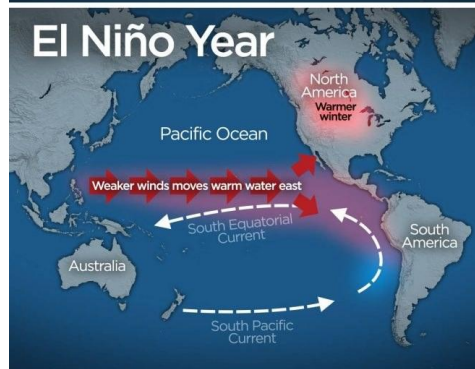
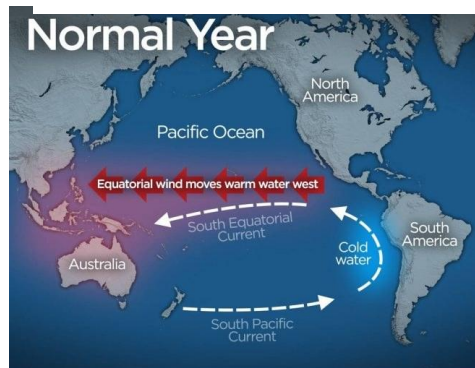
- In normal years, strong equatorial trade winds push warm water westward across the Pacific, keeping the western Pacific (near Australia and SE Asia) warm and the eastern Pacific cool. The warm pool drives convection and rainfall over Asia-Pacific.
- During El Niño, trade winds weaken or reverse. Warm water shifts eastward toward South America. This activity shifts rainfall patterns globally.
- Result: drier conditions in southeast Asia, Australia, southern Africa, and northern Brazil; wetter conditions in the Horn of Africa, southern USA, Peru and Ecuador.
- El Niño adds to the background warming from anthropogenic climate change, pushing global average temperatures higher.

El Niño and the Global Wheat Crisis

- A supercharged El Niño compounds existing stresses on the global food system — drought in US Great Plains (worst wheat harvest since 1970), disrupted Black Sea grain shipments, and Houthi attacks rerouting Red Sea shipping around South Africa.
- El Niño threatens water levels in the Panama Canal (transit route for grain) and the Rhine-Danube rivers in Europe, raising shipping costs.
- The FAO has warned of higher wheat prices in H2 2026; global food system risks are compounded when "seamless trade, cheap energy and stable climate" — the three pillars of the current model — are simultaneously disrupted.

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NORMAL YEAR VS EL NIÑO YEAR: PACIFIC WIND AND TEMPERATURE PATTERNS



PATTERNS

In a normal year, trade winds push warm water west. During El Niño, weakened winds allow warm water to migrate east — suppressing rainfall over the western Pacific and triggering drought across SE Asia, Australia and India. Image: External source; reproduced with credit for educational use.

Impact on India

- The Met Office confirmed that El Niño is already causing well-below-normal rainfall in India — threatening the kharif harvest and reservoir replenishment across peninsular and central India.

- Strong El Niño years historically correlate with

deficient Indian monsoons: the 2002, 2009, and 2015–16 drought years all coincided with moderate-to-strong El Niño events.

Key Terms

- ENSO:** El Niño–Southern Oscillation — the overarching coupled ocean-atmosphere cycle; La Niña (opposite phase) brings above-normal rainfall to India.
- NOAA:** US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — maintains the Climate Brink ENSO dashboard and primary Pacific SST monitoring.
- El Niño threshold:** $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ SST anomaly sustained for five consecutive overlapping three-month periods in the Niño 3.4 region.
- Origin of term:** Coined by Peruvian and Ecuadoran fishermen in the 19th century — "El Niño" (the Christ Child) for the warm current arriving near Christmas that reduced fish catches.

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OPENAI LAUNCHES CHATGPT FOR TEENS (13–17) — PARENTAL CONTROLS, STUDY MODE, AND GUARDRAILS AGAINST EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCE

On **18 August 2026**, OpenAI launched **ChatGPT for Teens** — a version of its AI chatbot tailored for **13–17-year-olds** with stronger content restrictions, parental controls, study mode, and an explicit prohibition on the chatbot fostering emotional dependence — responding to growing evidence of AI-linked self-harm and mental health deterioration among youth.

Features of ChatGPT for Teens

- **Parental controls:** parent-teen account linking; parents receive notifications in high-risk situations (monitored by human moderators).
- **Study mode:** built with inputs from teachers and scientists; does not give direct answers — instead guides students step-by-step with hints and questions (e.g., for a maths equation, it will not solve it but will guide the student through each step).
- **Quiet hours:** regulated periods when ChatGPT cannot be used.
- **Content restrictions:** stronger blocks on self-harm, violence, eating disorders, dangerous activities, and explicit sexual or graphic material.
- **Memory off:** option to prevent the chatbot from saving chat history for personalisation.
- **No romantic language:** the chatbot is explicitly instructed not to use romantic language, encourage emotional dependence, or imply it has feelings or consciousness.
- **Age detection:** OpenAI will automatically move users its system identifies as below 17 into the teen version — beyond self-declaration.

India's Regulatory Gap — Static Background

- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:** prohibits processing of children's data without verifiable parental consent; bans tracking/targeting of minors — but does not specifically regulate AI chatbot interactions.
- **No AI-specific child protection law in India.** The MeitY's **National Strategy for AI (NSAI)** and the **India AI Mission (2024)** acknowledge responsible AI but have not produced enforceable child-safety standards for AI platforms.

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GUGGAL PLANT



- It is a **spiny shrub or small tree** belongs to Burseraceae family.

- **Distribution:** It is native to **India, Arabia and Pakistan.**

- In India, it is found in the **arid, rocky tracts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka in India.**

- **Characteristics:**

- The plant **prefers arid and semi-arid climates** and is tolerant of poor soil.
- It grows well in **sandy to silt loam soils**, which are **poor in organic matter** and rich in other matters and also considered as **drought and salinity resistant plant.**

- **Uses:**

- **Traditional Uses:** Gum guggul is used as **incense, to make lacquers**, varnishes, and ointments, as a fixative in perfumes, and in medicine.
- **Modern Uses:** Modern therapeutic uses of guggul include nervous diseases, hemiplegia, leprosy, marasmus, muscledspasms, neuralgia etc.
- Guggal-gum **extract targets the Farnesoid X Receptor (FXR)** that regulates cholesterol and checks bile acids produced from cholesterol by the liver.
- The **resin from the Guggal tree, known as guggul**, is valued in Ayurvedic medicine for treating various ailments.

DAK MITRA AND DAK SEWA APPS

- The upgraded Dak MITRA (**Mobile Interface for Transactions & Rural Assistance**) application serves as a **unified operational platform** for more than 1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices.
- It is developed indigenously by the **Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT)** under the **Advanced Postal Technology (APT)** platform as part of DoP IT 2.0 Modernization,

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- It enables **Branch Postmasters to undertake paperless and real-time postal and financial transactions**,
 - It includes mail booking, OTP-based doorstep delivery, Core Banking Services, insurance services, Aadhaar-based biometric e-KYC, cash deposits and withdrawals etc.

Key Facts about Dak Sewa App

- It provides citizens with 24x7 access to postal services, including tracking, booking, complaints; Post Office and PIN code locators, and financial calculators.
- It supports **23 Indian languages** through BHASHINI.

WATERSPOUT



- A waterspout is a **large column of air and mist rotating over a water body**.
- It is less intense and typically **lasts for around five minutes** — occasionally it can last up to 10 minutes.
- The average waterspout can be **around 165 feet in diameter**, with wind speeds of 100 kilometres per hour.
- They occur when **there are high levels of humidity** and relatively warm water temperatures compared to the overlying air.
- **Types of waterspouts:**
 - **Tornadic waterspouts:**
 - They are associated with **severe thunderstorms**, and are often accompanied by **high winds** and seas, large hail, and frequent dangerous lightning.
 - **Fair-weather waterspouts:**
 - It is developed from the **water's surface upward**. (While tornadic waterspouts develop downward in a thunderstorm)
 - Typically move very little **due to light wind conditions**.