

WISTEMM

The Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (WISTEMM) program of Department of Science and Technology (DST) in association with Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) have provided international exposure to several women scientists. WISTEMM aims to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A, to enhance their research capacities and capabilities.

The programme is run for two categories of women scientists---

Women Overseas Student Internship (Module I) for women students pursuing PhD,

Women Overseas Fellowship (Module II) for women with PhD degree and holding regular position at any recognized institution/laboratory in India.

Around 20 women scientists have visited 20 leading institutions across the United States of America for furthering their research work and to get trained in the state of the art technologies related to their research.

The fellowship is for bright Indian women Citizen within the age bracket of 21 to 45 years.

The funding support extended under the program includes stipend, airfare, health insurance, contingency and conference allowances.

KIRAN Scheme

Department of Science and Technology (DST) has started several pioneering initiatives for promoting women in science.

In the year 2014, DST restructured all women specific programmes under one umbrella called Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN).

It encompasses women-exclusive schemes and encourages them to foster their career by undertaking research in Science and Technology (S&T) and also focusing on S&T solutions of issues & challenges at the grassroots level for social benefits.

The mandate of KIRAN Program is to bring gender parity in S&T through gender mainstreaming.

Women Scientist Scheme (WOS) addresses challenges faced by S&T qualified women primarily due to social responsibilities.

Its two components WOS-A and WOS-B are directly implemented by KIRAN Division and the third component WOS-C or KIRAN-IPR is implemented by TIFAC with grant-in-aid from DST.



Women Transforming India Awards

NITI Aayog organized the Fourth Edition of the Women Transforming India Awards.

WTI Awards are NITI Aayog's initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavors of India's women leaders and change makers. Since 2018, the Awards have been hosted under the aegis of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform with a special focus on entrepreneurship. Launched on International Women's Day, two years ago, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform has become a forum dedicated to educating, enabling and empowering women entrepreneurs.

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development. It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). TRAFFIC's headquarters are located in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The organization's aim is to **'ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature'**.

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Nari Shakti Puraskar



Nari Shakti Puraskar (formerly Stree Shakti Puraskar), literally meaning "Woman Power Award", is India's highest civilian award for recognizing the achievements and contributions of women.

The awards are given away by the President of India every year on 8 March, International Women's Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The Nari Shakti Puraskar is conferred on individual women, public and private institutions and public departments for their activism and/ or their contributions to the cause of women's empowerment.

The award, instituted in the year 1999 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is given in six institutional categories and two individual categories.

The award carries a cash prize of rupees one lakh (INR 100,000) and a citation.

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The organization's aim is to 'ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature'.

It states that through research, analysis, guidance and influence, it promotes sustainable wildlife trade (the green stream work) and combats wildlife crime and trafficking (the red stream work).

Recently a report of TRAFFIC titled "Assessment of illegal trade-related threats to Red Panda in India and selected neighboring range countries" has looked at a ten-year period from July 2010 to June 2019, and analyzed poaching and illegal trade of the species.

Red Panda

The red panda is a small arboreal mammal found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China.

In India, it is found in Sikkim, western Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and parts of Meghalaya.

It is also the state animal of Sikkim.

Red pandas have been reported from 11 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, which is presumed to hold the largest red panda population in the country. Its survival is crucial for the eastern and north-eastern Himalayan subalpine conifer forests and the eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests. The only living member of the genus *Ailurus*, the Red Panda is listed as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

The animal has been hunted for meat and fur, besides illegal capture for the pet trade.

An estimated 14,500 animals are left in the wild across Nepal, Bhutan, India, China and Myanmar.

In recent times Red Panda has fewer hunters because the younger generations of people across its Himalayan habitat are losing interest in animal products.

SAWEN

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAWEN was officially launched in 2011 in Paro Bhutan, it operates from Kathmandu, Nepal.

It provides a platform for its member countries to cooperatively work together in the fight against the burgeoning wildlife crime.

It focuses on harmonization of policies and laws; strengthening institutional capacity; sharing of knowledge, experiences and technologies among the member countries; and promoting collaboration with national, regional and international partners to enhance the wildlife law enforcement in the region.

Delimitation Commission

Recently a 'delimitation commission' has been set up by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The commission will be headed by a former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.

The commission has been set up for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the north-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

The Election Commissioner (Sushil Chandra) will be the ex-officio member of the commission.

The Election Commissioners of the concerned states and UT will also be its members.

The Commission will delimit the constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act,

and of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland in accordance with the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

Delimitation Act, 2002



Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats to represent changes in population and is done on the basis of the last Census.

Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution of India provide for readjustment and the division of each State into territorial constituencies (Parliamentary constituencies and Assembly constituencies) on the basis of the 2001 census.

Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India provide for reserving the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of the States on the basis of the 2001 census.

The Delimitation Act, 2002, was enacted to set up a Delimitation Commission for the purpose of effecting delimitation on the basis of the 2001 census so as to correct the aforesaid distortion in the sizes of electoral constituencies.

The recent delimitation of Assembly constituencies would be carried out on the basis of the 2011 Census.

J&K Delimitation of Lok Sabha Constituencies

The number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be increased from 107 to 114, and delimitation of the constituencies may be determined by the Election Commission in the manner hereinafter provided.

Notably, 24 of the total seats in J&K remain perennially vacant as they are allotted to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The reorganization Act also says Lok Sabha will have five seats from the Union Territory of J&K and Ladakh will have one seat.

Freedom in the World 2020 report

Freedom in the World report is released by Freedom House, a US-based watchdog.

The report derives its methodology from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

It covers 195 countries, awarding scores based on political rights indicators such as the electoral process, political pluralism and participation and government functioning, as well as civil liberties indicators related to freedom of expression and belief associational and organizational rights, the rule of law and personal autonomy and individual rights.

According to the report Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are the top five countries in the free category.

The report has placed India at 83rd position along with Timor-Leste and Senegal among the bottom five of “free democracies”.

India witnessed the worst score decline among the world’s 25 largest democracies. India’s overall score declined from 75 in 2019 to 71 in 2020, with civil liberties taking the biggest hit.

The annulment of autonomy and the subsequent shutdown of Kashmir, the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, as well as the crackdown on mass protests have been listed as the main signs of declining freedom in the report.

These three actions have shaken the rule of law in India and threatened the secular and inclusive nature of its political system.

Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020)

National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020) was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard in Goa.

This is for the first time the 03 pillars of national SAR mechanism i.e. Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Defence, took part in SAREX-20.

It had the theme of Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue code named ‘HAMSAR’.

SAREX exercise is being conducted biennially by Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).